

"Alex" and "Gillis" Cwikly of North Hollywood, with the Easter Bunny

## "Dobie Doings"



2946 Young Road  
Fillmore, California 93015  
Phone (805) 524-5102  
Fax (805) 524-7327

Ardis Munck Director    Suzette Smith    Graphic Designer Dennis Bolton, Aaron Lucas    Printer

**A**nother winter is finally behind us, and Santa was very good to our critters again this season. We got seven large new Dogloos, many blankets and toys, canned food, grooming clippers, and lots of other badly-needed items. Paula Cwikly of Studio City gave a Christmas party and asked her guests to bring something for Dobie Rescue instead of their usual bottle of wine. Duane and Catherine Walsh of Goleta donated 300 collars, each one hand-made and unique, which we have been putting on all of our newly-adopted Dobies. Louise Gapen of Los Osos cleaned out her pet store/grooming shop and gave us all kinds of pet supplies.

All of this in addition to your kind and generous cash donations. Thank you!!!

We also have several new volunteers to be thankful for: Pam Falvo of Anaheim, who makes the 3-hour trip every weekend; Cathy Verga of Simi Valley, Nedda and Stuart Vorzimer of Simi Valley, and Delia and Lee Fuhrmann of Channel Islands. These great folks spoil the dogs with treats, walk them, play with them, bathe and brush them, and whatever else needs doing.

The "Alpha Dogs" article in our last issue was very well received. This issue has the follow-up article on the subject: once you know you have

an alpha dog, what can you do about it? If you are new on our mailing list or wish an extra copy of the previous article, please let us know.

Our centerfold this issue is of photos we thought would prompt some warm fuzzy feelings and comments like "Oh, how cute!"

Have a wonderful spring, and keep those photos and letters coming!

Sincerely,  
*Ardis Munck*

PS. -We now have a Web page which should be functional some time in early April:  
[www.dobierescue.org](http://www.dobierescue.org)

## Adoption Updates

Here is a new photo of "*Joey*," the young Dobie whose skull was fractured with a blunt object when he was a puppy. As you can see, Joey's luck has improved and he is now enjoying the comforts of his new home with Pat Bittenbender of Palmdale. She says he has settled in just fine and does quite well with the pigs and cats at her place. He and her other Dobie, Bo, whom she adopted from us last June, are like "book-ends," and all the dogs go for frequent car rides to help Pat run her errands.



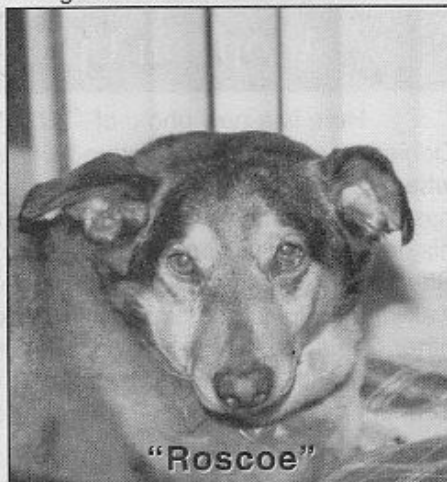
**"Joey" (center), and friends**

**"Twiggy,"** our near-starvation case darling, is now at home with Faye Cohen of Moreno Valley. Our last report was that she had gained 30 pounds, weighing in at 66 pounds, quite a lot for a small frame like hers! She is thriving in her new home and is very much loved by her new owner.



**"Twiggy" (before)**

**"Roscoe,"** our tubby little Corgi mix who spent over 1 1/2 years waiting for his new home, found the home to beat all homes- - thanks to the Internet and some help from Corgi rescue folks in Northern California. He now lives with Micah Barclay of San Diego with another sweet older Welsh Corgi. Here is a current photo of Roscoe, looking comfortable, and excerpts from Micah's letter of January 21:



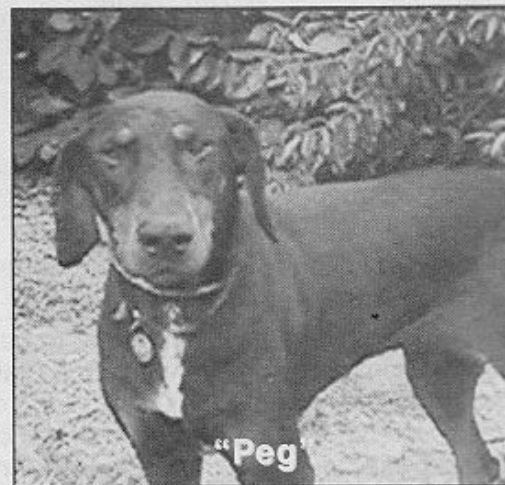
**"Roscoe"**

"Everyone who has met him thinks he is wonderful. He did end up being housebroken, although we had a few incidents when he tested the limits of his new place. We are moving this coming week to a rented single story condo, which will be a big improvement for all of us. Their little legs do not handle stairs well... The landlady came out from Arizona to meet them, and wanted to take him home... He weighed in at 37.2 pounds, but is on a diet and exercise program now. He has bonded to me quite well, and we'll be starting obedience training in a month or two. Thanks again."



**"Tara"**

**"Tara,"** one of our lesser beauty queens, was adopted by Dr. Connie Pinkerman of Los Angeles, sight unseen. Connie owns several connecting properties in a charming older section of Los Angeles, so Tara has a big place to live with several cats and a dear old Shepherd.



**"Peg"**

The Dobie with the badly broken leg, **"Peg,"** was adopted by Linda and David Kobayashi of Palos Verdes Estates. Linda says she is a nice mellow girl who adapted well and seems to be enjoying her life very much.

# Still Waiting for Homes

We still have the three familiar faces below waiting for homes: *"Tiny," "Moby" and "Geronimo."* In addition, here are a few new ones of other patiently waiting lovable dogs.



**"Tiny"**



**"Moby"**

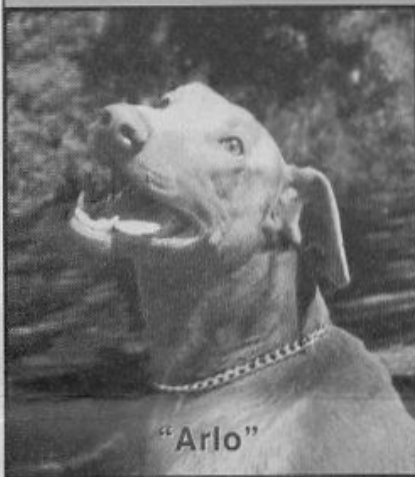


**"Geronimo"**



**"Cutie"**

*"Cutie" died March 5, 1999, after waiting nearly 3 years for his own home.*

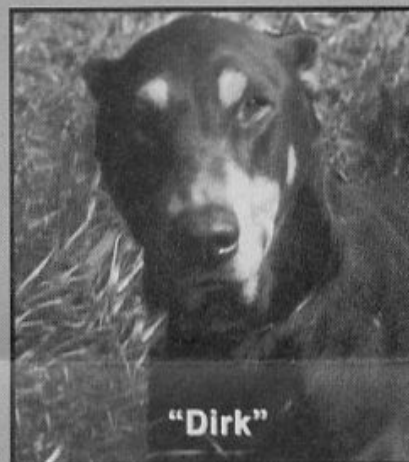


**"Arlo"**

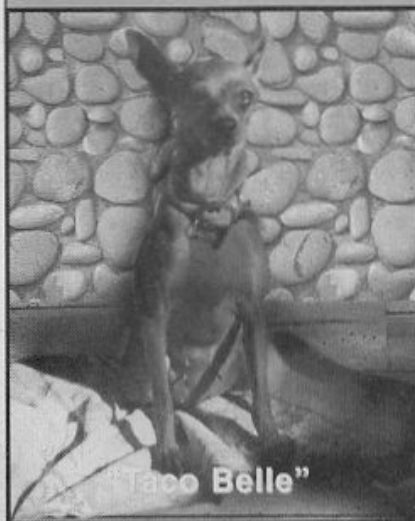
*"Arlo"* is a 5-year-old fawn Doberman Pinscher. The only flaw we're aware of is that Arlo doesn't care for other dogs. He is affectionate and playful, always carrying around one toy or another in his

mouth. Two years in our kennel is a long time when someone could be enjoying his cute personality.

*"Dirk"* is a congenial fellow with home-cropped ears (probably done with scissors when he was a puppy). He gets along with most dogs; likes to play with them, actually. He's about 6 years old and has waited over a year for his own home.



**"Dirk"**



**"Taco Belle"**

*"Taco Belle"* also has a flaw, a serious one: she is terrified of and will bite MEN. Any men, even the one in the foster home where she lived for two months, who is a particularly gentle animal-lover.

Taco Belle is an 8-pound red miniature pinscher, and she is about 7 years old. She loves to cuddle, likes other dogs, and is partially housebroken.

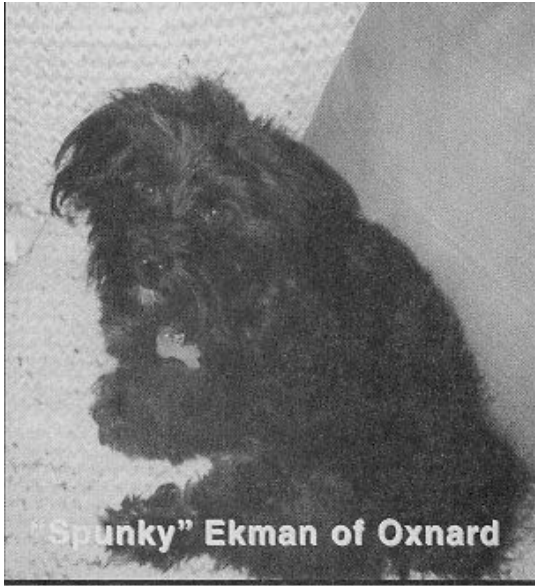
Miss *"Minnie"* is a precious older Dachshund/Chihuahua (?) mix, about 10 pounds of total devotion. She gets along with all other dogs and really needs a home while she still has a few good years left. Also she does a reasonably good job as a watchdog.



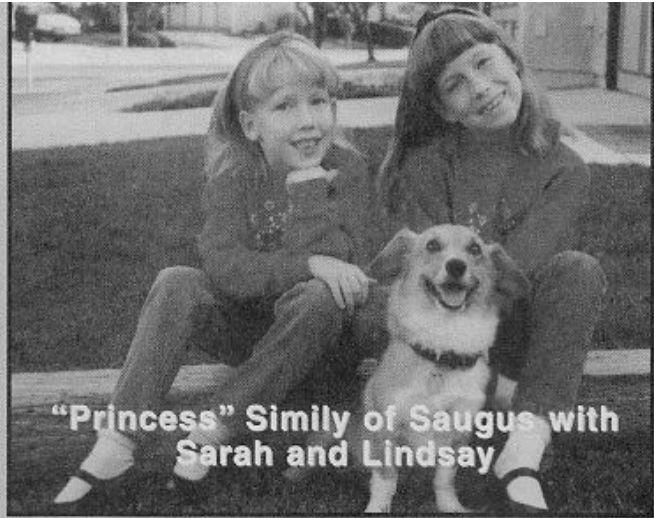
**"Minnie"**

continued p. 6





**"Spunky" Ekman of Oxnard**



**"Princess" Simily of Saugus with Sarah and Lindsay**

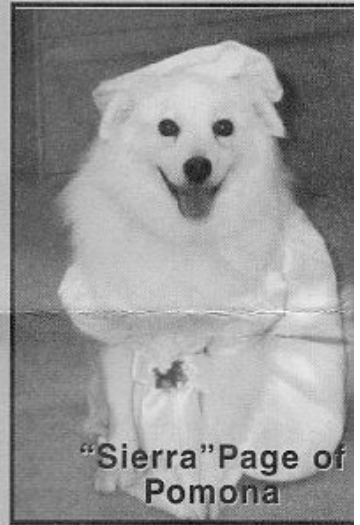
**B**



**"Jasmine" McCoy of Barstow (deceased)**



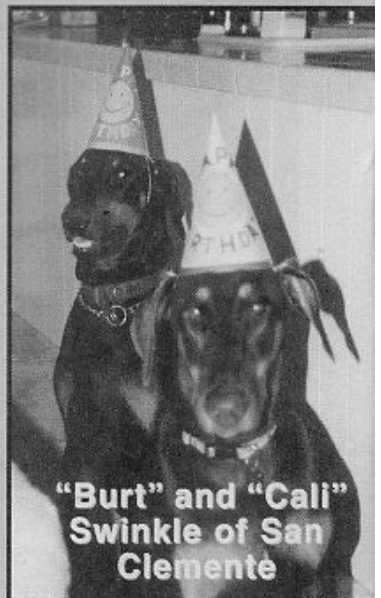
**"Suki" Gettys-Brock of Tujunga**



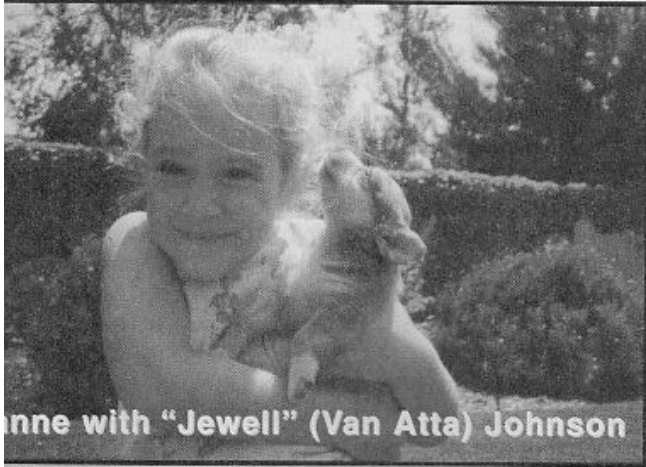
**"Sierra" Page of Pomona**



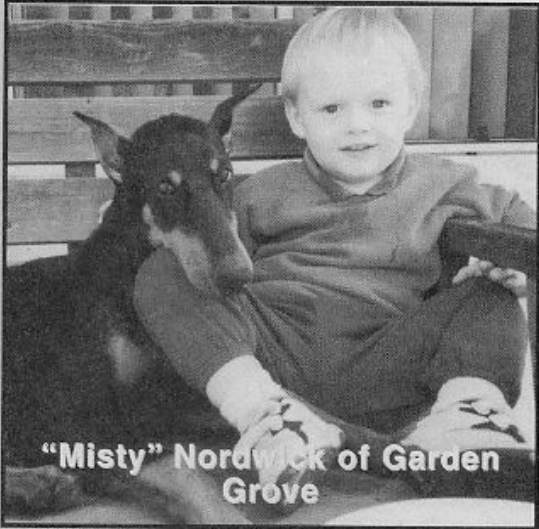
**"Spock" and "Lola" Lieberman of Agoura Hills**



**"Burt" and "Cali" Swinkle of San Clemente**



anne with "Jewell" (Van Atta) Johnson



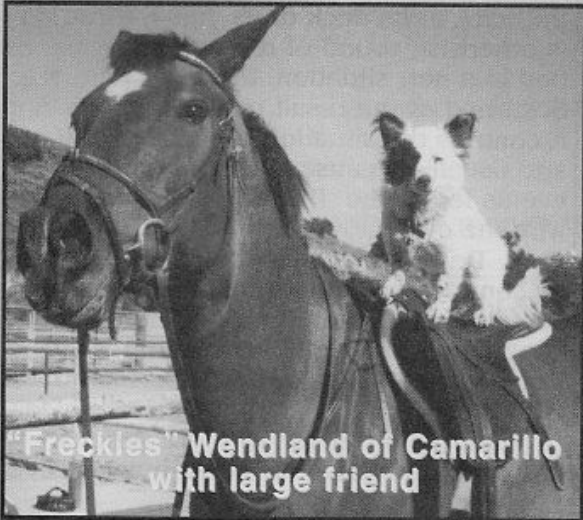
"Misty" Nordwick of Garden Grove



"Winona" Sellars of West Hills



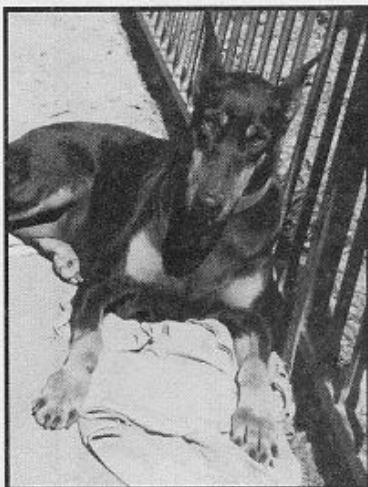
"Annie" Ewing of Lake Hughes, with Jenna and Jessica



"Freckles" Wendland of Camarillo with large friend

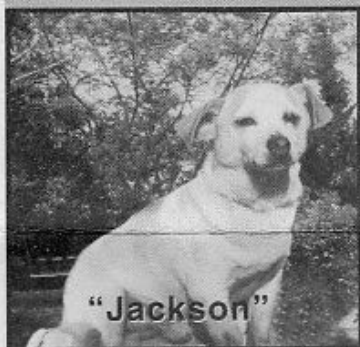


"Sadie" Manriquez of Alta Loma



Poor **"Kelly."** There she was, 9 years old, happily enjoying life, and her owner up and died. We only heard about her because she is so pretty and the animal shelter folks didn't want to put her to sleep. Kelly can live with most other dogs, particularly large dogs (no cats!), but would be quite

happy as an only dog. She is housebroken and knows several commands. Because she is still quite active, she needs a yard to run in and would not be as happy as an apartment dog.



**"Jackson"** is about 5 years old, probably a Beagle/Jack Russell Terrier mix. He, like Taco Belle, also hates men but in many ways is such a good boy. He's mellow, likes most other dogs, and he'll make the right lady a great little companion.

## ALPHA DOGS Part II

Once you realize you have an "alpha dog," what should you do about it? Again, volumes have been written on this subject, but a few hard-and-fast rules are applicable.

DO NOT indulge your alpha dog, letting him believe that he has assumed control of any situation. Many people make the mistake of "letting it go," if "it" is just a minor thing. For example, you call your dog and he doesn't come right away because he's busy sniffing a bush; or you're walking your dog and he growls at another dog being walked by its owner on the other side of the street; or your dog will not get up to go out on command because it's raining outside.

Allowing your dog to get his way on small issues may seem insignificant, but it

can set the stage for him to escalate his controlling behavior on more serious issues.

Your dog should **ALWAYS** behave like a well-trained servant, stopping mid-stride to come to you immediately when called; letting YOU decide who may or may not approach you (dog or human); and generally doing your bidding on command.

Dogs differ somewhat as to what motivates them. Some dogs will work for food rewards. For these dogs, coming immediately on command can be rewarded by giving a Sausage or Jerky treat, etc.

For other dogs, withdrawal of love/attention is a strong motivator. When these dogs refuse a command, they can be put on a leash and exiled to the back yard for an hour or more. A few repetitions of being *Canis non grata* will impact these types of dogs impressively.

Other dogs will respond as readily for some serious praise or an ear massage. As much as possible, make your dog work for its rewards. Dobermans, in particular, are a working breed and actually enjoy working.

There are, unfortunately, some alpha dogs whose behavior is more ominous, dogs who seem to go off without warning, displaying threatening (growling and snapping) or even vicious behavior (biting or attempting to bite). Usually these displays occur when the dog feels it is being challenged, either by someone interfering with its food, toys, sleeping quarters, or by using physical force to make the dog do something, particularly by taking hold of the back of its neck or its collar. If the dog is otherwise sound of mind and is not terrified in a new situation, these displays are occurring as the result of the dog believing it controls the situation it finds itself in, and usually because a series of small events led to the finale of a showdown with the owner.

Dobermans have long been vilified by some as being an unreliable breed that sometimes "turn on their owners." In our experience with well over two thousand Dobermans, this is NOT a Doberman trait. With the exception of dogs with neurological damage and those who are seriously frightened, we have never seen aggressive



or threatening behavior directed at us.

Is such behavior reversible?

Probably, in most cases, but the services of a trained behaviorist would generally be required. The difficulty is that after the trainer has done his magic, the owner must suddenly change his persona completely in the dog's perception, otherwise the dog will still view the owner as just as wimpy as ever. Many of these dogs have to be adopted out to new homes with more dominant owners.

Incidentally, this is also the reason that many Dobermans and other dominant breeds do not work well with small children. These sensitive dogs know that kids are definitely subordinate to adults, and the dog places its own dominance level either between the adults and the children, equal with the adults, or even above the adults.

When we at Dobie Rescue receive an adult Dobie in our program, one of the first things we do is to evaluate the dog's dominance level. The first clue is how the dog relates to other dogs in a play group. Some dogs can live with other members of both sexes, many others can live only with members of the opposite sex, and very dominant individuals cannot tolerate any other dogs at all. We also observe who is dominant in the large play groups, who initiates play and plays the submissive role, etc.

To conclude, no one really knows everything about what his dog will do in EVERY situation, but very good predictions can be made that will satisfy the needs of nearly every owner. It is then that owner's responsibility to treat the dog with the appropriate amount of discipline (not punishment) to get the dog's compliance consistently on every demand.

### Magic's Angel Bear

by  
Maggie Cecil

**W**e normally request our pets' ashes be scattered on the cemetery grounds where they are cremated. It's a pretty place, restful and serene. When Magic died, though, I asked for her ashes back. I would scatter them myself, I thought. Maybe in the hills nearby, where she loved to run. Maybe at the crest of the hill where she sat with me one spring evening until long after dark while I contemplated getting down the hill and home on the only sprained ankle I had ever suffered. Sailing over the crest of that hill behind me, she had hit me in the back of my left shoulder; the trail down was steep enough that I lost my balance and went down with no chance of breaking my fall. When the pain subsided enough that I could think, I realized I might be up on that hill all night. Nobody knew I was



**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)  
100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals

there, and it was unlikely that anyone else would be running that trail after dark. "Magic! Can you GO FOR HELP?" I asked her in my most persuasive tone. Eager to please as always, she flopped down beside me on the trail, head across my lap. I hobbled home, in the dark. She never left my side.

Her ashes stayed in my car for a month, on the floor behind the driver's seat. I couldn't bring myself to scatter them, nor could I think what else to do with them. I missed her endlessly, wishing for some inner peace, some sense of acceptance that she was gone. I carried the ashes in, finally, and put them on the top shelf of my closet.

Magic's favorite toy would have been my white Angel Bear, if I had let her have him. His arms are molded to encircle a vase of flowers, to hug a pole or perhaps secure him in an indoor tree. More than once he fell from the safety of the living room drapery rod, where I had put him out of her reach. When that happened, she carried him everywhere with her, shaking and tossing him, worrying his padded silver wings, and pouncing on him if he moved.

Still feeling the private, empty echo of grief for this special dog, I took Angel Bear from his assigned post and wrapped his arms around the urn of Magic's ashes. "You can hug her," I whispered through tears, remembering how she pranced around with that bear in her



**"Magic" and her teddy bear**

possession. Angel Bear hugged the top of our Christmas tree last year, and I remembered how much she loved the crinkle and tinkle of the season. Into everything, perpetually busy, eternally missed, she was my first Doberman. It is the spirit of this wonderful dog that compels me to rescue others.

*\* Maggie Cecil is one of our most dedicated volunteers, picking up, delivering, vetting and fostering Dobies for Dobie Rescue in the Inland Empire.*

## Doberman Pinscher Rescue



2946 Young Road  
Fillmore, California 93015

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Fillmore, Ca  
Permit #61

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED