

"Connor" Chapman  
of Costa Mesa,  
with owner Raymie

## "Dobie Doings"



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Fillmore, California 93015  
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e-mail: dobierescue  
@earthlink.net



"Pita" Gundzik of Bakersfield

Ardis Munch Director Suzette Smith Graphic Designer Dennis Bolton Printer Susan Schionning Webmaster

It was a crazy fall/winter, between getting the dogs in from hurricane Katrina, getting more mothers with litters of puppies than we've ever gotten, getting seventeen Pomeranians from a breeder that had a heart attack and couldn't care for them any more, and through it all, having very heavy adoptions most weekends. We certainly aren't complaining!

We want to thank all of you for your generous donations, which we need not only for our "usual" rescue work, but which also make it possible for us to help dogs with special problems like the heart-worm cases among the hurricane victims. Two of our hurricane rescues were returned to their happy owners, and all of the others were placed in foster homes which elected to keep them, except one (see story inside about Splash).

We also thoroughly enjoyed receiving your cards and letters, and especially pictures, during the holiday season. Though we print as many pictures as we can possibly fit in our newsletters, we have placed over 8,000 dogs as of this writing, and we get about three times as many pictures each quarter as we have room to print, so please don't be offended if we don't print the picture you send, or if we don't print it promptly. One lady was so offended that we didn't print her dog's picture immediately that she asked to be removed from our mailing list!

We sincerely love and appreciate every picture you send, and it's often the only remembrance we have of your wonderful dog. I can say honestly that I have never thrown away a single photograph received during the nineteen years our rescue facility has been in operation.

Most of all, we love that you love your dog.

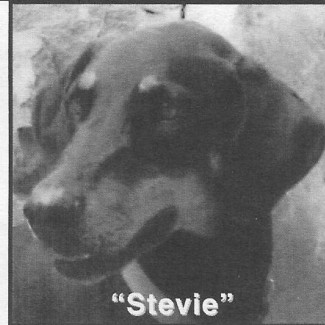
Sincerely,

*Ardis Munch*

## WAITING FOR HOMES

### STEVIE

is a beautiful older Dobie (8 years) who prefers to be respected by adult family members and older kids than to be bugged by young children.



"Stevie"

She was given up by her owner ten months ago because she growled and snapped at young kids who insisted on hugging her while she was trying to rest. Stevie is housebroken, obedience trained, and non-

destructive. Her ex-owner said she wasn't good with other dogs, but we've kenneled her with larger male dogs for nearly a year without incident. She's a protective dog, though, and will keep anyone within her territory safe.

## RASCAL

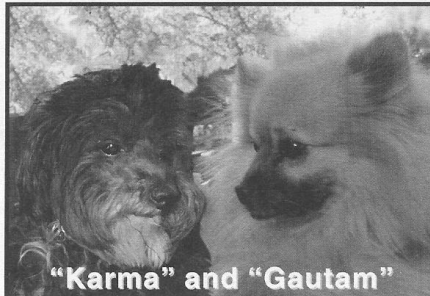
is a cute little guy, young adult, who is pretty social and lots of fun. He's probably a mixture of Rat Terrier and Pomeranian. We've kenneled him successfully with dogs of both sexes, and he gets along with most of them, though he's far more interested in

people. His most endearing habit is chasing the water coming out of the hose when his kennel is being cleaned. Rascal would probably be a good family pet, weighing in at about 15 pounds.



## GAUTAM AND KARMA

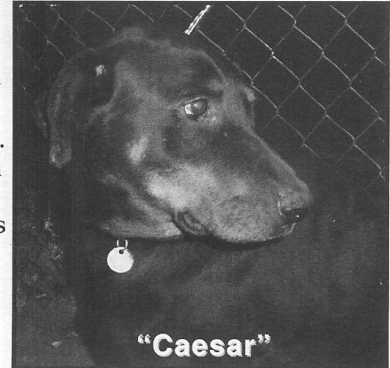
have been companions for years, so we're trying to place them together. Gautam is a purebred Pomeranian, and Karma is probably a Poodle-Schnauzer mix. They are middle-aged now, having spent several years with a lovely couple in Santa Barbara. Unfortunately, the husband passed away last year, and his widow elected not to remain at their estate, moving into senior housing instead, where she couldn't take them. They are accustomed to an adult home where life is more calm.



Karma is more affectionate; Gautam more independent. They are housebroken, and they're quite small (10-12 pounds).

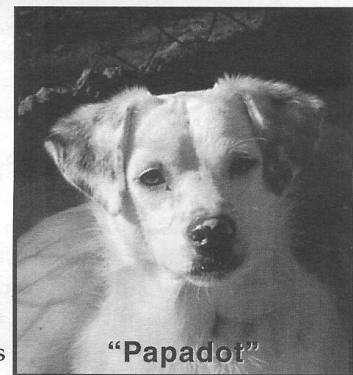
## CAESAR

is a big love, probably a Dobie-Rottweiler mix, about 5 years old. He loves affection but isn't highly demanding unless he's allowed to be. He's been kenneled for months with two large female dogs and gets along well with them. He's a stout, solid dog with a kind face, and we all think eight months is enough time for Caesar to wait for his forever home.



## PAPADOT

is a super-lucky dog. He came from the Tulare animal shelter, which is reputed to have an 85% "kill rate," which means very few animals get out of there alive. They have a dedicated volunteer named B. J. Motko, whose organization is called Central Valley Rescue Railroad. B. J. tries to locate places for good dogs from her shelter to go, and then she organizes transportation for them to get there. Papadot happened to be one of her favorites, so we said we would accept him and a big shaggy companion of his into our rescue. We have to commend B. J. for her choices in animals. We've now received about 14 dogs from her facility in the past few months, and they've all been wonderful! Papadot is 4-5 years old, very good with other dogs (even small puppies), quiet, humble, and affectionate. He's probably Dalmatian and Australian Shepherd, and he's about 40 pounds. Just a great dog!



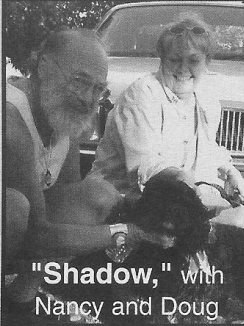
## Adoption Updates

One of the dogs featured in our last issue, Howie, has a great new home. He had waited a year and a half for this home, primarily due to his having a bad rear leg, which was probably the result of an old injury or birth defect.

Howie had just arrived at our facility when Nancy Swanson and Doug Sutton came to view our adoptable dogs back then. They noticed Howie, but they had some concerns about his leg and instead chose Shadow, a similar-looking black Cocker Spaniel.

When Howie's dear face appeared in our December, 2005 issue, they noticed that he was still waiting, and they remembered how sweet he was. Doug's mother, Elaine Sutton, had recently lost her elderly dog, and she is a senior lady living alone, and it seemed to Doug and Nancy that she and Howie needed each other.

The rest is history. On a recent visit to Elaine's home in Port Hueneme we witnessed first-hand how these two companions were made for each other. Howie, whose new name is Beau, has velcroed himself to Elaine, and just a look from her or a mention of his name gets his little tail wagging a mile a minute. She calls it his "rudder." She spoke of having a piece of art mounted on her kitchen wall, just above Beau's food and water dishes, so he can view art while he eats and drinks. We're sure he thinks the wait was worth it!



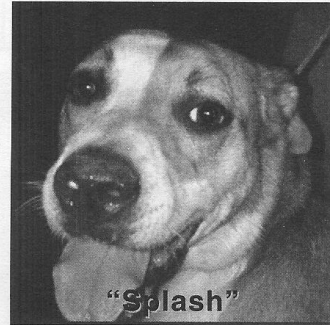
"Shadow," with Nancy and Doug



"Beau" and Elaine

## Our Last Holdout

Some of you will recognize this picture of Splash from our December newsletter. We called him Splash because of his fondness for water, but his real name is Chewbaca. He's our last remaining rescue dog from hurricane Katrina. We had waited over two months for any contact information from an owner, and we had pretty much given up and offered him for adoption about the first of December. A few days later, his owner finally made contact. Unfortunately, she is homeless and can't take him back at this time. Perhaps she'll never be able to, but we've decided to keep Chewbaca here a few more months in case she can find a home where she and her dog can be together again.



"Splash"

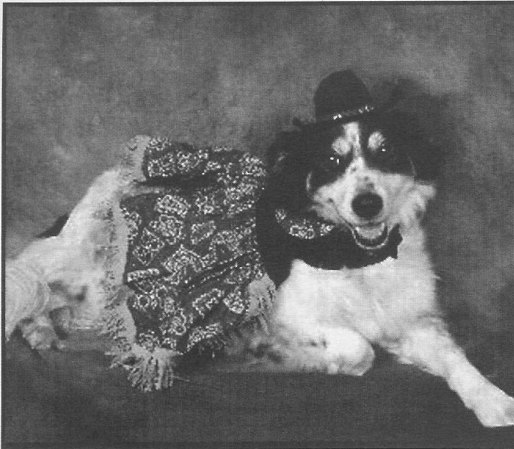
## THE ADVENTURES OF MISS NOLA

Nola is one of the dogs we took in from hurricane Katrina. She was in sorry shape – thin and full of heartworms. We had put out a plea for foster homes when we were expecting the dogs to arrive, and Tracy Britton of Winnetka was one of the lovely folks who responded. Nola spent only three full days with us before Tracy took her home to foster.

Tracy found a vet not far from her home that offered to treat Nola's heartworms for just a few hundred dollars, which we readily agreed to, and she got her first treatment promptly. The second treatment had to be delayed a month because Nola was quite debilitated from the first treatment. These

Continued Page 6

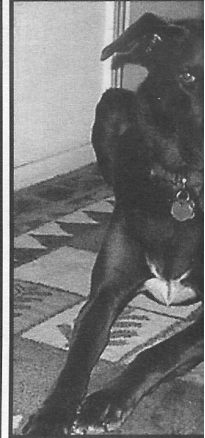




**"Katie"** Bateson of Chatsworth



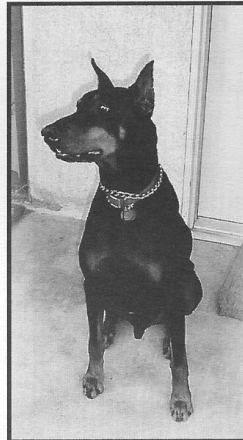
**"Lupe"** and **"Alphie"** Brown  
of Eugene, OR



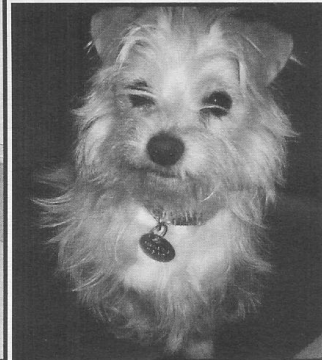
**"Callie"** W  
of Sylan



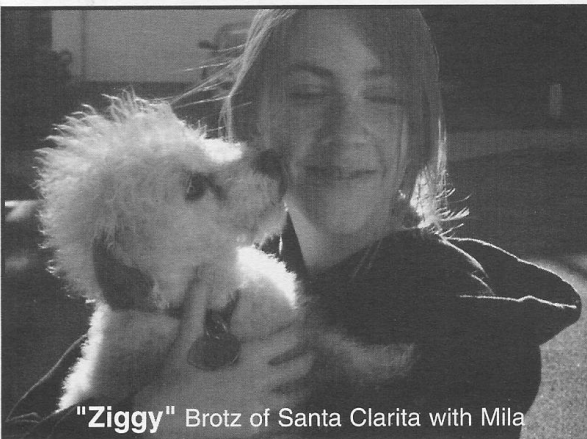
**"Zoe"** and **"Zeke"** Lava of Los Angeles



**"Roscoe"** Kincaid  
of Santa Ana



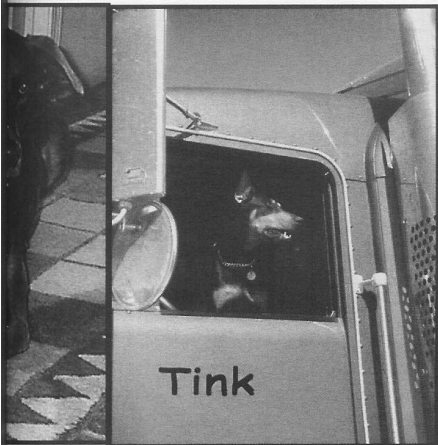
**"Missy"** Payne of  
Santa Barbara



**"Ziggy"** Brotz of Santa Clarita with Mila



**"Fiona"** Reidel of  
Huntington Beach



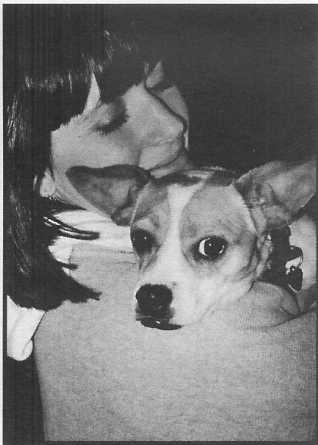
**Tink**

olley

**"Tink"** Service of Cathedral City



**"Bandit"** Bailey of Yucca Valley



**"Boogie Woogie"** Zabel of Encino, with owner Amy

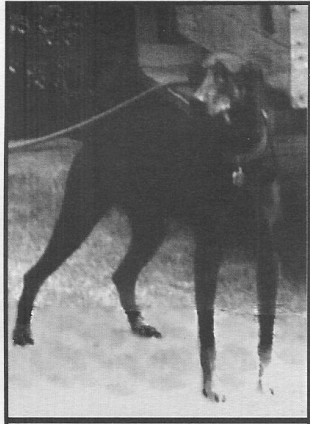
**"A few happy adoptees!"**



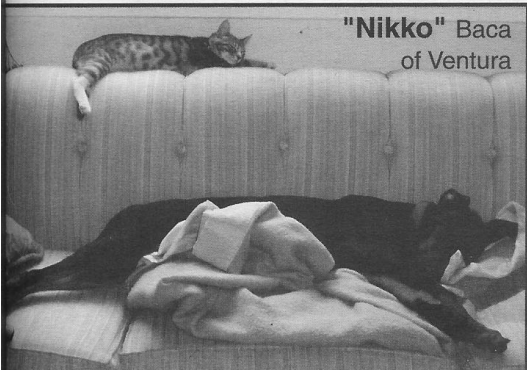
**"Buddy"** Heimericks of Port Hueneme



**"Tess"** and **"Riley"** Mulhern of Scottsdale, AZ, with owner Susan



**"Skylar"** Stern of Solvang



**"Nikko"** Baca of Ventura



**"Kodiak"** Frederickson-Martinez of Montebello with owner Trish

treatments are actually life-threatening for very sick dogs.

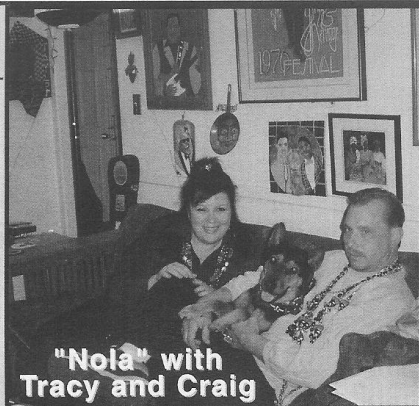
Finally Nola was well enough for her

second treatment, and by this time she was putting on weight, gaining energy, and loving her life. Tracy and her boy friend, Craig Childress, had also completely fallen for Nola. They had a short scare when it appeared that Nola's owner in New Orleans had been found, but it turned out to be a false alarm when Tracy determined, after a lengthy phone conversation, that Nola was too large to be the right dog.

We proceeded to have Nola spayed, and finally she was ready to be considered a permanent member of Tracy's family. During much of this time, Craig was taking Nola to work with him. One day, a co-worker left the door to the work area open for a moment, and Nola walked out the door - and vanished into the night!

All of us shifted into high gear to locate this dear angel of a dog who had been through so much. Miles of territory were scoured, signs were made up, animal shelters were visited daily, web sites for neighboring animal shelters were perused, pet detectives were contacted, all to no avail. She was wearing a very fancy new collar with an i.d. tag, and she was microchipped. And she was gone.

Nola was missing for two weeks. Only she knows what happened, but she was finally apprehended by a woman in a city fifteen miles from where she was lost. She was still wearing her collar and tag, but she was frightened; she was found hid-



**"Nola" with Tracy and Craig**

ing in some bushes.

The phone calls back and forth after her recovery were joyous ones. None of us could believe that fate would have her remain missing, dead or maimed in the road. That's not how these stories are supposed to end. Thank God this one didn't!

Here's an e-mail received from Tracy just after Nola's return:

Enclosed is the pix of Craig and I and our "girl." We are wearing our authentic Mardis Gras beads and sitting in our New Orleans art and music room in honor of her New Orleans heritage. (She loves sleeping on this couch more than any other room in the house - go figure!) She has gained back all the weight she lost on her 15-day "walk about" and finally has a good appetite - she is such a fun and happy dog and we are so lucky to have her back - it is truly a miracle! Thank you again for all your help and support. You are truly a dog "Angel."

## MARATHON WOMEN

On Saturday, March 19th, the 21st Los Angeles Marathon will be held. Colleen Anderson, our kennel supervisor and dedicated volunteer, will be running the grueling 26.2-mile course with her friend Angel Johnson, in order to raise funds for Dobie Rescue. They have been training tirelessly for months in order to be in top shape.



Colleen and her dog **"Butch"**





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 credit card.

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

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.

Their goal is to raise enough money to begin replacing some of our rusting chain link kennels with welded wire kennels that are indestructible. These kennels will supplement the "adobes" we built a couple of years ago (and had to discontinue for a variety of reasons).

Colleen and Angel are asking for sponsors! If you can help, you can donate an amount per mile (remember it's 26.2 miles), or you can donate whatever amount you can afford. Everything helps! Your donation is tax-deductible, and every penny is spent directly on the animals. You can even come to the race and cheer them on. They would be more than grateful for the encouragement!

### GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEOWNERS!

We were delighted to have a visit from a representative of Farmers Insurance Company recently, in which the agent said that Farmers is writing policies for homeowners who have dogs, regardless of breed. That includes Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and a breed very close to many of our hearts, Doberman Pinschers. Please contact us if you would like the agent's name and contact information.

### Keepers by Eric Munck

It seems to me that, for at least half of the years I've been married to Ardis (eight!), we've been dealing with challenges relating to our kennels.

Most of our kennels and the chain link fencing defining them are almost twenty years old. You can only imagine what twenty years' worth of dogs body-slamming them, gnawing on them, and urinating on them has done to them. Every few days we have to patch them with bailing wire, metal grating, old crate doors, etc. I'm not sure I could find one kennel on the property that hasn't had to be repaired.

As Ardis will readily admit, the rescue kennel didn't begin life as a "planned community" for dogs. Initially, she placed a few ready-made kennel runs in strategic locations on the property. Then she built chain link areas surrounding them so that the dogs could be let out for exercise. Then she paved the floor areas with concrete to make them easier to clean and disinfect.

When the need grew for dogs to be rescued, Ardis began putting small groups of dogs in the exercise areas and built more kennel areas, concreting the floors of those kennels as they were built.

Our long-term readers and our recent visitors probably recall that we hoped to build "adobes" for all of the dogs, using heavy fiberglass fashioned in the shape of adobe houses, with an



## Doberman Pinscher Rescue

2946 Young Road  
Fillmore, California 93015

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outdoor half open to the sky for fresh air and sunshine for the occupants, and an indoor half with a skylight for warmth and protection from rain. We built a lot of adobes, but we eventually abandoned building the others we had planned to build, for three primary reasons: cost (\$2,500 each); durability (some of the dogs were actually eating the fiberglass!), and drainage (the 4" pvc pipes that were supposed to carry wastes out of the adobes plugged up immediately and had to be removed). We are still using the adobes and hope to for many years to come, but we also need to address the ongoing need for better kennels for the other dogs.

Susan Schionning, our webmaster, recently introduced us to a company called Billet Barns, located in Lancaster, which specializes in welded wire products that are virtually indestructible. As of this writing, we have contracted with them to build our first bank of kennels to replace those closest to our house. We can't afford to replace the concrete floor (anybody know any concrete contractors that would donate a little product?) at this time, so our existing chain link kennels located there will be replaced with welded wire kennels that will be bolted onto the concrete, and a 42" roof overhang will protect the dogs from rain. They will use their existing dog houses and dogloos for shelter and warmth on those rare nights when it actually gets cold in Fillmore. (Ardis says she has seen frost only twice in nineteen years.)

We're excited about our new project and the security and aesthetics it will provide for our animals. We'll keep you updated on our progress!

As most of you know, our car-donation program ("Cars-to-Kibble") is now our second-largest source of income for the dog rescue. I work hard to keep the cars, trucks, motorcycles and boats coming. Just this morning I flew to Phoenix, AZ, and drove home a very nice 2001 Ford; a 474-mile drive, and worth every inch! Thank you all for your continued support!

P.S. Isn't there a song that goes "Thank God for little doggies?"

