



**“Collin” Duarte  
of Los Angeles**

## “Dobie Doings”



2946 Young Road  
Fillmore, Ca 93015  
Phone (805) 524-5102  
www.dobierescue.org

www.DobiesandLittlePawsRescue.org

E-mail: [dobierescue@earthlink.net](mailto:dobierescue@earthlink.net)



**“Izzy” Knoppel of Reno, NV**

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

As this is written, we’re halfway through a mild winter in Southern California. The many blankets, sheets and comforters donated have been keeping dogs snug and warm; thank you! In addition, your generous financial gifts kept them eating good food, getting good vet care and everyday care. Thus far 2012 is a nice turnaround from the very expensive year that 2011 turned out to be. Many of you apologize for your gifts, saying you “wish it could be more,” but you need never do that! All donations, great and small, add up ~ and what they add up to is good care for our dogs.

We’re happy to say that we now also have three sources that donate dog food to us, resulting in enormous savings on our dog food bill. One of these sources donates a minimum of one-half ton at a time, and it’s very good food! We couldn’t be happier about this, because again, we can now devote more funds to other important areas of care.

Our newly-established Facebook page, created and maintained by Colleen Anderson, has delighted many of our adopters and friends, who love to exchange happy stories and information about their dogs. If you haven’t already, take a minute to “like” us (we hope you do!) and share your pictures and stories also.

On any given Saturday, several volunteers show up to walk dogs. It’s our goal that every dog gets walked once a week for a change of scenery, in addition to their exercise periods during the week. To meet our goal, we

need more dog-walkers, especially those of you who can come regularly. It’s hard work, of course, and we all have busy lives, but the dogs love it so!

Sincerely,

*Ardis Braun*

## ADOPTION UPDATES

Two of the dogs featured in our last newsletter went to their forever homes, both little dogs, and Sammy, our Beagle boy from Taiwan, made it official: he’s staying with former “foster” dad, Frank Sovich of Carpinteria. The moment of truth came for Frank when someone saw Sammy’s picture in the previous newsletter and expressed interest. Frank realized that the bond was too strong to allow this sweet Beagle he had months of



history with go to a stranger, upending his secure lifestyle once again. Here’s a current picture of Sammy with Frank.

**“Sammy” with Frank**

## SOFIE,

our adorable little Papillon mix, went home with Lauren Liposchak of Long Beach. A current report from Lauren: "Since she became a part of our family, Sofie has been a joy to all of us. It has been an amazing



"Sofie"

experience seeing her slow but steady progress from the rather meek and timid girl she was the day we met to the friendly, energetic and welcoming dog we now know. She has such a cute and silly personality and enjoys sunbathing in the yard, following me around the house, and generally spending as much time cuddling as

possible. She has proved to be ready and eager to learn....We are so excited to see the progress she will continue to make and so thankful for your help in helping her become a part of our family!"

## ELLE,

our precious Eskimo mix who preferred getting out of her yard to being left alone all the time, now lives with Kelly and Marco Rosenheim of Santa Barbara. Kelly fell in love with Elle's picture in our last newsletter, and the minute we walked Elle in to the visiting area to meet them, Kelly said "she's the one!"



"Elle"

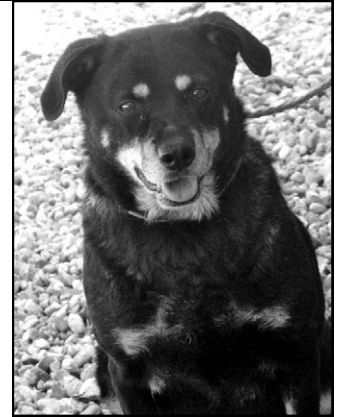
From Kelly's recent e-mail: "WE LOVE HER!!!!!! And, each day she warms up a bit more.

We are teachers and she can even come to school with us a couple of days a week. Looks like we both won the lottery. I am so glad she is an older dog, she works perfectly with our family. She slept the first night in her brand new dog bed in our room but then decided...she prefers the family couch!....Thanks for all that you do!"

## WAITING FOR HOMES

### KIKI

is of indeterminate breeding. She might be a Beagle-Dobie mix, or maybe Rottweiler with something smaller with no Dobie at all, or probably at least half a dozen breeds all combined to make a great medium-sized (45-pound) sweetie. She has been in our kennel most of her life, and she's 8-9 years old now. Kiki is social with most other dogs her size or larger, but she's really a "people dog," loving attention and human companionship. She would be a great choice for someone who is retired or works at home, and she needs a tall, secure fence for when she does have to be left alone.



### DEVON

is a black and tan Dobie mix, about 3 years old. He's been with us nearly a year, though he is a friendly, happy boy with a good coat and docked tail. We think he's mixed with Australian Shepherd. Devon can coexist with a large female companion, though he guards his food and thus would need to be fed separately. He weighs 65-70 pounds, enjoys his walks and hanging out on top of his dogloo in order to be alert to all goings-on.



### DAISY

is just adorable, if you enjoy the look of scruffy little dogs. She's dog- and cat-social, active, funny (she smiles!), and a great choice for someone looking for a companion to fit perfectly into almost any sized living space. We have not found her to be yappy or nippy. Daisy is just over a year old and weighs about 10 pounds.



## CAJON

has been with us about a year. He's a calm and mellow guy who was an instant hit at the vet clinic where we



had him vetted when he was new in our program. Cajon is very predatory with small animals like cats, squirrels, and even, possibly, little dogs. We don't know if he is social with large dogs or not; he's been walked with other large dogs, but not kenneled that way. Our dog walkers comment on his sweet and compliant

nature. Cajon is now about 5 years old, and he's a big boy, probably about 90 pounds.

## SPARKY

is a medium-sized guy who looks like a Golden Retriever, but with one-foot-long legs. His personality is more like a Corgi than a Golden, however, as he's a good watchdog and much more selective in whom he adores than any retriever we've known. We placed Sparky years ago with a family that moved to a larger property that wasn't completely fenced, so they said, after the fact, that they knew it was just a matter of time before he was hit by a car. When he was hit and injured, they relinquished him to their local animal control facility for euthanasia. Fortunately for Sparky,



we were contacted (because of our microchip) before he was destroyed. He suffered serious soft-tissue injuries but no fractures, though with his age (about 8) and breeding, he may require Rimadyl for joint health as he gets older. Sparky is dog-social, but he's really a "people dog," and what he requires most is to be attached to his human loved ones.

## SABRINA

comes on like a guard dog when she first meets another dog, but it seems to be mostly show. When we went to her animal shelter to pick her up, she was kenneled with

another female, larger than herself, with no apparent aggression. She is now kenneled with Mateus, a male Doberman who is food-dominant, and if we didn't restrain him when he finishes his meal, she would allow him to finish hers. Sabrina is a medium-sized black and tan girl, about 3 ½ years old, who is friendly and active.



## WALLY

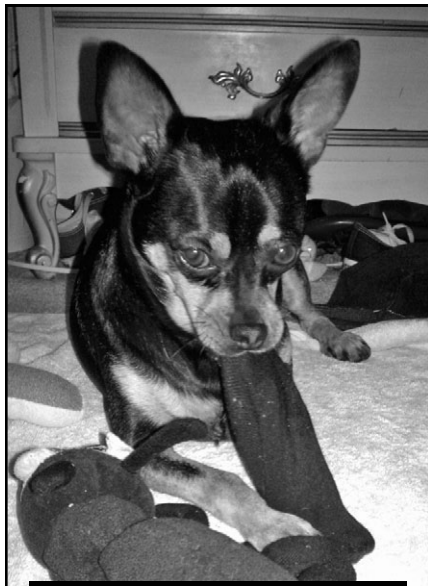
was recently returned to us by his tearful owner because of a divorce, which made it necessary to move to a no-pets apartment. He's a 6-year-old Lab-Beagle mix who is good with other dogs and kids (no cats, though), housebroken, and 40-45 pounds. We think this little guy is almost as heartbroken as his owner is.



## GIVING UP VS. STICKING IT OUT

There are all kinds of things that make dog adoptions fail. One of them, not surprisingly, is any kind of aggressive behavior on the dog's part. This is particularly common in failures with alpha-dog breeds such as Dobermans, Terriers, German Shepherds, Pit Bulls, etc.

Having been in rescue for decades, we have seen a lot of every kind of dog-human relationship, and many of them are unhealthy! Some people actually tolerate owning dogs that will not only not obey them, but will even bite them! Other people won't give the dog any slack at all. If the dog growls or snaps, he's immediately dispatched back to the rescue organization or the animal shelter. We feel this is unfortunate for the dog because dogs are like kids: they test the boundaries to find out how much mischief they can get away with, and if not trained and corrected, they may never find out and may even be destroyed by their animal shelters because of information they didn't receive. We discussed this in *continued on page 6*



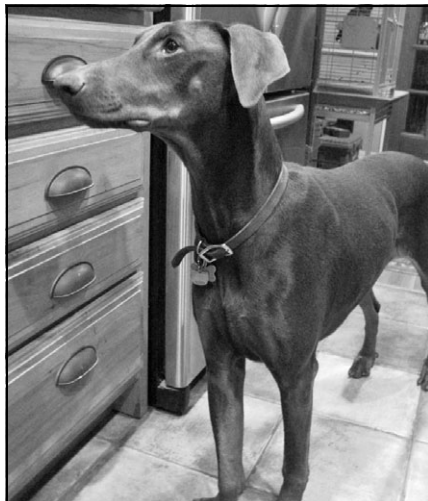
**"Gizmo" Hurtado of Santa Paula**



**"Zeus" and "Apollo" Greene of Port Hueneme**



**"Alvin" Sloan of Santa Barbara**



**"Clementine" Knox of North Hollywood**



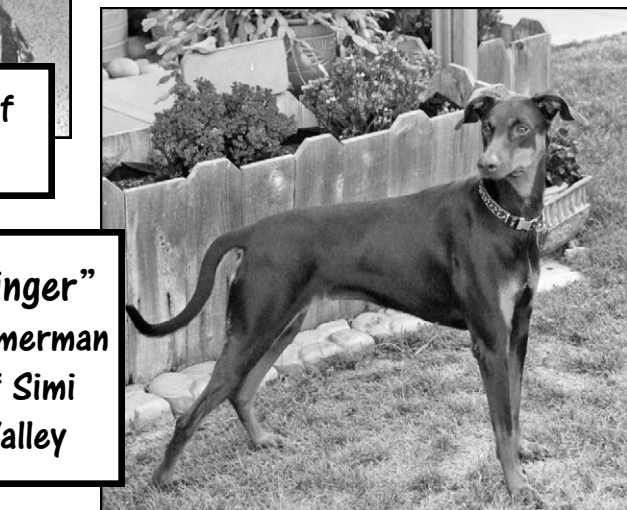
**"Titan" Showalter of Channel Islands**



**"Ozzie" Wells of Nipomo**



**"Rosie" Reich of West Hills**



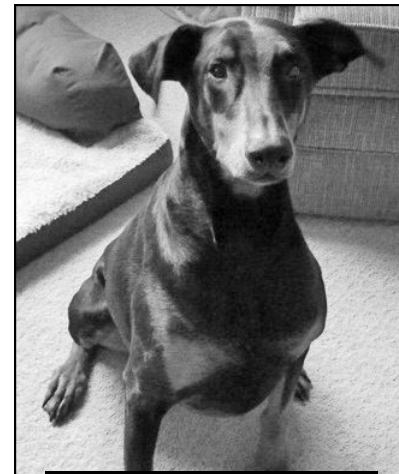
**"Ginger" Zimmerman of Simi Valley**



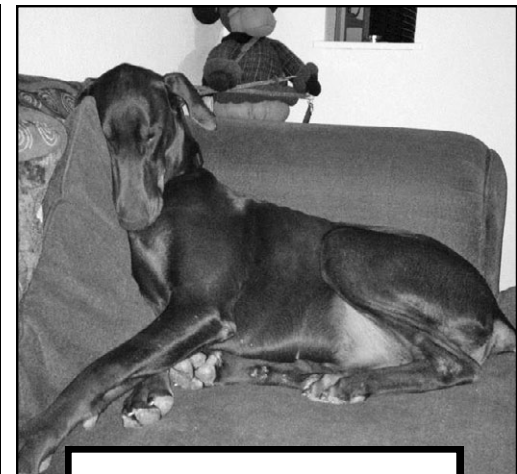
**"Rosie" Reich of West Hills**



**"Sissy" Considine of Santa Monica**



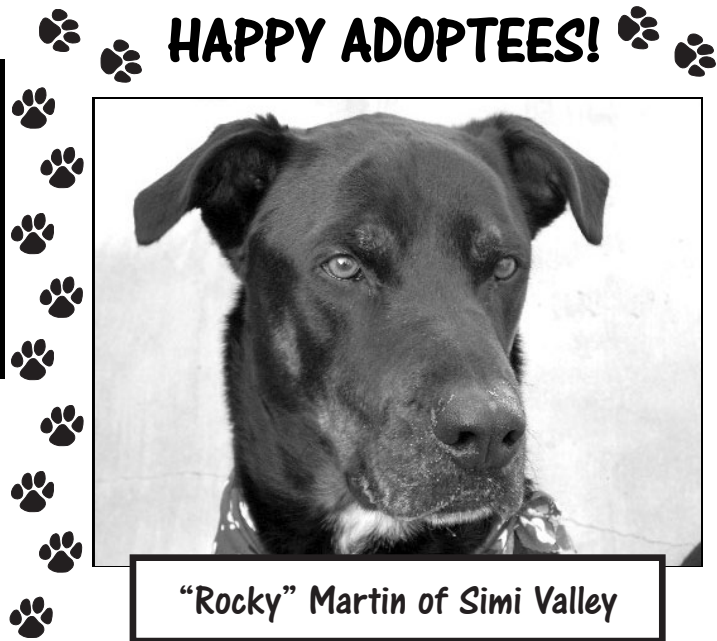
**"Lia" Brabandt of Sparks, NV**



**"Payton" Mikolyski of Palmdale**



**"Gracie" Moorhead of Santa Barbara**

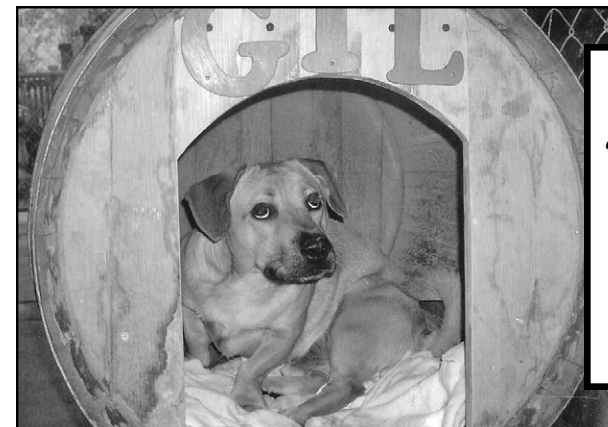


**HAPPY ADOPTEES!**

**"Rocky" Martin of Simi Valley**



**"Sadie" Patton of Costa Mesa**



**"Gilmore" Smead of Ojai**



**"Coco" Soria-Green of West Hollywood, with Jago Soria and Kirk Green**

## GIVING UP VS. STICKING IT OUT CONTINUED

our summer, 2011, newsletter at some length.

This latter lack of leniency is more understandable in the case of parents with young children. Realizing the dog might bite a child at eye level is a pretty serious concern. Of course, any dog with teeth has that ability. A lot of people are under the assumption that if they “start with a puppy,” they won’t have to worry because they’ll bring the dog up properly. We have seen so many cases where this is NOT true! Some statistics claim that over two-thirds of an animal’s personality traits are genetic (that is, “hardwired”), which accounts for why some individuals in a litter that are raised exactly the same way will be the aggressors, and others the submissive ones.

Also, there are many reasons for an animal to act aggressively; they aren’t all about winning the battle of wills. Often they’re about fear. As rescuers, we more often than not don’t know what an animal has been through prior to coming to us, even if that animal is given to us by the owner.



“Kahlua”

Also, animals can behave very differently from one home to the next, making them very reliable in one home and not in the next, or vice versa. Sometimes physical factors such as

hypothyroidism and arthritis can contribute to snapping or uncooperative behavior.

We would love to be able to say “consult a trainer” if you have a dog that isn’t behaviorally what you require. Unfortunately, most trainers disagree with each other on training methods, and we happen to disagree with most of them as well. Even Cesar Millan isn’t the answer to everyone’s training needs.

Here’s what we’re hoping for in writing about this matter: please give the dog a break, unless the dog appears truly mean and unpredictable, and/or unless you have young kids. Try to determine why the dog is behaving the way he is. We are available to try to help you make these determinations! Feel free to call us any time. Below are a few examples to help boost your confidence.

Kahlua, a beautiful red male Dobie we wrote about several newsletters ago, was adopted several times

and always returned because he would “get weird” and display threatening, aggressive behavior, seemingly out of the blue. Our volunteer Alejandra Abella worked with him and deemed him a great, but misunderstood, dog. She flew with him to the east coast, where her friend, Karin Coppens, a retired canine officer, was waiting to receive Kahlua. He did bite Karin once, which allowed her to understand the circumstances causing the behavior, and as of this writing five months later, they understand each other and live happily together.

Don Stanley of Peoria, Arizona, is another example. He adopted a very handsome black male Doberman named Vinnie from us in December, 2010, and soon after getting him back to Arizona, Don called to say Vinnie had bitten him and that he might have to return him. We gave him advice about how to handle the dog’s dominant behavior, trumping it with his own dominance, and there has been no repeat of Vinnie’s aggression. Don simply did not let him win.

Neither are small dogs exempt from these behaviors. Terriers are often given as examples because most terriers are small dogs with big-dog personalities and “attitude.”

We had a letter recently from Howard Gocke of Tacoma, Washington, telling us about a little black dog who was skittish, having been abused at some point, who lived in our kennel for about a year before Howard took him home about a decade ago. Howard said “he was really aggressive when I got him home and he took a long time before he would let anybody in the yard...I thought for a while that I would not be able to keep him.” Perseverance and patience did the trick, because now “he has come into his own and is the best damn



Howard’s dog

little guy in the world...we have come to really love this little guy and I just wanted to express a bit of our gratitude for having him in our lives.”

Marriages and friendships between people take work to be successful, so it shouldn’t come as a great surprise that species which can’t communicate in words require work on both parts as well.



“Vinnie”



I want to support Doberman Pinscher and Little Paws Rescue!  
 I am making the following contribution:  
 ( ) \$100. ( ) \$50. ( ) \$20. ( ) \$10.  
 I am enclosing the best gift I can: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my Visa or MasterCard!

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your contribution  
 Your contribution is tax deductible (Federal I.D. #77-0357865)  
 We also have PayPal  
 100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals.

## DELIVERING THE GOODS

by Colleen Anderson

As Ardis mentioned on page 1, we now get most of our dog food donated. Our largest donor supplies the food in lots of about 1,000 pounds each, all shrink-wrapped and ready for transport. We don't have a lot of choice as to whether the food is for Senior, Weight-Management, Small Dog, or Regular Adult animals, but we work it out as we feed it. Thanks to a previous adopter, we were put in touch with the non-profit organization, staffed entirely by wonderful volunteers that work tirelessly to distribute the food.

Initially, my 1/2-ton pickup truck wasn't up to the task if we got more than one lot donated at a time, so we were renting U-Haul trucks. It was getting expensive, by the time we factored in their daily rate plus gas mileage, so we recently bought a trailer! It wasn't very expensive, and we figured that within a half-dozen pickups of food, it would pay for itself, versus what U-Haul rentals would have cost us.

I am learning how to travel with it bouncing along when it is empty, and with slightly more difficulty, learning how to back it up. With a little maintenance this baby could last us a long time. Here's a picture of it. We think it is beautiful!



## UPDATE ON JUPITER

The Errant Dog

In our last newsletter, we told an amazing story about Jupiter, a charming red Dobie boy that we placed with Leslie Woolford and her son, Garrett, of Rancho Cucamonga. Four days after his adoption, Jupiter dashed through a garage door that was accidentally left open, and he was an errant dog for an astounding three months and three weeks!!!



Leslie learned a few weeks before his capture that a man with a small business near Jupiter's hangout was feeding him every day, but he did not believe in confining or leashing dogs, so he refused to apprehend Jupiter for her. She later mentioned this to the animal control people at the Rancho Cucamonga animal shelter, and Linda, one of the officers (who had previously come from her home in Perris at midnight to attempt to help capture Jupiter), said she would pay him a visit.

As luck would have it, when Linda went to speak with the man, Jupiter showed up right then and was promptly leashed by Linda, who took him back to the shelter and called Leslie.

Jupiter, whose new name is Tyler, has been back at home now for many weeks and he seems happy, according to Leslie. He sleeps in Garrett's room, and he plays with one of the cats that took up residence at Leslie's home when she began leaving food for him at night. A very happy ending to a very long story!



Doberman Pinscher Rescue  
 2946 Young Road  
 Fillmore, California 93015

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
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## FINALLY, SPLASH'S TURN!

It's been quite a few years since Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana, and all of the dogs we rescued from the airlift except one had either been returned to their owners, or, in most cases, fostered to homes that decided to keep them. One nearly died of heartworms, with which 2/3 of the Katrina dogs were infected, but very good vet care and a healthy tug on our financial capabilities that year brought her through.



**"Splash" with Hans**

The one that didn't get adopted until a few months ago is Splash, a Pit Bull mix that was about a year old when we rescued him. His owner phoned us back then, having recognized his picture on the many web sites showing the animals that were saved. The problem was that she was homeless after the hurricane, and she didn't know if she would ever have a home of her own again.

Finally we were able to seek a new home for Splash, but Pit Bull types are very hard to place, especially with responsible owners. Splash's lucky day came when Hans Bonde of Moorpark, one of our dog walkers, decided he was ready to foster a dog. A suggestion was made, and the suggestion was taken ~ and now Splash has a permanent home with Hans. They visit regularly, and Splash waits patiently in Hans' vehicle while his new master walks a bunch of dogs, guarding his territory and keeping his eye on Hans (who, incidentally, says he has never seen Splash asleep!).

## PARTING SHOT

*There comes a point in your life when you realize:*

*Who Matters*

*Who Never Did*

*Who Won't Any More...*

*And Who Always Will.*



**"Jake"  
 and  
 "Louie"  
 Tapie of  
 Santa  
 Clarita**

*None of us will ever forget our favorite dogs.*