

## Dobies and Little Paws Rescue Report

VOL. 13 NO 2  
June, 2008

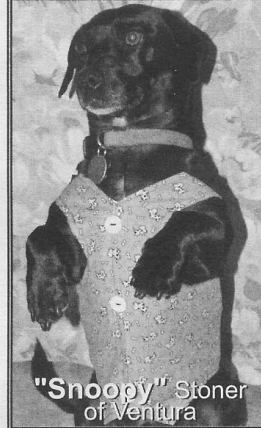


"Pia" Sekban of Santa Barbara

### "Dobie Doings"



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[www.dobierescue.org](http://www.dobierescue.org)  
e-mail:  
[dobierescue@earthlink.net](mailto:dobierescue@earthlink.net)



"Snoopy" Stoner  
of Ventura

Ardis Braun Director Suzette Smith Graphic Designer Michael Forester Webmaster Dennis Bolton Printer

In our last newsletter, we lamented the fact that foreclosures in the housing market were resulting in unprecedented numbers of large dogs being relinquished and abandoned. We suggested that any of you who had been thinking about adopting another Dobie, or other large dog, come visit us as soon as possible. Quite a few of you did. Thank you! You have made it possible for us to rescue others because you made a kennel available to a new dog.

Here's another request: please pay attention to vacant homes, with or without "For Sale" signs, in your neighborhood. There are tragic stories about animals that have been abandoned inside homes and in yards of homes that went into foreclosure. In some cases, it was too late; the animals had starved or died of thirst. If you observe any possible cases of animal abandonment, please make sure the animals have food, water, and shelter, and "keep tabs" on them for a few days. Sometimes owners come back for their animals, but it's important to make sure they're cared for in the meantime. Domestic animals are so totally dependent on us for their survival that we all owe it to them to make sure their basic needs are met.

A huge thank you to Michael Forester (an adopter of ours, with his wife, Kaarin Axelsen), who

singlehandedly redesigned our web site and presented it to us as a nearly-finished piece of work. Please check it out at [www.dobierescue.org](http://www.dobierescue.org). To view Dobermans, click on Doberman Pinschers; to see dogs other than Dobermans, click on Little Paws. Not all of our available dogs are posted, but all of the dogs that are posted are available.

A reminder that if, for any reason, you're unable to keep a dog that we've adopted to you, we always want our dogs back! We're a no-kill sanctuary, and we care deeply that all of our dogs always have a safe place to come back to. Some people may feel obligated to try to find a good home for their dog themselves, but so often the dog's new owner passes the dog along to someone else, who passes it to someone else, until finally the dog ends up in a public shelter in a high-risk situation because the person who ended up with the dog didn't know there was any other option.

With summer approaching, always remember the dangers of heat stroke to your pet, and if you're planning a vacation, double check to make sure your pet is wearing his or her collar and i.d. tags...just in case.

Keep sending us your pictures, and have a great summer!

Sincerely,

*Ardis Braun*

## A NOBLE CALLING...ALMOST

It wasn't a home, exactly...it was more of a mission.

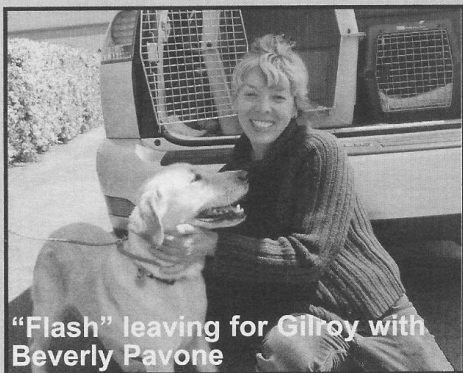
In our last newsletter, we told you about three dogs we had taken in from a shelter in Taiwan, which houses over 1,300 dogs in small cages. One of the dogs we took, whom we named Flash, is a very handsome young Golden Labrador Retriever. As we watched him in his kennel, we noticed he was highly alert, with a strong play drive and an obsession with tennis balls. We began to wonder if Flash could possibly have a future as a search and rescue dog.

Adopters of ours, Mary and Jim Goodreau of Ventura, mentioned knowing Karen Klingberg, a woman in Ojai who evaluates possible candidates for the Search Dog Foundation. Jim provided her phone number, and the following week she came to Fillmore to meet Flash and evaluate him.

We went to a park in Fillmore, where Karen repeatedly threw the ball for Flash, which he never failed to retrieve. Then she threw it in some bushes, and, like a trooper, he plunged in after it. Then she threw it in the bushes again but made him wait for a bit to see if he would forget or lose interest (he didn't). Then she threw it into the rough again but didn't let him see where. Again he retrieved it.

After an hour of this sort of testing, Karen was satisfied that Flash might have a future in search and rescue work, and he was whisked away to the Search Dog Foundation's "boot camp" in Gilroy, California, for two more weeks of evaluation.

Unfortunately, the trainers there felt that

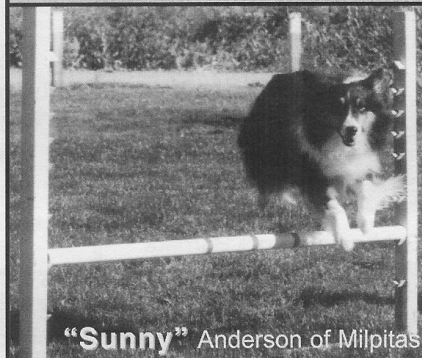


"Flash" leaving for Gilroy with Beverly Pavone

Flash had a little too much "play drive" and not enough "hunt" for their program. So Flash is back with us, ready to embark on his next life challenge; as an agility dog, maybe?

\* \* \* \* \*

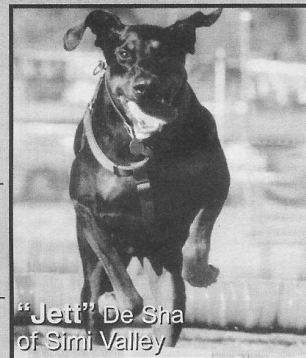
Here are a couple of adoptees of ours, enjoying their agility work:



"Sunny" Anderson of Milpitas

News "Flash" - just as we were going to press, Flash was adopted by the Walton family of Ventura. He'll have to live with and love

Ranger, a 4-month-old puppy Heeler mix they adopted a month ago. If he can tolerate puppy teeth and energy, he's got his forever home with people who like to go to ball games, the beach, etc. So far, so good. We've all got our paws crossed!



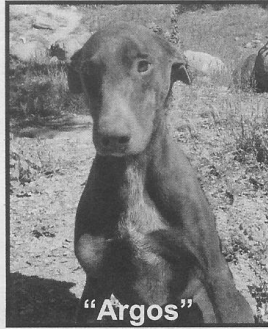
"Jett" De Sra of Simi Valley

## WAITING FOR HOMES

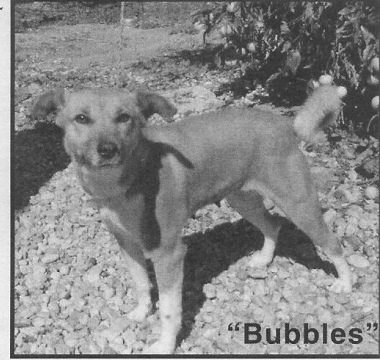
### ARGOS

is a red boy Doberman Pinscher with natural ears, a docked tail, and a patch of white on his chest. We think he's purebred, and we think he's a very deserving dog who has had a hard life. We had to travel many hours to retrieve this boy from the temporary foster home that had accepted him from an animal shelter in upstate California,

and when our volunteer (Colleen Anderson) arrived there, Argos was standing in the middle of a group of small dogs who were milling around him and biting his ankles. (No reaction from him.) He clearly can tolerate other dogs well, but we think he would do best in an adult home, or at least one with older kids. One of his shoulders is skewed, the result of an old fracture that was untreated. Our vet says it should cause him little or no discomfort in the years to come.

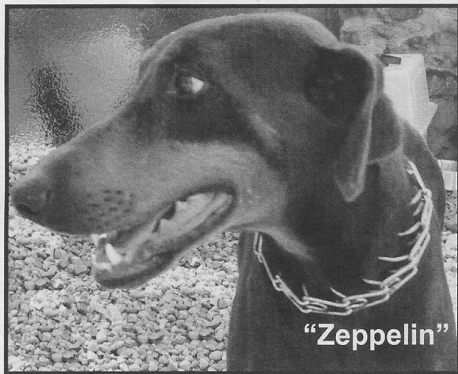


has some very endearing qualities, but she can take some time to bond with a new person and show her true personality. (It's particularly gratifying when it happens!) She isn't a needy dog, and she doesn't really need the company of other dogs. Bubbles will give kisses when completely comfortable with someone, and she'll do the Basenji "yodel" to express her delight at seeing her special someone.



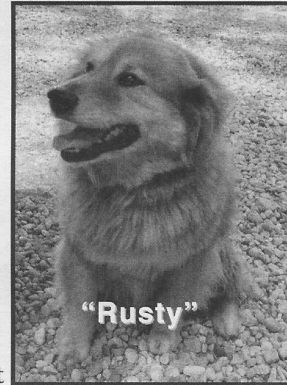
### **ZEPPELIN**

is an attractive blue girl Dobie with natural ears, a docked tail, and a healthy coat. When Zeppelin came in to our facility, she was extremely timid. If our volunteers tried to take her for walks, she balked and planted her feet, trying to dive under anything available for security. She has come a long way and now walks well on leash. It isn't known if Zeppelin can live with other dogs, but she will need a home where she feels secure, as she becomes very comfortable in her territory and enjoys being the queen of her roost.



### **RUSTY**

is a Golden Retriever mix who is 5 years old and weighs about 45 pounds. He's beautiful and he's sweet, but he has one negative trait: he's a "door darter." We placed him years ago with a woman who had him for several years, but she eventually returned him because she lives on a busy street, and Rusty was fond of running out the door into the street. She was certain that someday she would have to witness him being squashed by a car in front of her eyes. Rusty is housebroken, good with dogs and kids, quiet, and good in pretty much every other way. The ideal home for Rusty would be one with an enclosed front yard or enclosed porch outside the front door (or whichever door is used for regular comings and goings).

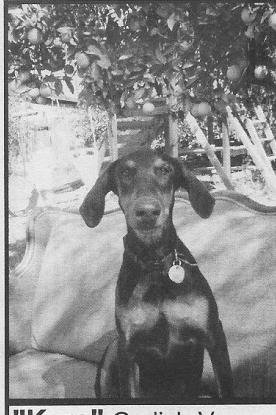


### **BUBBLES**

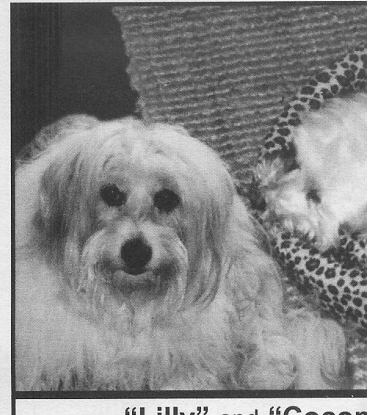
is a Basenji mix, about 5 years old, and she's chubby at about 25 pounds. Bubbles



**"Reba"** Beach of Santa Ana



**"Kyra"** Gorlich-Vargas  
of Fillmore



**"Lilly"** and **"Cocon"**  
of Newport B



**"Jacob"** and **"Jasmin"**  
of Encinitas with Candace Curlee and  
Debra Dominski



**"Sutter"** and **"Asia"** Nemets of Camarillo,  
with Gray and Laney

## *We're adopted!*



**"Sasha"** and **"Sierra"**  
Catlett of Yucaipa



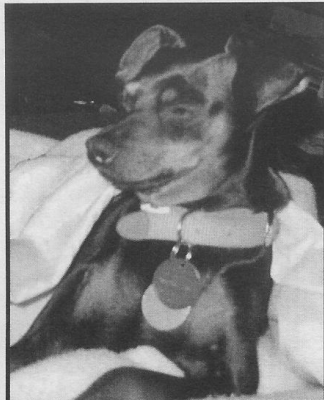
**"Amber"** and **"Ally"** Kunz  
of Thousand Oaks, with Lori



**"Finnegan"**  
Mar



**"ut"** Schuchert  
ach



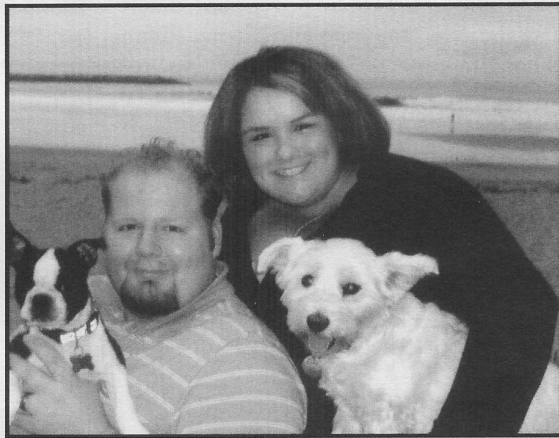
**"Maxine May"** Brown of  
of Los Angeles



**"Rambo"** Haskins of Castaic



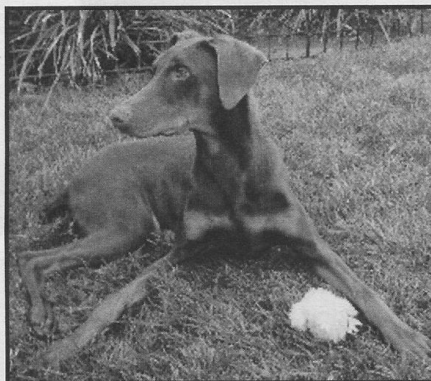
**"Solace"** and **"Solomon"**  
Heatherly of Long Beach



**"Mac"** and **"Shirley"** of Ojai  
with Curtis French and Angie Alvarez



lbison of Santa  
arita



**"Gunny"** O'Hara of San Diego



**"Lola"** Rainbolt of Thousand Oaks

## A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS



Thanks to the generosity of one of our donors, and the volunteer efforts of adopter Ned Meislin and his friend, Leon LeFort, we now have much more substantial roofing over our kennels to protect the dogs from rain and blazing summer sun. Though we sort of “volunteered” Ned to assist us (since he is a builder and knows his stuff), HE kept thanking US for letting him help! Ned and Leon actually stayed overnight in Fillmore so that they could get an early start to complete this two-day project. Many thanks to these great friends!

## MEDICAL MATTERS

**B**ecause it's such a serious, but usually treatable (if caught early) medical problem, we need to mention bloat now and then to remind our readers to be on the lookout for this horrible affliction of large breed dogs.

No one really knows the cause, though we strongly suspect it's related to heavy water and/or food consumption, particularly as the dog grows older and its stomach and internal organs have less elasticity than they did when the dog was young.

What occurs is that the stomach flips, or “torses,” so that the stomach contents are trapped there, unable to be vomited up or to pass through the elimination system. Gases then build up, toxicity builds up, and the condition is usually fatal if not caught within twelve hours, often less.

Here's what to look for: **UNPRODUCTIVE VOMITING**, followed by restlessness, loss of appetite, and swelling of the stomach. It's most important to look for the unproductive vomit-

ing, though, because by the time the other symptoms manifest themselves, it's often too late.

Emergency vet treatment may be able to correct the torsion without surgery, but usually surgery is recommended in any event to reposition the stomach and to tack it in place so that it can't torse again in the future. Dogs that it's happened once to are probably at much higher risk of having a repeat performance.

\* \* \* \*

There has been some mention lately on the internet of Campylobacteriosis showing up in dogs more frequently in some areas. We were acquainted with this illness because a few years ago we had two young dogs who became ill with something that looked suspiciously like Parvovirus. A test at the vet clinic showed it wasn't Parvo, thankfully, but an infection caused by the Campylobacter bacterium. Recently, a dog adopted from us became ill over a month later with this type of infection, which resulted in the entire family getting sick. It can be introduced in many different ways, including fecal matter from an infected animal, contaminated food, and various other sources.

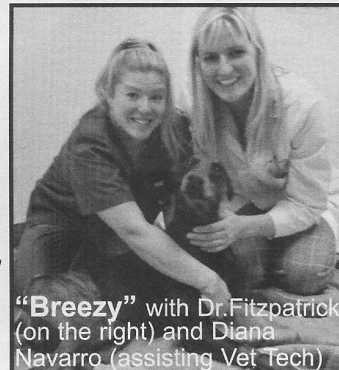
We aren't sure how prevalent it is, but be on the lookout for diarrhea (sometimes bloody diarrhea), weight loss, lethargy, and sometimes vomiting. If you observe these symptoms in your dog, take in a fecal sample - or your whole dog - and have the vet determine if a nasty parasite is responsible.

## BREEZY AND DOBEI

They came from two different countries and very different circumstances, but they had one thing in common:

each had a rear leg that didn't work.

Breezy came from an animal shelter; a darling young cropped Dobie girl the shelter staff loved, and so did we. When we picked her up, they said



“Breezy” with Dr. Fitzpatrick (on the right) and Diana Navarro (assisting Vet Tech)



I want to support Doberman Pinscher and Little Paws Rescue!

I am making the following contribution:

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

Please charge my credit card.

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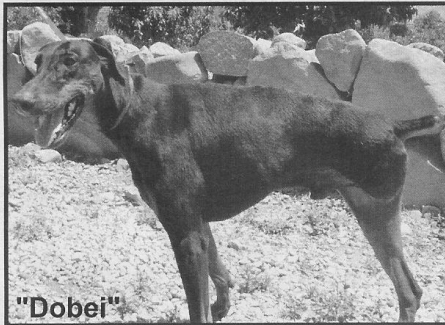
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

"she has something a little bit wrong with her back end." It turned out to be an old fracture requiring surgery, if Breezy was ever going to be comfortable moving around. She limped, but she never complained.

Dobei came from a shelter in Taiwan, which houses over 1,300 dogs in small cages, most of whom are never adopted and don't get exercise or quality of life.

He arrived emaciated and with one rear leg that was stiff



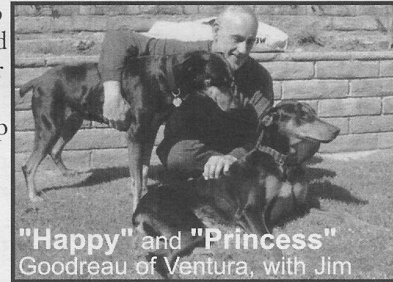
from his hip to his toes, like a yardstick. He, too, needed surgery, but the leg couldn't be saved.

We received a recommendation from our retired veterinarian, Dr. Rick Wattles, to contact Adobe Animal Hospital in Oxnard, as they have a new veterinary surgeon on staff and could probably perform the two surgeries at a price we could afford. That turned out to be true.

Breezy's surgery was the first. It was horribly complicated. There was so much scar tissue and so many bone fragments wound around her hip

bone and pelvic area that two hours of surgery weren't enough to clean it up, plus her blood pressure kept falling, and the vet, Dr. Kerry Fitzpatrick, felt it would be best to continue the operation the next day. She suggested moving Breezy to the Pet Emergency Clinic for monitoring overnight to make sure her blood pressure didn't plummet into the danger zone.

Jim Goodreau, manager of the Pet Emergency Clinics in Ventura and Thousand Oaks, stepped up to the plate for us and covered the costs of Breezy's overnight stay. It was a difficult transport, as she was barely conscious and very tipsy on morphine, so she was taped to a stretcher when we picked her up that night. PEC did a great job of keeping her stable



overnight. The next morning, volunteer Mike Klee picked her up and returned her to Adobe, where Dr. Lori O'Neil completed Breezy's surgery with a few more hours of work.

Dobei's surgery followed the next week, and, unlike Breezy's, was a clean, uncomplicated surgery; in his case, an amputation. Dobei hardly seems to miss the leg, which was of no use to him anyway, and he was already accustomed to not



## Doberman Pinscher Rescue

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using it. As Dr. Wattles says, "Dogs are born with three legs and a spare!"

We were told that Breezy would require significant physical therapy so that she could

recover as much range of motion as possible. Luckily for all of us, she was adopted a few days later by a former adopter of ours, Susan Kelber of Los Angeles, who loved her on sight and is doing everything necessary for Breezy's recovery. Breezy's new name is Kayleigh.

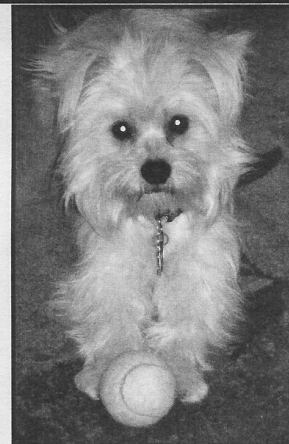
Dobei almost had a home...volunteer Gayle Kingston knew of a woman with a partial disability that sounded like the perfect home for him. We delivered him to Gayle, and she delivered him to the woman's home, which has a back yard consisting almost totally of swimming pool. A few minutes after arriving, Dobei lost his balance and fell into the pool, sinking like a rock! Fortunately someone was there to rescue him, but obviously this was not the right home for a dog with his limitations. Dobei continues to be one of our best-temperamented dogs; he's available, and he's "bulletproof."



"Kayleigh" with Susan

Great news: just as we were going to press, Dobei (whose new name is Leo) was adopted by Louise and John Gapen of Los Osos. Dobei will have to share their home and motor home with a pack of little dogs (including Bumbles!), but since he has never shown one iota of aggression toward any human, canine, or feline, we think he'll somehow manage to enjoy his new digs. 😊

## PARTING SHOTS



"Tilly" Franklin  
of Los Angeles

"More than anything else, dogs are creatures of play, whose spontaneous interaction with life bespeaks its goodness."

- from *I & Dog*,  
by the Monks of New Skete