



“Darby” Schafer-Gold of San Jose

“Dobie Doings”



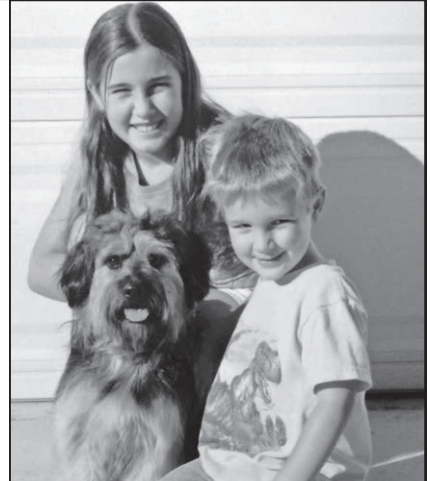
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“Winston” Clark of Ventura, with Allison and Tyler

Ardis Braun-Director **Colleen Anderson** -Webmaster & Graphic Designer **Dennis Bolton** - Printer

This is not our first El Nino here at the rescue, but as previously, it’s been a mixed blessing. Though we badly need the rain, the dogs who don’t enjoy rain (most of them) tend to peer out of their shelters, perhaps wondering why we don’t make it stop. The consolation is that this is, after all, Southern California, and they would like it less in the Pacific Northwest.

After dishearteningly low adoptions throughout much of the fall, we began to place a lot of dogs again by early November, including some of our long-term residents. It’s such a joy to know that a dog’s later years in life can be spent in more comfort than we can provide, hard as we try.

Our event updates include: Paula Cwikly’s holiday party for us, which was again a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends; a fun evening our volunteers spent at the Dog Rescue Celebration on Fox TV on Thanksgiving night (see story on page 6); and our plans to once again attend the Orange County Pet Expo on April 22-24.

A long-awaited and happy announcement is that our sanctuary property in the high desert received its final approval from the county after we fulfilled everything necessary to getting projects blessed by authorities charged with building and safety, environmental, animal welfare, and various other areas of compliance.

The holiday season once again proved that we have much to be thankful for, including our supporters and helpers of all kinds, who always amaze us with the

generosity, cooperation and willingness to help us continue our work with the animals.

Thank you.

Blessings,

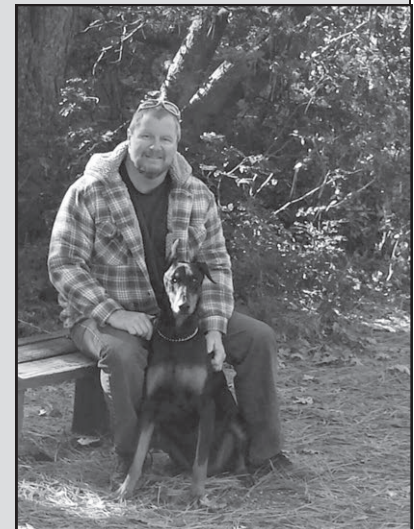
Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

Four of the eight dogs featured in our last newsletter were adopted, two of them to the same home.

SHOGUN,

our big Dobie boy who reportedly suffered from “night terrors,” has a great new home with Michelle and Dean Taylor of Ridgecrest. Over the past three months, Michelle has had this to say: “We absolutely love Shogun and he absolutely loves us...he is like Velcro lol. The only thing we have experienced is a couple times he had dreams and he barked a lil bit and that was it...He’s an excellent fit with my Lil dog; they play and get along....He and my husband play hide and seek. My husband Dean will go hide in our yard and Shogun will wait for a few minutes then he will run and



find him. It's so funny. Shogun is excellent on the leash, he doesn't pull and he stays right next to me....He is a very happy dog and so loving and he is high maintenance with attention, he will literally pull my husband's hand out of his pocket to be petted...we just adore Shogun."

BONNIE,

one of our most lovable Dobies ever, was adopted by Judy Miller of Glendale. From Judy's e-mail: "Hi, this is Bonnie and me in her new home. She is as sweet as you described her and especially loves visitors and lying on the couch!"



[Editor's note: Sadly, just as we were going to press, we learned that Judy passed away, so Bonnie is back with us awaiting another wonderful home.]

HOGGLE and TINKERBELLE

lucked out the day former adopter Tippy Bushkin brought her friend Michelle Kling from Santa Barbara to visit. We think the original plan was to have Michelle meet Hoggle, but somehow both dogs were in the visiting area and Michelle couldn't imagine leaving one behind. Here's what she had to say, just before we went to press: "August Gomez Beauregard - 'Augie' - formerly known as Hoggle, is doing beautifully. He is an absolute joy in my life and I feel so lucky that, perhaps because his looks were considered 'polarizing,' he was not adopted earlier in his



life. How fortunate for me to be able to dote on this hair challenged, toothless little boy; I absolutely adore every hair and freckle on him.

My other adoption was Augie's roommate, Gemma Frances, formerly Tinkerbelle. Gemma is a darling little elfin girl who is the most affectionate and loving little sprite. My little doll is so joyful and she and Augie are best of friends. I'm so glad to have the two together and really advocate adopting more than one dog or cat.

Gemma and Augie share my bed - or rather I share their bed every night. We share beautiful beach and neighbor walks and I am so thrilled to have them in my life. They have enriched each day more than I can say.



I love my kids soooooo much!!

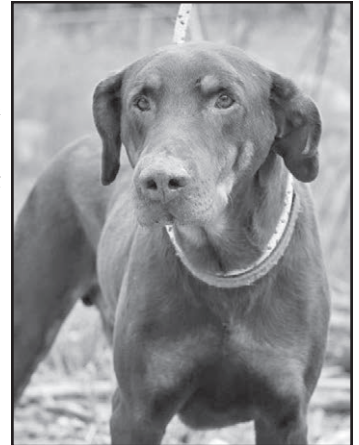
Thank you for these dear, dear little creatures - I'm just crazy about them.

p.s. I forgot to mention that they love playing with squeaky toys. Augie throws them up in the air over and over and he and Gemma tousele them and it fills my heart."

WAITING FOR HOMES

Frazier

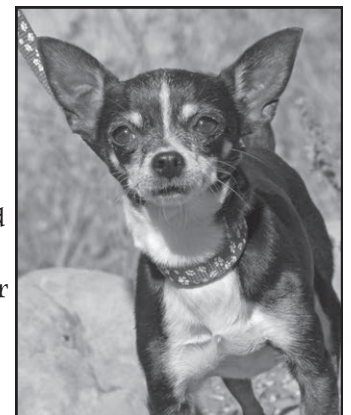
was truly a sad dog when we first rescued him. He had so many healing wounds on his face, head and body that we could only imagine what he had endured. Interestingly, he doesn't appear to hold a grudge against other dogs, even though a dog probably delivered the wounds. Frazier moved very slowly at first, worry written all over his face.



We were fortunate to have a very supportive foster home for him for the first few months out of his animal shelter, so Frazier learned how to be housebroken, walk on leash, and generally feel fairly secure with strangers. Though he's still initially subdued with new people and situations, his foster home says he's quite bouncy and playful when he knows and enjoys his human(s). He is, in general, a mellow guy; a solidly-built mature red Dobie-Lab mix, perhaps 6-7 years, who will win the heart of his deserving forever owner.

Lizzy

is a teeny little thing, probably 5 pounds or so. She is very tolerant of handling, and when found, she was a stray "in season," so she was looking for love in all the wrong places. She is tolerant of other dogs and probably lived with them before, as she cozies up with her kennel companion and never growls at anyone, human or canine. This little lady is very well-adjusted and can probably live in a family with kids. Everyone will have to compete, though, for who gets to hold her!



Missy

is a lovely older red Dobie girl of about 8 years whose owners could not afford her health care. She had several mammary tumors that we had removed, and the

margins were clear, meaning our vet removed everything that appeared potentially cancerous. Missy came to us originally because her owner had been arrested, but she probably deserves a better life anyway because she was apparently always kept outdoors with only another dog for companionship. We think Missy should enjoy her senior years, and we're looking for the home that will give her that.



didn't value dogs very much, as he wasn't even allowed indoors. The only negative we have observed about him thus far is that he is reluctant to willingly get into a car, possibly because the last time he did so, he ended up in an animal shelter and was lucky to escape with his life. We are seeking an A+ home for this wonderful dog.



Bucky

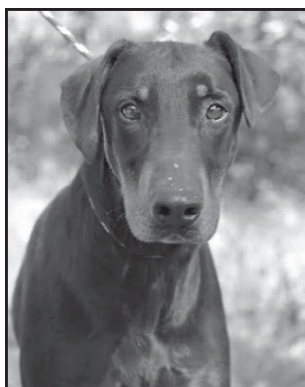
weighs 6.1 pounds. We were told that his owner had been an elderly man who could no longer care for him,



so he ended up in a high-kill animal shelter, where he spent six days before we rescued him. Bucky has been crated indoors during the cold nights, and he never complains or whimpers. Because of his small size and his former living situation, we don't know if he would be overwhelmed in a home with young kids, but he'll be affectionate to older kids and adults; we're certain of that.

Jesse

has actually been with us for quite a few months, but we have high hopes for this sweetheart. He's a sturdy boy of about 4 years old with beautiful markings. He is affectionate and wants to be loved by everyone he meets. Though Jesse has been very social with female dogs, his love of other males is hit or miss. He certainly doesn't like to be bullied though he does try to avoid confrontation. Jesse is such a great boy and would probably be a master cuddler if given half a chance.



Starsky

was turned in to an animal shelter by his owner, who requested euthanasia. Why anyone would ask that such a sweet, healthy dog be killed is something we can't begin to mentally process. He's a gentle dog, 4 years old, with a so-so coat, typical of blue Dobermans. His relinquishment form indicates he's good with men, women, children, cats, and playful toward other dogs. Starsky was rehomed to his last owner by a relative, who apparently

Pickles

is an adorable, medium-sized dog who came all the way from Taiwan. She was a street dog who landed in rescue many years ago but she has been unlucky at finding a permanent home. She had a cancerous tumor in her mouth,



and when it was removed, her entire lower jaw was removed with it. Luckily, that was years ago and she is still cancer-free. The only difficulty it brings is that Pickles' tongue hangs out all the time. She is such an incredible girl, definitely worth living with that small imperfection. She is housebroken and good with all other dogs and people. Pickles is a senior, estimated 9 years old, but she is in amazing shape and we expect she has plenty of life left to live.

Chelsea

is a beautiful 3-year-old blue Dobie with a good coat that was surrendered to an animal shelter by her owner because she attacked another dog. None of the circumstances are known; i.e., we don't know if the other dog shared a home with her, what sex or size the other dog was, who started the confrontation, etc. Chelsea is not a "dog's dog" anyway, though; she's totally a "people dog" who insists on being close to her person or people and pretty much ignores other dogs (that has been our experience during the time she's been at our rescue facility). Chelsea probably led a pampered life indoors in a close relationship with her owner because she whimpers and is clearly miserable when not connected to a person. She focuses and maintains eye contact with people, appearing ready to do their bidding. We think she'll make a good companion for an adult person or couple who are ready to love a Velcro dog like Chelsea.



**"Duke," "Lilli" and "Bonnie" Saint
of Ventura, with Anne and Rich**



**"Bug" McCollough of
Lompoc, with Skylar**

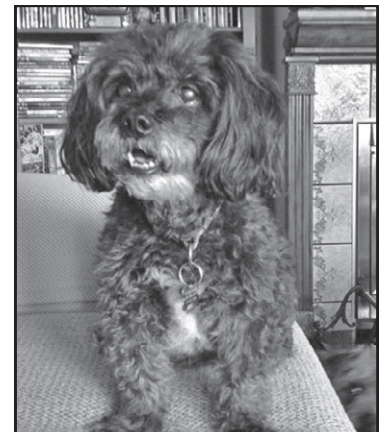
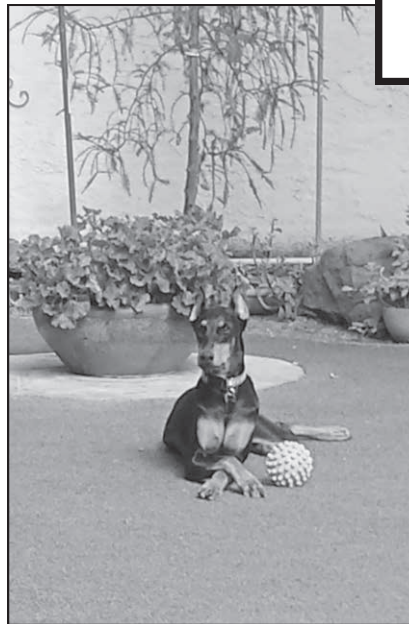


**"Minka" Mosbarger of
Fillmore, with Ellyn**



"Molly" Leger of Valencia

**"Hilde" Rahbar of
Westlake Village**



**"Blanche Marie"
Doerr of Pasadena**



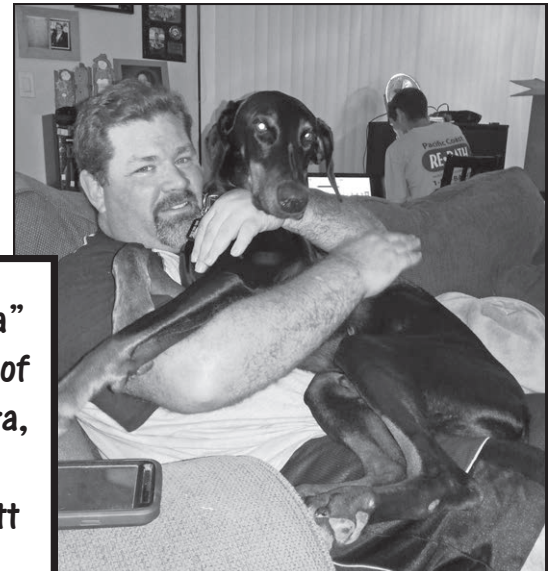
**"Vicki" Kriesel of Sun
Prairie, Wisconsin**

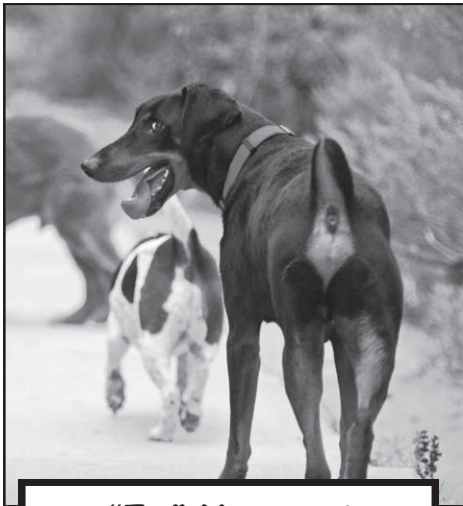


"Harley" and "Zoe" Chase of Chula Vista



**"Kafka"
Bauer of
Ventura,
with
Garrett**





"Tip" Missett of Oceanside, with friends



"Cali" and "Luna" Gregory of Long Beach, with Shelley

"JimBob" and "Jaylin" Curlee-Dominski of Encinitas



"Zuma" Pery of West Hills



"Rio" Turner of Chula Vista, with Andrea



"Sunny" Anderson of Galt

Happy Adoptees!



"Prince" Carnohan of Asheville, NC

"Hubert" Grant of Santa Barbara, with Gillian



"Kahlua" O'Connell of Lake Forest



OUR BRIGHT STAR, DEXTER

We were invited to bring several of our dogs to the All Star Dog Rescue Celebration event that aired on Fox TV on Thanksgiving evening. Some of you may have seen it, but most of our dogs were sort of lost in the shuffle, and our featured Doberman, Dexter, was unimpressive on stage, a bit frightened of the stage, the crowd, the lights, and his unfamiliarity with all of it.



First, a little background on Dexter. He had been abandoned, and he looked awful. He had demodectic mange, scars all over his back from acid leaking out of a vehicle onto his back (he had been living under the vehicle), skinny, and exhausted. We took him in and began treating him for his mange, and he was given good, nutritious food, perhaps for the first time in his life.

He began to improve immediately, but until the discovery of the wonderful new product mentioned in our fall, 2015 newsletter, he couldn't quite "kick" the mange. While with us, though, he distinguished himself by being one of our most endearing, social, and dog-social dogs in our rescue program. He is, simply stated, a wonderful dog!

By the time we were invited to the event on Fox TV, we chose Dexter to be our featured star because he had waited for most of a year for a home to call his own, and by that time, he looked great.

It so happened that Dexter was spoken for very early the next morning following his appearance on TV, but it wasn't his presentation on TV that got him his wonderful home, it was a video taken of him interacting and playing with Colleen that made him their choice. They loved that he was young, undominant, affectionate, and playful, and he was exactly what they wanted for themselves and their young family.

When Dexter was delivered to his new home with the



Bartsch family in San Diego, it was all we had hoped for. Colleen said semi-jokingly that she would like to live there! Early reports of Dexter's new life were all positive, and when we followed up a little over two months later, we received the

following (grab the tissues) from Marcus Bartsch: "Dexter is the ♥ and center of our family. The kids gave him the nickname of 'Babykinz' and we are in love with him. He sleeps upstairs in our bedroom and does bedroom checks on the kids at night. He has adjusted really well. In fact, last night we were sitting in a circle around him and we were taking turns getting kisses from him. The kids can't wait to wake up and see him and hurry home from school to be with him. He



has lots of toys, but his favorite one right now is Chewbacca. Andrew took a selfie last night with Dexter kissing his ear (see picture above). He only eats organic food and we cook for him....He is fully housebroken....At Christmas, I had a gathering with friends and their kids....All of the kids played with him. Both grandmas are smitten with him....Everyone can't believe what a great dog he is. I told the kids from now on the Thanksgiving holiday will have a special meaning for us. It will be 'Thanks



for giving us Dexter.'

He is the best dog ever!!! – to us! We even cancelled our skiing trip during Christmas since we didn't want to be without him ♥."

If we had a collection of Rags to Riches stories, Dexter's would certainly be in it.

MEDICAL MATTERS

We've been really impressed by the use of lasers in treating various of our dogs' medical problems. Not all vets use lasers and, as we have learned, there are different levels of laser equipment quality and capability. We've used lasers primarily for lick sores on dogs' legs (Dobermans being a breed prone to obsessive-compulsive behavior) and for lung infections like pneumonia, with remarkable improvements in these conditions after treatment. They're not expensive, either.

We have known about the use of lasers in surgical procedures for dogs and humans alike, but these cold lasers are specifically useful to reduce swelling, break up



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congestion, and promote healing. The treatments are done in less than 10 minutes and are completely non-invasive.

Ask your vet, or ours, about issues you think might be helped by laser treatment.



Before Laser



After Laser

A FAIRYTALE ENDING

by Colleen Anderson

A fairytale ending is always our hope for every dog we rescue but there are some we don't necessarily expect. Seniors, especially, are incredibly difficult to find homes for because no one wants to go through the heartbreak that isn't far ahead. Lucky for us, that rare home comes along every once in a while and surprises us all.

One lucky dog who finally got her fairytale ending is Trixie, a frail 12-year-old Dobie girl who suffered far too long without proper care. She had finally escaped her terrible home where she was surviving on cucumber sandwiches and had to spend every day of her life outdoors. We tried to help

her for quite some time but our hands were tied as the local authorities needed to go through proper channels so she could be removed and brought to safety. The day we got the call to come and pick her up from the animal shelter was both heartwarming and heartwrenching.



The shelter staff was thrilled to see me when I showed up for Trixie, as she had already won the hearts of everyone there. She was severely underweight, frightened, with extremely long nails and a poor coat from living outside. At her age, I assumed that she would be with me for whatever time she had left so I silently promised her that I would give her all the love and comfort I could. She immediately snuggled into her bed in the car and within minutes of walking into the house, she had snuggled herself in between the pillows on my bed. Clearly she had been missing the comfort of a good bed for a long time but I had plenty and didn't mind sharing with her. Though Trixie seemed at peace and her rehabilitation was going well, I always wished I could give her even more of a life. Since I have other sanctuary dogs and temporary fosters to care for, my individual time can be limited.

Then one weekend, Mitzi Roberts and Tanya Ware, two of our devoted volunteers, mentioned that they had room to take in a foster dog but they preferred an easygoing senior who could get along with their other dogs. We thought about it for a couple of days, trying to come up with the perfect candidate, when quiet little Trixie popped into my mind. Perfect! I described her to them and it only took a poor quality iPhone picture of her to capture their hearts.



Doberman Pinscher Rescue
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We knew that she would be well cared for, but the updates we get from her incredible mommies bring happy tears to our eyes regularly. She gets to go just about everywhere with them, so she is rarely alone and she even got to go camping at the beach recently. When Trixie isn't romping around the local park, she is napping the day away on whatever bed she wants. In their words:



"Trixie is the sweetest girl. Though she has endured a horrible past, she still has opened her heart to us and is learning to trust and love. We vow to make every day a great day for her in hopes that it slowly erases her past. We feel blessed to have her in our lives. She gives us much more than we could ever give her in return."



We don't know how long Trixie has because it turns out that a mammary tumor we had removed did not cure her cancer but we do know that for the first time, she is truly living and we could not be more thankful that she was given this final chance at happiness.

PARTING SHOT

"Ned" (big shaggy dog adopted here in 2007, was ring bearer and Best Dog) with "Papas" Chin and Terri and Kevin Chin (in white) of Tuckahoe, New York, with their wedding party.



For some, it's just a dog. For others, a dog is a true member of the family, always included.

