



**"Sophie" McCann of
Ventura**

"Dobie Doings"



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**"Buddy" Fisher of
Franklin, MA**

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The past quarter has presented us with more challenges than we've seen in many years. We assume the stormy weather was largely responsible for the volume of dogs entering animal shelters throughout the state, with a much higher-than-usual number of fractures, dislocations, and other injuries directly related to dogs running loose and encountering mishaps, usually being hit by cars.

There may come a day when we simply cannot financially afford to put these dogs back together, but thanks to your generosity and veterinary medical assistance from several groups (Special Needs Dobermans, the Decker-McKee Doberman Rescue Assistance group, and the Mathewson Foundation), that day hasn't arrived yet. The limbs that could be saved with repairs have been saved; a few that couldn't have been amputated, and of course we've dealt with the usual number of bloats and blockages, which usually seem to occur on the weekends when the only veterinary help is the emergency clinic. A huge thank you to those of you who have helped us save these dogs and to feed and care for all the healthy ones too. We couldn't do it without you.

Sadly, we had to lose many of our beautiful big oak trees due to conditions made possible by the drought, which caused borer beetles to be able to invade the trees. Unfortunately, there is no treatment known as yet for these awful pests. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer Hilary Pickles and her

employer, the Lush cosmetic firm, we were able to obtain a grant large enough to remove these dead trees before they could cause damage to people and dogs.

As I have repeatedly said, we all love the pictures you send of your adopted dogs. Many of you share them on Facebook, but unless they come to our earthlink address above by e-mail, they may be enjoyed only by our Facebook followers. So please, send them by e-mail as well. We will never have enough room in Dobie Doings to print them all, but we absolutely treasure them, one and all.



Sincerely,

Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

Of the eight dogs featured in our last newsletter, four have been adopted!

Sofie,

our sweet, tiny Chihuahua, was adopted by Patience Foglesong of Santa Barbara. Sofie had been in the care of a woman who surrendered her to us months before, hoping we could find a good home for her. She didn't want to take her to any animal shelter, where Chihuahuas in Southern California



are “a dime a dozen.” She felt that Sofie is such a special little girl that she didn’t want to take a chance that she wouldn’t be adopted. As it was, she spent several months with us waiting for Patience’s home, but she truly got the home she deserves.

Patience had recently lost her beloved dog, Charlie, whom she had

gotten from us many years prior, and also lost her husband...so she was desperately in need of a loving companion. Sofie has proven to be that. She goes everywhere with Patience as her “care dog,” even going to grievance counseling with her. She’s great in the house and does little tricks, like dancing in circles, and she sleeps under the covers at the foot of Patience’s bed. So both of these ladies have what they need from each other. 😊

Kennedy,

a Doberman who promised to be a challenging dog for any new owner, has proven to be that, but is well-loved and has hopefully landed in his “forever home” with Marcella Pine and her family, of Chino. From her recent e-mail: “When we first brought him home he was quite shy and wouldn’t explore much. A few weeks later he started getting more comfortable moving around the house. A month after we got him he started to growl and even tried to bite me....The first thing that crossed my mind was returning him but after I thought about it I just couldn’t give up on him that easily. I started working with him and he has gotten a lot better. We have now gone a few weeks with no growling or biting yay. On the plus side he has learned how to use the doggie door, how to shake, now we are working on laying down and stay. He loves tearing up his blankets/toys, sleeping on all his beds and barking with the dogs next door. Thank you for letting us adopt Kennedy. We love him so much even though he is a little challenging.”



Brianna,
the
adorable
munchkin who
captured our
hearts with her
dog-socialness
and affection, is
now called
Hannah



McScruff, and she lives with Kate Riesen and her husband in Santa Barbara. From Kate’s e-mail: “We Love Hannah. (The picture below is) of her at the Bacara Resort; ‘ruff’ life LOL. 😊 She is an amazing cuddler, hardly ever barks, plays so well with other neighbor kids and dogs. Just a delight. My husband never grew up with dogs and really had no positive things to say about dogs (because he never knew a man’s best friend), but he really enjoys her. Thank you.”

McDuff,

our lovable
mid-sized model
Terrier mix, was
adopted by Christy
Davie of Burbank.
He has been a joy to
her household. She
says: “McDuff has
been a wonderful
surprise full of love
and energy. He is a
good boy; we love him, he makes us smile. We call him Max and (they think he) is a Portuguese Podengo so Max howls at times. Thank you for making our life better with Max in it.”



WAITING FOR HOMES

GOOFY

is a volunteer favorite, and his name describes him well. He’s a big happy dog of 85 pounds who is now about 3 ½ years old and a lot of fun. He’s probably a Doberman-Shepherd mix, and



he appears mild-tempered. He's kenneled with a female Dobie. He even passed his "cat test," though we can't guarantee he'd be the same with all cats.

MONA AND JOCKO

are two senior Chihuahua mixes who were left by our front gate in a cardboard box with a third Chihuahua girl, who has fortunately found a wonderful foster home. The dogs were apparently very sheltered and weren't well socialized, but we have not found them to be biters. They don't have to be placed together; in fact, it may make sense for each to be placed with another, more confident dog already residing in the home.



PRINCESSA

wasn't initially among our favorites because, when annoyed with a kennelmate, she'd always put a few marks on him. She has grown on us though, because she's affectionate and a very easy keeper. She currently lives in a large area with a male and hasn't challenged him at all; in fact, she appears submissive to him. We think Princessa is 5-6 years old and quite pretty except for her unfortunate ear crop.



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CONEJO

is a dog we've invested a lot in. He bloated on a Saturday evening, when only the emergency clinics are open, so \$4,000 later he's fine and his stomach has been tacked so that he can't torse



again. Conejo isn't dog-social, but he's very friendly and playful, a red Dobie who loves his toys and chew items. He's about 6 years old now and has waited 2 1/2 years for his forever home.

JESTER

is an unusual combination of breeds, which we can only guess at. Our best guess is that he's Scottie and Bull Terrier (not pit bull). He's well under a year and is a mid-sized dog, probably maxing out at around 40 pounds, with a sturdy body and wiry, but soft, hair. Jester is social with some dogs and less so with others, but he's protective and greedy about his food.



SOLA

was also not among our favorites initially, but other than being a fierce watchdog, she's a mellow, fairly undemanding dog. She has a wonderfully soft coat and shows more of the Rottweiler side of her lineage than most Dobies, though not in size. (She's not a very large dog.) Sola has lived with several different large males in her time with us, and she hasn't been aggressive to them. She's about 4 years old.



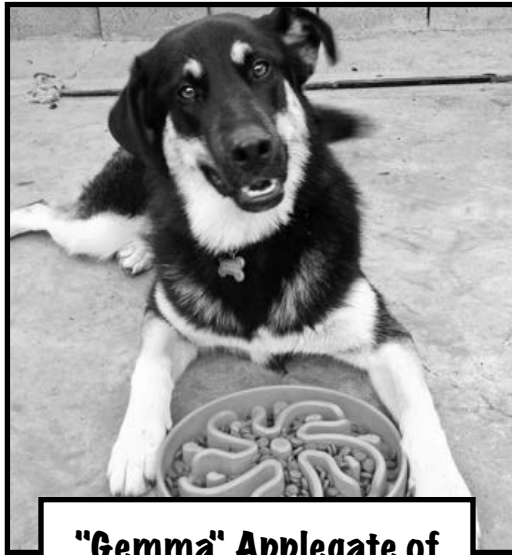
PRINCE

is almost 4 years old and has waited 10 months for his forever home. He's a handsome red male, not dog-social enough to live with another dog, though he isn't overly aggressive on leash in our experience. While he was impounded at his animal shelter, he didn't present himself as a friendly dog (though he's certainly friendly with us), so we had to agree to place him as the only pet in a home with no children.





"Amber" Huntley of Costa Mesa



"Gemma" Applegate of Santa Ana



"Newt" Targownik of Los Angeles



"Bentley" Sobraske of Atascadero



"Ziff" Morales of Santa Paula

"Ellie Mae" Rosenheim of Santa Barbara



"Dottie" Axelsen of Bend, OR



"Little Lady Lily" Spencer of San Jose, with Donna

"Chico" Racine of Temecula, with Renee, Jarad and Dominique





"Cody" Martin of Sherman Oaks, with Jason and Sarah



"Koby" Abramoff of Silver Spring, MD



"Luna" Benziger of Glen Ellen

"Hoagie" Quila of Oxnard



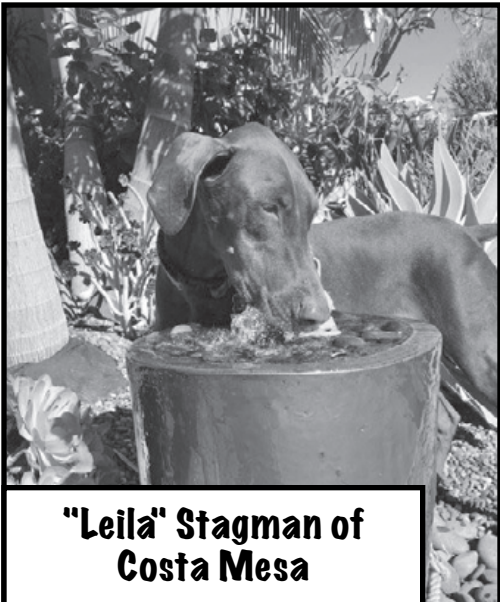
"Erin" Yu of Garden Grove



"Beau" Rowley of Valley Center



"Rudy" Reckon of Norco, with James



"Leila" Stagman of Costa Mesa



HAPPY ADOPTEES!

"Buddy" Fisher of Franklin, MA



THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

Brenda Priest lives in Citrus Heights, CA, near Sacramento, and a number of months ago she called to discuss coming to us in Fillmore to potentially adopt a Doberman. Her requirements weren't too specific, so we mentioned to her that there was a very handsome dog right there in a Sacramento-area animal shelter. (We know about these because our message board tracks most of the statewide Dobermans.) She hadn't known that and went there to meet him.

"No," the shelter told her; "he's rescue-only because he failed his temperament test." No amount of persuasion on her part was going to budge them at all.

The temperament tests given at many animal shelters are intended to eliminate potentially dangerous dogs from being placed directly with the public. Presumably the shelter's liability is the main concern. Unfortunately, Dobermans being the sensitive dogs they are, highly subject to stress and anxiety, don't often fare particularly well in the animal shelter environment. Dogs can fail temperament tests by staring, retreating, growling, pulling toward another dog on leash, even resisting when food is given to a hungry dog and then taken away. We give very little credence to temperament test grades.

Brenda wanted the dog. She spent time outside his kennel socializing with him and observed nothing that would change her mind. We had already



planned to rescue him, so we proceeded to make arrangements with one of our favorite pilots, Dr. Bob Tefft of the Pilots n

Paws non-profit group, to fly the dog to us.

After the dog arrived, we evaluated him behaviorally and made sure he was healthy, and then Dr. Bob flew him back upstate so that Brenda could

take her boy home. She named him Bacchus, and they adore each other, which is probably obvious from the picture included here.

Another case involved a dog at the Carson animal shelter, part of the Los Angeles County shelter system. A very handsome fellow, but unavailable to the public because of a bite history. Whenever a shelter in the L. A. County system takes in a dog that has bitten a person or another dog, it usually means that only a rescue group can be allowed to adopt the dog, and then only if the chief executive of that group signs an indemnity waiver, releasing the shelter from any liability for the dog's behavior for the rest of that dog's life. It's a pretty intimidating requirement, but I (Ardis) have done this quite a few times in order to give these dogs the benefit of the doubt. As I view it, there is no choice.



After signing

the waiver, we got the dog, and again, he appeared behaviorally sound and quite adoptable, but the waiver required that he not be placed in a home with children or other pets.

Not too much time had elapsed when TerryLynn Whitfield came to visit, having just lost the great love of her life, Regen, a Doberman she had adopted from us many years before. She simply couldn't be without a dog to love. We showed her all of the candidates we thought would be most appropriate for her, finally coming to the kennel of the Carson dog. TerryLynn took one look at him and said she wanted to visit with him.

The rest is history. Francis, named after the current Pope, lives happily with TerryLynn at her home in Upland, and he repays her every day for her willingness to trust and take a chance on him.





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Please return this form with your contribution
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THE FORGOTTEN DOG PROJECT by Colleen Anderson

In the last newsletter we mentioned our new endeavor known as The Forgotten Dog Project. Well, we took the idea and ran with it, now having four outings under our belt and a total of ten dogs that have enjoyed a day of fun, freedom and lots of attention.

These "long-termers" are usually some of our favorites at the rescue. We get to know them really well and love them dearly but for a myriad of reasons, they are overlooked by adopters. Many of them are older or have behavioral flaws that just make them less desirable when standing next to a gorgeous youngster with no known issues. These are the dogs that we wanted to focus on and bring life to: the forgotten ones. Despite their flaws and age, many of them are still really wonderful dogs who deserve a second chance so that's our goal. As often as we can (at least once a month) a group of volunteers choose a couple of dogs that have been with us far too long and take them out for a day. Whether it's a beach visit, a hike, or just a chance to get out and enjoy the world, we want them to get a day where they are the center of attention and have some fun. We take pictures at every outing in hopes of showing the personality of each dog, bringing them some exposure and maybe...just maybe it will lead to them finally finding that forever home they've been waiting for.

So far, we have enjoyed the beaches of Ventura and Santa Barbara, some hiking in the hills above Ventura, as well as a road trip and hike in the

Pine Canyon/Lake Hughes area. You can see all of the pictures at dobiesandlittlepawsrescue.org/TheForgottenDogProject.html but we wanted to share some of our favorites with you here. Enjoy!



"Holland" with Gail



"Don" with Natalie & Vicky



"Smokey"

"Duke" with Jennifer





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR FOSTER PROGRAM

A few words about our foster program, since we're so often asked about it.

Much of the time that someone offers to foster a dog for us, they have a particular dog in mind and they're not really talking about fostering the dog, they're actually talking about adopting the dog on a trial basis. This isn't what our foster program is about. Since our adoptions are always flexible, if a dog is adopted that isn't a good fit for the home, the dog is generally returnable or exchangeable. And since we're "no kill," returning a dog isn't scary, as it would be if the dog were returned to an animal shelter.

Our dogs that are highly adoptable really don't need fosters. One reason is that if a potential adopter wants to meet the dog, that dog isn't here to show them. Also, the dog likely gets more exposure here, seen by all the visitors who come to view dogs for consideration. While it's tempting to have a kennel space open up so that another dog can be saved, putting very adoptable dogs into foster homes has proven counterproductive in the past.

The dogs that we love to find foster homes for are our "plain brown wrapper" dogs that are so good and worthy, but for one reason or another seem to

take forever to get adopted. Having fosters for these dogs can get them noticed, give them a more fulfilling life, and of course we don't mind at all if they become "failed fosters" who keep the dog permanently.

If desired, we provide food and medical care (as long as it's approved in advance) for our foster dogs. If/when the foster dog is returned to the rescue ranch, we know more about him or her, plus he or she generally comes back with more training, making the dog easier to place in a permanent home.

PARTING SHOT



"Teddy" Kolchins of Calabasas

*"I have found the one whom my soul loves."
 -Song of Solomon 3:4*