



"Lily" Gurich of Inglewood

"Dobie Doings"



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"Sadie" Long-Sheets of Modesto

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

As this is written, it's a beautiful day in mid-May, and our adoptions are still, in general, very good. Summers can be slow and difficult because folks plan vacations and moves, and they don't want to adopt until those are over with. We sincerely hope that potential adopters don't delay for any other reasons, though, because each and every dog that leaves not only gets to be in his or her great new home sooner, but another dog from an animal shelter is able to live because that kennel becomes available.

We had another great truck donated for our dog food transports, a big Ford F150, by Barbara and Ed Bernero of Agua Dulce. Now we have two large trailer-pullers, one residing here at the ranch, and the other with Colleen a few hours away, so that no matter which direction our donated dog food needs to be picked up from, a truck is ready to launch.

Dale and Steve Ball of La Canada held a very nice dinner-fundraiser party for us in Pasadena on May 31. Twenty-something of their friends attended, and the proceeds above the dinner tab made a welcome dent in our food and veterinary bills.

Once again our intrepid volunteers manned a booth at the Orange County Pet Expo. This involved a day of setup and three days of attendance at the event, so we had very tired volunteers by Sunday night, April 21st.

I wanted to thank all of you who were concerned about us during the terrible Camarillo fire that burned

28,000 acres during the first few days of May. We were never at risk – in fact we didn't even smell smoke! – but our local Camarillo animal shelter was grateful for our showing up and relieving them of three non-Dobermans to make room for fire evacuees.

Finally, as always, we thank you for your enduring support of every kind. We could not exist without you.

Sincerely,

Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

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

CHIPPER,

our little 7-pound Terrier (now called Prince), "is a happy camper and is the best dog ever," according to new owner Kristin Carnohan of San Diego. "He lives to fetch, leaping in the air and twirling to catch the toy and would fetch 24 hours a day if you let him. He talks about everything in his own special language but



is very easy to understand especially when he brings the toy to you to throw. He learned his doggie door, how to sit and lie down in a matter of hours and is a super-smart boy....He loves his walks, sleeps in the bed with me and the other two, and has the loudest bark in a small dog I've ever heard. Thank you so much for rescuing him so that he could become such a wonderful addition to our family."

CINDER,

our young Dobie mix who was so terrified when she arrived, has a great new home with Jennifer and Rudy Van Zyl of Los Angeles. "Gracie (her new name) is doing great and she continues to gain confidence daily....She is so gentle



with us, children and the other dogs, really just the sweetest girl and exactly what we were hoping for. She goes for daily walks around our hillside neighborhood and loves to be part of our family life. She now plays with the other (smaller) dogs and carries around stuffed toys and loads them up in her bed. Just

adorable. Again, thank you soooo much for rescuing her, as she is such a great dog and I know she wouldn't have had a chance without you."

DUKE THE HUGE,

our 115-pound Dobie boy, now lives with Kevin Christensen and his family of Sunland. From Kevin's recent e-mail: "My family and I went down to look for a dog for two reasons: one, to watch over our large property, and secondly, a great companion for our four-year-old son. When Duke arrived at our house it was like he had been there the whole time. The second day of Duke's new home we had a party with 25

people in our backyard. He was right at home playing with all the little kids. Our first intention of having Duke as mostly an outside dog changed since day one; he has slept in the den on his bed. He brings joy to our family and it's all thanks to your rescue."



ROXY

was our little "project dog" who was so fearful on



arrival that she tried to bite anyone who came near. With time and patience, she learned what it means to trust and enjoy humans. She was adopted shortly before this writing by Herman Schornstein and Eric Love of Carpinteria. In a phone call

the morning of May 9, Herman raved about little Roxy, saying "she is fantastic!" They love her, as she is "a perfect lady" who is housebroken, doesn't

WAITING FOR HOMES

GOOBER

is a good dog who has so far waited 4 years for his forever home (he's now 6). He is a joyful dog who loves to play ball and always greets people happily with his whole back end wagging. He is good with many, but not all, dogs – at least in our environment. At present Goober is kenneled with a very difficult and obnoxious medium-sized female who probably needs daily reminders to behave, and he tolerates her surprisingly well. Goober is an average-sized red boy with natural ears and docked tail.



DRUCIE

lucked out the day we turned to one of our favorite animal shelters because we were short on small dogs, they had too many, and they recommended Drucie. She resembles a Terrier-Dachshund mix more than anything else, as she has a long, low body and tufted hair representative of most of the Terriers. Drucie is a social dog, enjoying all people and tolerating other dogs well also. She is 4 years old and weighs 15-20 pounds. She's also housebroken.



MIJO (pronounced MEE-hoe)

is an all-natural (long tailed and natural eared)



Dobie boy who was returned to us just over two years after being adopted. His ex-owner felt he should have more constant companionship, and he should be placed with a person or couple that doesn't have a heavy social schedule, as Mijo is territorial and protective of his home. He's housebroken, knows commands, isn't destructive, isn't a digger, and he's about 3 1/2 years old. We recommend an

adult home only for Mijo, and one that will welcome a rather needy personality.

KENDALL

is a 3 1/2-year female Dobie who was adopted for two days and returned because she nipped two kids during that time. We think she was insecure and too anxious during those two days, but she will be a better choice for an adult home or one with older kids. In other respects, Kendall showed herself to be a good dog: housebroken, obedient, mellow and non-destructive. She has become a favorite of our volunteers and dog-walkers.



SHELBY

came to us from an owner who couldn't keep her,



so her breeding is known to be Cocker Spaniel and Miniature Pinscher, though she more strongly resembles a black Beagle-Dachshund combination. She is four years old and weighs just under 20 pounds. Shelby is a very active dog who is housebroken, ok with cats and kids, and probably would do best in a

one-dog home, as she is dominant with other dogs and becomes jealous of attention.

WILLOW and NASH

are two of the dogs we rescued when the Camarillo fire created a need for kennel space for evacuees at our local animal shelter. It is amazing to us that these young

dogs had been recently groomed by someone and then were unclaimed when they were impounded as strays at the shelter. Nash, the male, is the more laid-back of the two and could potentially be happy as the only dog; Willow, the female, probably needs another dog companion. These dogs weigh about 25 pounds and are probably non-shedders, either Schnoodles (Schnauzer-Poodles) or Cockapoos (Cocker-Poodles).



PET INSURANCE

All of us have heard about pet insurance. A lot of different companies offer it, and often it's too complicated to understand whether it is actually worth it. A monthly premium is paid, and many pet health problems are covered, not necessarily 100%, not all health problems, etc. Most people probably don't bother.

So it was with great interest that we read a recent e-mail from Joy Healy of Whittier about her Corgi mix, Canela, whom she adopted from us quite a few years ago. Canela had spent 1 1/2 years waiting for Joy's home, but she hit the jackpot, even certifying as a therapy dog, thoroughly enjoying her trips to an assisted-living home a couple of times a month.

Last year Canela was diagnosed with melanoma, and it had spread to her lungs. Luckily Joy had decided to give pet insurance a try over a year earlier, so when the cancerous mass was found (due to sheer luck) radiation and chemotherapy treatments that would have cost well over \$12,000 ended up costing Joy less than \$2,000.

Canela had six radiation treatments and needs to remain on chemotherapy, but she has few side effects and is still alive eight months later, when without treatment her life expectancy had been a month or two.

A heartfelt close to Joy's e-mail: "I moved in September, and never put my bed back together. My mattress is on the floor so my girl can join me as she pleases. I write this in the dark sitting on my mattress, while Canela sleeps quietly on her pillow across the room. I know that she will probably join me on the mattress, snuggling her head up close to me, some time tonight....Every year we've gotten closer and loved each other more. She has been the PERFECT dog for me."

Contact Joy at joynwh@gmail.com for more information on this.

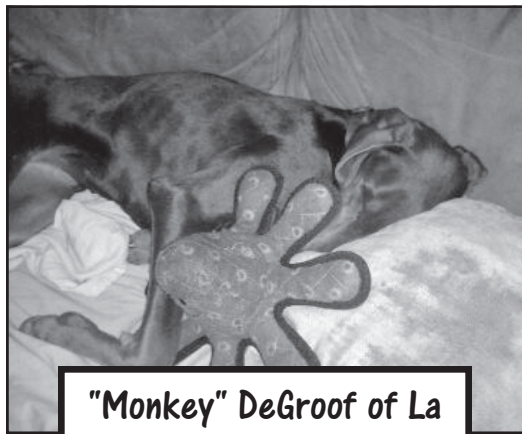




"Bruin" Blaine of Redondo Beach, with Nicole



"Diva" Tull of Palmdale



"Monkey" DeGroof of La Crescenta



"Ducky" Swander of Santa Barbara



"Jacques" Hair of Ventura



"Doodle" and "Hank" Renison of San Bernardino

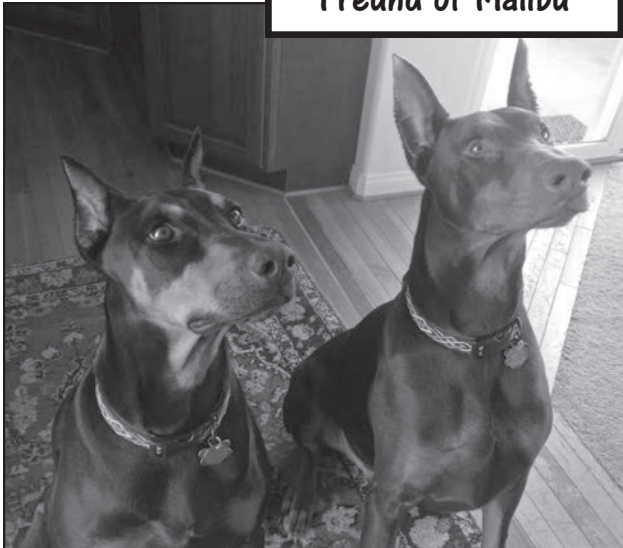


"Bella" Goldstein of Camarillo

HAPPY ADOPTERS!

"Bruce" and "Buddy" Freund of Malibu

"Lady" and "Glitter" Martin of Oceanside

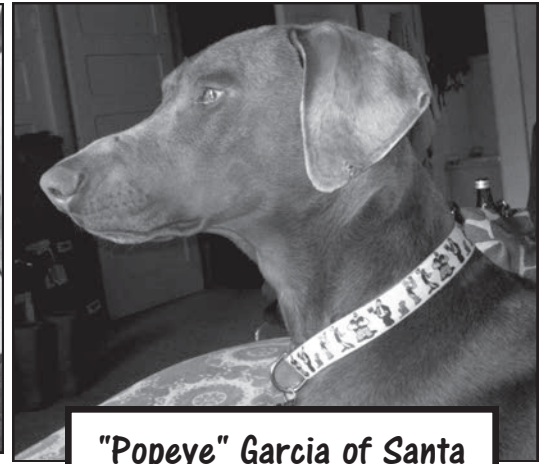




"Toby" Jones of Phoenix, AZ



"Kacee" Racine of Temecula



"Popeye" Garcia of Santa Barbara

"Zarr" Frazee of Santa Clarita



"Dinka" Thompson of Newbury Park



"Rudi" Golda of Vacaville



"Maverick" Trozzi of Riverside



"JP" Long-Sheets of Modesto



"Rudy" Zimmerman of Fallbrook



“DOG PEOPLE”

Not everyone who owns a dog is a “dog person.” We all know who we are; we’re the ones with corners of books chewed off, pieces of gutted dog beds and toys strewn about, dog hair on the furniture, and nose art on the windows. Some of us even have to be in the habit of not leaving anything edible on the counter top and making sure to keep leather shoes and TV remotes out of reach.

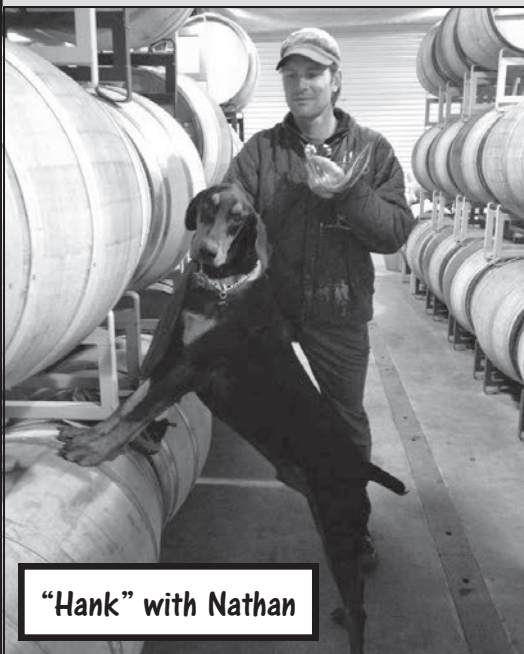
Just as there are dog people, there are dogs that really need their people to BE dog people. We have found it’s usually the more sensitive dogs that need owners who will connect with them on a deeper level than those who just like dogs. Plus, dogs are as different as people are, with different needs and behaviors.

I’ve always found it interesting how so many dogs will behave very differently from one situation or home to another. In one newsletter many years ago I told of a young female Dobie who had been returned because she did over \$3,000 damage to the owners’ home and the leather interior of their Mercedes Benz. When we placed the dog again with a woman with whom we shared her history, she never damaged another thing.

A dog named Javelin that we currently have up for adoption, mentioned in our last newsletter, was returned by the first home we placed him in because he made three holes in a pillow. I’m not sure a dog person would have even noticed!

Colleen has mentioned several times that whenever we post information on our Facebook page or a plea for help for a dog that has been returned, people absolutely excoriate the adopter for returning the dog. If the return was for a behavioral problem, why couldn’t they train the dog and work it out like they would for their own child? If the return was for a move, why couldn’t they look until they found somewhere they could move with the dog? They certainly wouldn’t leave their child behind. Etc., etc.

Our job, of course, is not to blame or criticize; our job is to willingly take our dogs back and find new homes for them



“Hank” with Nathan

that will work out. Sometimes it takes FOUR or more tries! The picture to the left is of a dog named Hank that finally got the home he needed on the fourth try. His problem had been that he was destructive when left indoors alone, and a barking problem if left outdoors alone.

An excerpt from a Facebook post by his new owners, Andrea Dilling Edwards and Nathan Vador of Murphys, CA:

“I called and spoke to Ardis, who did her best to warn me of Hank’s difficulties. We had made a list of other possible Dobies, just in case, but we just had this feeling, deep down, that Hank was our boy. We couldn’t wait to meet him. We live on a vineyard and work from home or at the winery all but 1 day a week, and even then he can go with us.

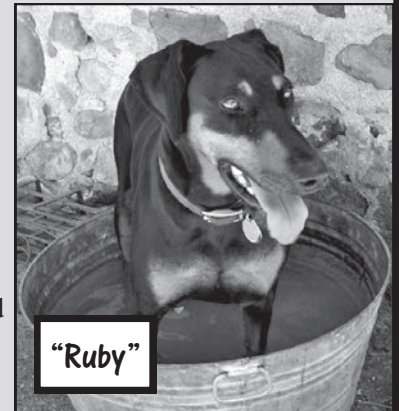
...adopting our boy Hank from you almost 5 months ago has been one of the most amazing experiences of our lives. As his fourth home, and with a listing of suffering from separation anxiety, we wondered what kind of issues we would need to work through with him. I am so happy to tell you that he has been so completely wonderful. Everyone who meets him marvels at his sweet personality, his intelligence, his grace. No one can believe he was unwanted. We’ve had people beg us for the chance to keep him as their own (we send them to your web page, because he is OUR BOY!) We loved him the moment we met him, but honestly never knew how very much we would love and adore him as time went on. Thank you, thank you, a million times thank you, for the privilege of adopting our boy. He has made our family complete, and we like to think he’s pretty darn happy here with us.”

Guess we can all agree these are dog people!

One of my personal dogs was a failure in her adoptive home also, which is the reason I kept her, not knowing if she could be placed anywhere else without failing for the same reason: she was destructive. Ruby had lived with another female Dobie and an adult couple that loved them. The other dog passed away, and shortly, the woman did also. Ruby lived with a devastated man, whose life became further complicated by the fact that his company wanted him to take a pay cut and staff reduction. He declined, and instead took a new job working nights. That meant Ruby was very lonely while her owner was either sleeping or working, with less time to devote to her, since he now had to assume all the house duties that his wife previously did, in addition to his own.

Ruby became destructive. Her message was clear: her needs were not being met. When she chewed up the owner’s new Blu-Ray system, it was the last straw.

I have several times e-mailed Ruby’s ex-owner to tell him how glad I am that he returned her, and for the reason he did (which made me hesitant to place her again and have her fail again)! Ruby is young blood at my home, barely 4 years old now, and it’s a pleasure to have a young, fun, affectionate face among the oldies that always greet me. I love her madly. And Ruby has never damaged a thing!



“Ruby”



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, Discover, MasterCard, or American Express!

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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.

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that there are long-haired Doberman Pinschers? They are rare, but we have had the pleasure of having two of them in our program, and they have both been GREAT dogs!



"Amber" Margolis of Culver City

THE BENEFITS OF OBEDIENCE

by Colleen Anderson

Any dog owner knows obedience training is important and dog professionals will say it is necessary, but just how important is it? While doing some research for this article I discovered just how difficult it is to find solid, clear advice on dog training and how beneficial it is for the dog. There are DVDs, CDs, TV shows, magazines, every bookstore is filled with books about it, and I won't even try to explain the incredibly chaotic stream of information on the internet. Every one of them tells you something different. Be alpha; don't be alpha. Obedience training does help behavior problems; only behavior modification can do that. The amount of different techniques out there just to teach a dog not to pull on leash is enough to drive anyone mad. So here's my take on it: obedience training will not solve all of a dog's behavior problems but it can certainly help.

There are two ways that it does this. The first is by helping to establish or encourage trust and respect. I

wrote an article a couple of newsletters back that talked about the importance of trust and respect in your relationship with your dog. Obedience training can help with that and trust can be encouraged by making it a fun and positive experience. Did you know that training actually stimulates the pleasure center of the dog's brain? It boosts the release of Oxytocin and reduces levels of the stress chemical, Cortisol. Not to mention all the yummy treats that usually come with it. One of my boys, Homer, was an incredibly difficult dog to train. He just never had much interest in it and would much rather nap, but he couldn't resist the food that came with the activity. It took several weeks but he finally learned to sit on command. When he finally did I couldn't believe that joy on his face (he normally has the demeanor of Eeyore from Winnie-the-Pooh). His tail was wagging furiously and he starting jumping around trying to play. I could be anthropomorphizing but I'd like to think that his small accomplishment did bring a kind of pride that he hadn't known until then. Respect can also be strengthened because the dog is learning to focus on you and respond to commands. Some people don't quite know where to start with gaining respect and can be harsh about it. All it means is that when you ask your dog to do something, he does it. He doesn't second-guess you, growl at you, or ignore you. That is where





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training helps big time. If you teach your dog to sit and he sits every single time you ask him to (even if you don't have a treat in your hand), that isn't just conditioning, it's respect.

Obedience training can also have real applications to daily life and daily behavioral problems. For example, Ardis tells adopters who have a dog that jumps on people to teach their dog to sit on command. There are a lot of methods out there to teach a dog not to jump on you but we find that most of them don't work on super-active dogs, who just take it in stride, and other methods are physically aggressive. Think about it: if your dog is sitting, he can't jump on you, right? The command "stay" is perfect for those dogs that have door-darting tendencies, and "come" will be a life-saver for those that like to roam. One of the major problems some of our adopters have is that their dogs challenge them a couple of weeks after their adoption. Initially, the new owners feel bad about their new dog's past, so a few rules are thrown out the window in favor of comfort and wanting the new dog to like them. A couple of weeks go by and the dog fur on the furniture is too much to take or you're tired after a long day at work and want to lie down. You tell your dog to move but you're met with a growl or a snap. Bam, the dog is returned for being aggressive. This behavior goes back to a basic lack of respect that could have been established the first week by teaching the command "off." Have the dog wear a leash (for a few days or weeks), take the end of the leash, guide him off the furniture while saying the word "off," and give him a treat when he does.

Repeat this with every piece of furniture in the house and eventually it becomes second nature. Crisis averted.

If for no other reason, train your dog because it's fun. It's the one time during the day that you are completely focused on him and he is completely focused on you. Remember that dogs need mental stimulation just as much as physical. For all of you out there with Dobermans, did you know that they are (supposedly) the 5th smartest dog breed in the world? That's a lot of smarts! Find constructive ways to use them or your dog will, and you might not like what he comes up with. He'll be happier for it and so will you.

PARTING SHOT

If you worry that you have not made a difference, you have, for only those who do not worry about it have not. If you consider that we cannot save them all, and what difference does one make?, you ought to know the joy of the one who is saved.

-from Pieces of My Heart by Jim Willis

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!



"Stella" Betournay of Thousand Oaks