

"Winona" Sellars of West Hills with
"Pierre le Chat"

"Dobie Doings"



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So much has happened since our last issue that it's hard to believe only three months have passed.

El Nino, of course, was no fun for anyone. Several times we became an island, as normally-dry creek beds became raging rivers, overflowing our road with water and boulders. The dogs spent a lot of time in their houses and Dogloos.

On March 21 we had the opportunity to showcase six wonderful dogs on a T.V. Show called the Pet Place. We brought older and harder-to-place dogs in hopes that viewers seeing these dear faces might give at least one or two the break they needed. Unfortunately, this was not the case. But all six dogs were absolutely wonderful for the taping and truly seemed to enjoy the attention.

We did have a very successful raffle on April 23rd with 35 attendees. Lucky winners received a beautiful Seiko watch, donated by Kent Van Gundy of Van Gundy Jewelers in Ventura; a hand-made pendant made of silver, coral, pearl and semi-precious stones, donated by designer Steven Ruse and his wife Deanna of Santa Barbara; a framed horse painting by artist Ralph Young and his wife Christine of Monarch Beach; and a

lovely ornate table clock donated by Candace Lawrence and her husband Tom Kelch of Long Beach. A good time was had by all attendees, who exchanged information, photos, stories, and laughs until we closed the restaurant.

My own good news, for those of you who know me personally, is that on May 30th I married a marvelous man, Eric Munck, who shares my love of animals and has made my life a happier one. He is Danish and kids me often about my ninety-plus Dobermans and one Great Dane!

Sincerely,

Ardis Munck

Ardis Munck
Director

Ardis Munck

Director

Suzette Smith

Graphic Designer

Dennis Bolton

Aaron Lucas

Printer

- ☐ Waiting for homes
- ☐ Adoption Updates
- ☐ To Crop or Not to Crop?

P.S. - Note: Credit was erroneously given to Randy and Christine Haws of Ventura as owners of "Angel," the smiling dog featured in past issues of *Dobie Doings*. The Haws thought the photos of Angel were taken by her previous owner and were of their dog. (They look similar.) In fact, the Angel in the photos belongs to Donna and Jack Hubbard of La Conchita.

Still Waiting for Homes

"Heidi" -8-10 years old, social with all other dogs, not good off leash. In rescue program for three years.



"Heidi"



"Mondo"

The good news is that **"MONDO,"** one of our long-term residents (four years), whom we believed had to be an only dog, has apparently mellowed with age and has lived successfully with two different female dog companions in the past two months.

Sadly, **"Lorenzo"** -did not live to enjoy the pleasures of having his own home. He died of natural causes after about one year in the rescue program.



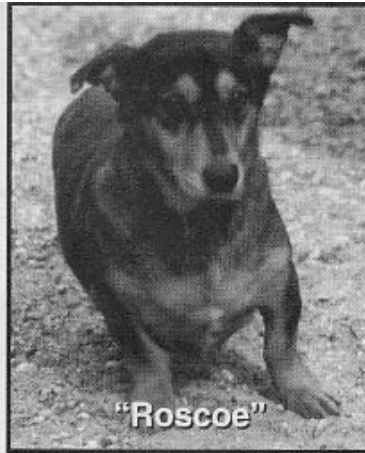
"Lorenzo"



"Red"

"Red" - is a very social large doe-eyed red Dobie, about nine years old. Though we are trying not to rescue many dogs his age for reasons mentioned in these pages before, his story touched us. He had been a commercial guard

dog his whole life, finally ending up at the pound when the business installed a security system and no longer needed him. This pound called us, as they, too, were touched by his plight. He is a quiet, well-mannered dog who gets along with every dog he meets. Can any of you give him a few of the comforts he has missed all these years?



"Roscoe"

"ROSCOE" is a mellow, middle-aged Corgi mix. He's a short-haired, serious dog who loves his comforts and is quite undemanding. He gets along with other dogs and can fit in just about anywhere. At 30 pounds plus, he would still like to be a lap dog!

This is **"FLETCHER"**. Though he isn't among the oldest of our rescue dogs, he has been here the longest, at 7 years. He is now 8 years old and has never been adopted. He is a red Dobie mix (probably mixed with Pointer), about 55 pounds, and he gets along with all other dogs and kids. (No cats or other small animals, though.) Fletch is good off leash but needs an 8-foot fence or block wall to keep him in.



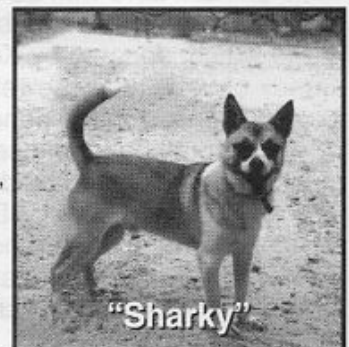
"Fletcher"



"Marcie"

"MARCIE" is a darling Rottweiler mix, about 60 pounds who, like Fletch, needs a high fence. She gets along with most other dogs, she's happy and loveable, and she's only about three years old. Doesn't she have a kind face?

Finally, meet **"SHARKY"**. He's only about a year old, a good dog for kids. He got his name because he has a huge overbite, which gives his profile the appearance of a shark. He likes other dogs and is playful and happy.



"Sharky"

To Crop or not to Crop?

No one knows exactly when ear cropping of dogs came into vogue, and there are conflicting stories as to why it did. One theory is that certain breeds used during the war were assigned to seizing and guarding prisoners, and that cropped ears and docked tails made it virtually impossible for the prisoners to grab and hold onto the dogs. If this theory is true, then cropping must have become a fad which spread to other breeds not convincingly involved in war activity such as Miniature Pinschers and Miniature Schnauzers. Besides these breeds and Dobermans, it is common for Great Danes, Boxers, Pit Bulls and Staffordshire Terriers, German Pinschers, Standard and Giant Schnauzers to have their ears cropped.

Another theory is that cropped ears became popular for health reasons; because natural ears had more of a tendency to become infected or to attract foxtails when the dogs were running through weeds. This theory doesn't seem very plausible, either, because we have certainly seen a significant number of infected ears on cropped-eared dogs, and it would seem that dogs with their ear canals wide open, as cropped dogs' ears are, would be more vulnerable, not less vulnerable, to getting foxtails and other debris in them.

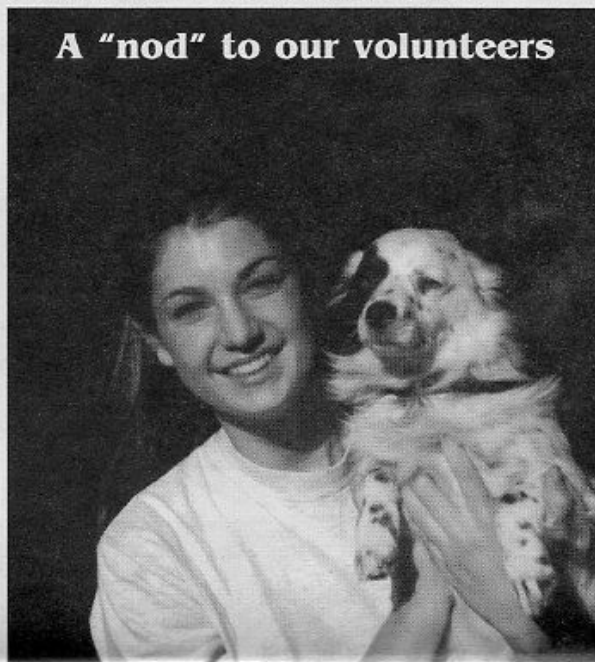
So that leaves the probable reason that dogs began to have their ears cropped for vanity reasons. Certain countries have found the custom inhumane and have banned it (i.e., Great Britain). One has only to watch how ear cropping is done in the veterinarian's office to understand this attitude. If ear cropping must be done, however, the ideal time to do so is during fairly young puppyhood, not only because it is much easier on the dog, but also because the dog's ears have a much greater chance of standing erect at the end of the process.

In Southern California the recent trend has been away from cropped ears, and even, to some extent, from docked tails. Many people say that they did the ears on their previous Doberman but would never do it again. Other people simply like the look of soft ears. They say the dog does not look so menacing with natural ears, which, of course, is exactly what some Doberman owners do not want. Certainly Rottweilers have had an impact on the soft-eared trend, and Rottweilers can look plenty menacing with their natural ears.

We at Dobie Rescue promote the natural-eared Dobie look, but we are the first to admit that a

cropped dog will usually be easier to place. The sad thing is when a dog is put through all of the pain and discomfort of ear cropping and the ears do not stand at the end of the process. These dogs are very difficult to place, almost always more difficult than if the ears had been left alone in the first place.

A "nod" to our volunteers



Here are two of the cutest faces we've been able to print for a long while. The human face is Shannon Wendland of Camarillo, our newest and among the most dedicated of our volunteers. Shannon donates one of her weekend days every week to walking, bathing, grooming, and otherwise enjoying the Dobermans and mixed-breed large and small dogs for adoption at Dobie Rescue.

The pooch face is "Freckles," the precious little Corgi mix Shannon bonded with and adopted while volunteering here. She also has "Baron," a wonderful young male Dobie, adopted from us a couple of months prior.

Thank you, Shannon, for all of your tireless work and dedication to the wonderful dogs at Dobie Rescue.

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bill Beckham of Hesperia for his continued support in the Inland Empire. Bill regularly picks up dogs for us at the shelters in his area and fosters them until we can pick them up. He also volunteers many hours walking up to thirty rescue dogs weekly to improve the quality of life for these great critters waiting for homes.

**Our centerfold this issue is of beautiful
Dobermans, cropped and uncropped.**



**"Brutus" and "Cookie" Goodenough
of Tujunga**



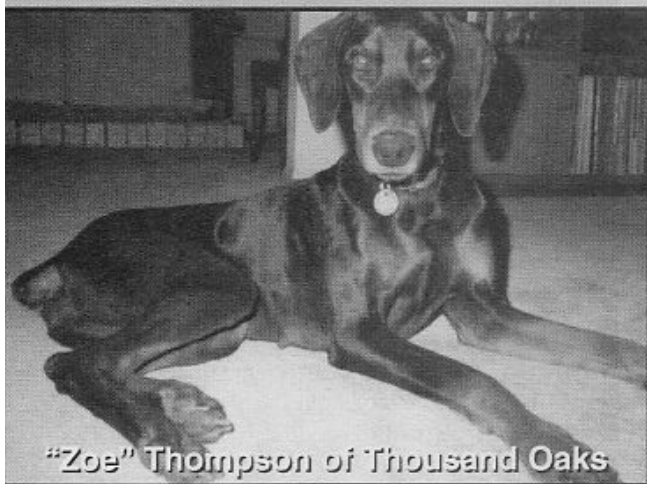
**"Raven" and "Canela" Peterman of
Los Angeles**



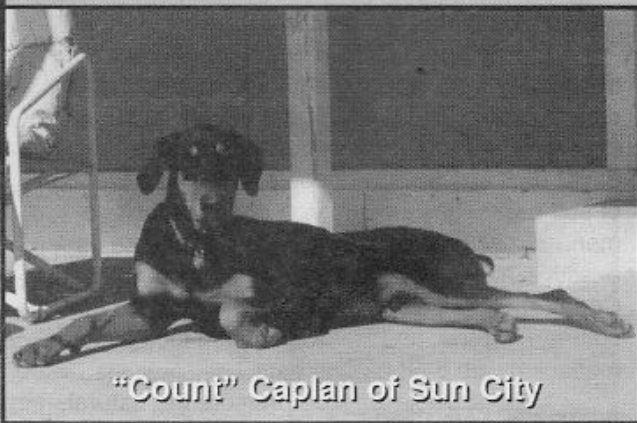
"Blue" Freytag of Glendale



"Jordan" Reesman of North Hollywood



"Zoe" Thompson of Thousand Oaks



"Count" Caplan of Sun City



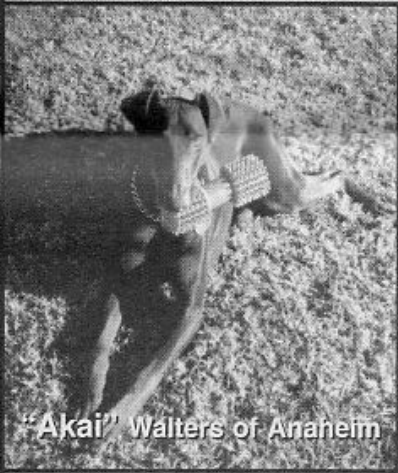
"Bailey" Mociak of San Clemente



"Dexter" Gish of Los Angeles



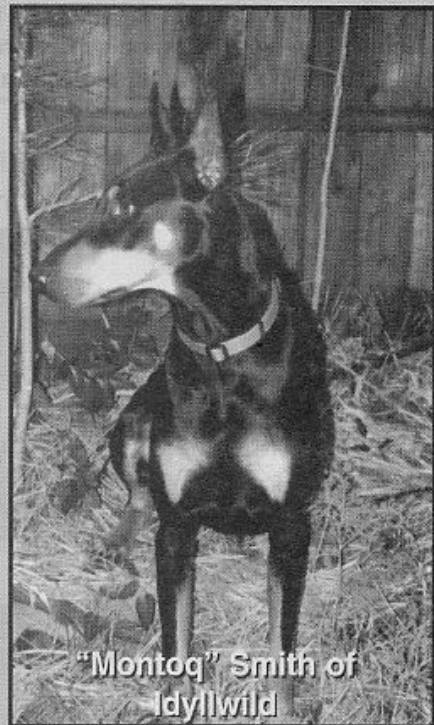
"Akai" Walters of Anaheim



"user" Buchanan of Malibu



"Alex" & "Gillis" Cwikly of North Hollywood



"Montog" Smith of Idyllwild

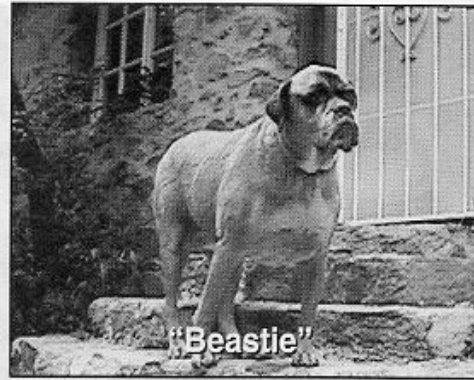
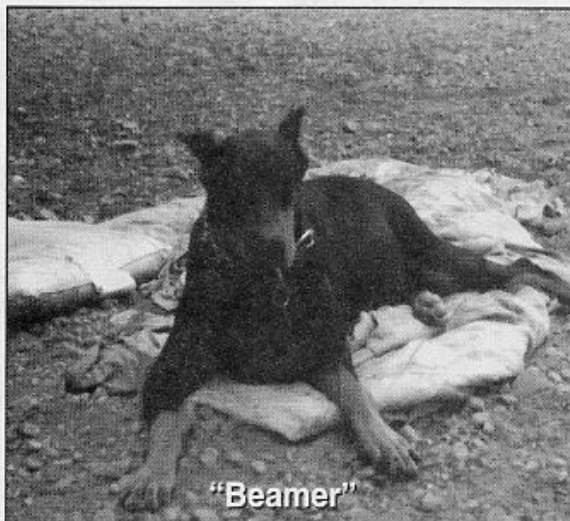
"Beamer" & "Beastie"

Some of you will remember Beamer, the Dobie Rescue ranch mascot for approximately the past 2 1/2 years. She passed away in April, apparently of natural causes; she was found beneath an avocado tree in the orchards she knew so well because of her love of avocados.

Beamer was brought to the ranch over four years ago by an owner who no longer had a house and wondered if we could place his dog, who was pretty to look at but "walked funny." She looked as though she had arthritis or hip dysplasia but in fact had some neurological deficit which made her appear to have spent too long in the saddle.

Lots of people looked at Beamer while she spent the first 1 1/2 years in the kennel, but as soon as they saw her strange, lumbering gait, they all bypassed her for other dogs. Finally we liberated her from her kennel to roam freely the six acres of the ranch we fenced in for the dogs' pleasure and security. She was offered the opportunity to live in the house, but she never felt comfortable in confinement. The grounds were her territory and she took seriously her duty of monitoring it. We knew that she could not have been in serious discomfort because she constantly patrolled, greeting all visitors, scaring a few of them and shamelessly ingratiating herself to anyone with a scrap of food. She would go with anyone, anywhere, for a French fry.

We miss her!



Our new ranch mascot is not even a Doberman; she's a Bullmastiff! She can never replace Beamer and she isn't even a watchdog, but she is wonderful.

The official name we gave her is Hildebeest, which became shortened to Beastie. She is 130 pounds of very gentle dog; she even lets a ten-pound Chihuahua mix dominate her!

Here's how we ended up with her: a former volunteer used to walk through the Lancaster pound every week and call us with a list of purebred dogs so that we could apprise each rescue group that one of their breed was impounded there and in need of rescue. One such dog was listed as a Mastiff, so we telephoned the Mastiff rescue and gave them the appropriate data. About two weeks later it was our turn; we had to go to pick up a Doberman, and while in Lancaster, of course, we walked through the shelter to identify any other rescueable dogs. And there, still, miraculously, was Beastie.

She was listed as a Mastiff, and we realized immediately that what we were looking at was not a Mastiff at all, but a Bullmastiff. When we inquired about her in the office, we were told that the Mastiff rescue had come to see her and determined that she was a Bullmastiff and called Bullmastiff rescue. The Bullmastiff rescue had apparently declined to take the dog because of her age, listed as ten years, and the fact that she had a large ugly tumor on her back. We looked at her sweet, kind face; she was already spayed and did not look ten years old at all, so we decided to rescue her and try to place her ourselves.

First we had the tumor removed; the vet said he estimated her age to be six to seven years. Then we called Bullmastiff rescue to ask for referrals for this wonderful dog. Their

response was: "We'll be happy to help you place her, but we predict that if you have her more than a week, you'll want to keep her. They are very habit-forming."

That was over a year ago. Beastie is extremely happy at the ranch. Like Beamer, she prefers to be outdoors and generally resembles a large stone or beached whale while lying in the tall grass. She also loves to go for car rides, but the problem is that when the ride is over, she does not prefer to leave the car, and an unwilling 130-pound dog is awfully difficult to move!

Taking care of Business

A subject no one likes to think about but one which should be addressed is: what happens to your pets if something happens to you? This is something older people are more likely to consider, but every day unexpected things happen to younger people as well (e.g., death, illness, disability) which can make them unable to care for their pets. If you haven't already made provisions for your pets, please do so today! Leave your instructions taped to a cabinet door or placed in some obvious location so they can be easily located.

Always be sure that those who would be responsible for your pets want and can handle the responsibility—do not assume! Also specify a second party, if possible, in case your first

choice has unforeseen problems. Living Trusts can also be extremely useful for caring for your loved ones, human and otherwise, following your death. Consult a competent attorney if you wish to explore this option.

Several years ago, on one of my trips through a local animal shelter, I noticed and inquired about two female poodles impounded there. They looked so lost and confused that I really felt sorry for them and had intended to retrieve them for poodle rescue when they became available.

I was told that they could not be released for some time because their owner had died and the estate had to go through probate. I was also told that the owner had left \$1,000,000 to the dogs in her will for their care and well-being following her death.

A year later, the dogs were still waiting for the probate to be concluded. One of the dogs became ill and perished, very likely from pneumonia, and the other dog died soon thereafter, probably from lack of will to live. So these poor little dogs who were so precious to someone died forgotten, unloved and miserable in the pound because specific instructions were not left by the owner as to their care following her death.

Don't forget that Doberman Rescue wants all of its dogs back, for any reason, if they are no longer wanted or able to be taken care of!



I want to support Doberman Pinscher Rescue!

I am making the following contribution:

() \$100. () \$50. () \$20. () \$10.

I am enclosing the best gift I can: \$ _____

I cannot contribute money right now. I would like to support by: _____

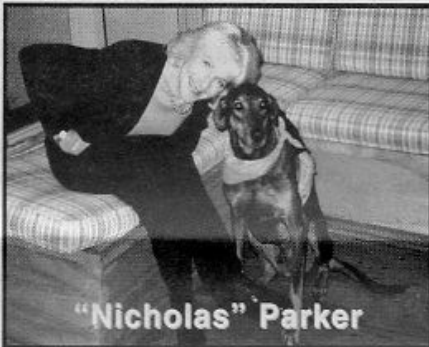
Please return this form with your contribution
Your contribution is tax deductible (Federal I.D. #77-0357865)

A Few Happy Adoptees



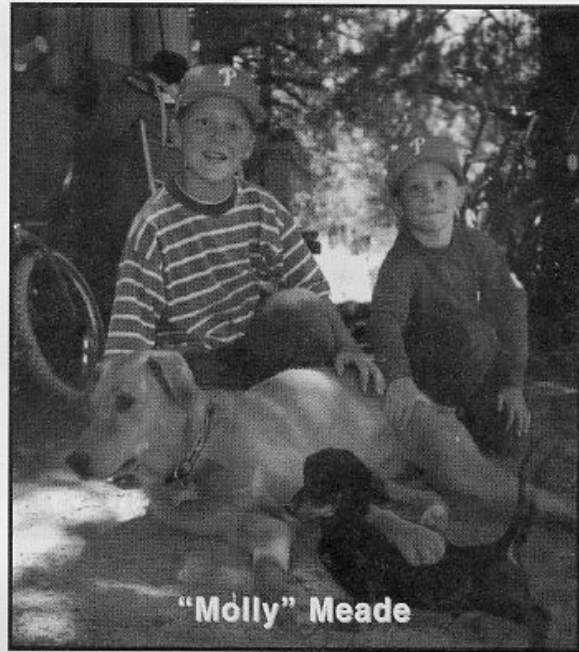
"Shiva" Prater

From Juliet Prater of Los Angeles:
"3 years old
1st place agility
1st place dog obedience class
Thank you, Ardis"



"Nicholas" Parker

From Jennifer Parker of Los Angeles: "Lucky Nicholas in Vail, Colorado - where he spent a nice Christmas '97 holiday. He got 6 new scarves."



"Molly" Meade

From Beth Meade of Thousand Oaks:
"I've been meaning to write you this note for a while to let you know how Molly is doing...In the less than two months that we've had her, she's been to Mammoth three times and Monache Meadows twice (South Sierra's).
She loves going on hikes with us and is great with the kids. We feel lucky to have found such a tolerant, mellow and playful dog.
She plays gently (most of the time) with my mother-in-law's 3 month-old mini-D. Very Cute! Thanks."

Doberman Pinscher Rescue



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