



"Quigley" Greene of Carlsbad

"Dobie
Doings"

2946 Young Road
Fillmore, California 93015
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www.dobierescue.org
e-mail:
dobierescue@earthlink.net



"Zeke" and "Zoe" Lava
of Los Angeles, with
Sarah and Joel

Ardis Braun Director

Suzette Smith Graphic Designer

Dennis Bolton Printer

Another winter is almost behind us, and, unlike the one many of our friends in the rest of the country experienced, it wasn't such a bad one. With the help of generous donations over the holidays, we are purchasing additional roofing for most of our kennels that will shelter them from rain, blazing summer sun, and to a large extent, heavy wind.

It appears that Doberman Pinschers are again becoming a popular breed, which is usually not good news for any breed. It typically means that supply is increased to keep up with demand, and that means (1) oversupply; (2) many of the puppies that are born are not raised correctly and become unwanted a few months or years later; and (3) inbreeding causes some dreadful health problems. Also, foreclosures in real estate are causing many people to move from houses into apartments, and most of them can't take their big dogs. Sadly, we will never be out of business. If you're thinking of adopting another Dobie, we have wonderful young dogs right now who would love to meet you!

Many of you send us such great pictures of your adopted dogs. We love, and save, all of them! If at all possible, though, when e-mailing pictures to us, make them a size that's easy for us to download; i.e., approximately 50 to 75 KB. Our little town of Fillmore is, in some ways, similar to a third-world country, with no fancy internet connections available. That means that if you

send us pictures that are a megabyte or two, it takes 10 to 15 minutes to download one picture, and it takes much storage room to save it. That being said, I would far prefer a 2 MB picture to none at all!

After mentioning in the last newsletter that we were going to try to handle our web site updating and monitoring ourselves, one of our wonderful adopters, Michael Forester, took it upon himself to redesign our site in his spare time, and then sent it over for viewing. Naturally, we had to love it! We're hoping it will be up and running by the time you receive this newsletter. If not, please keep checking, and enjoy Michael's hard work. Many, many thanks, Michael!

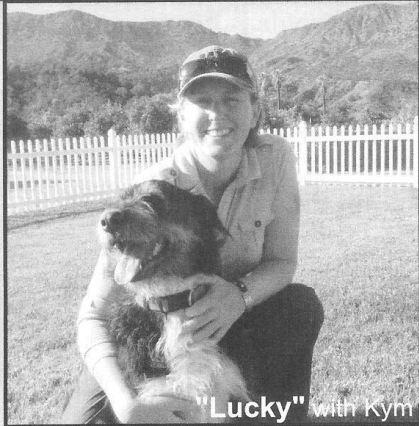
On a personal note, I am reclaiming my previous name, Ardis Braun, as a result of regaining my bachelorhood. I briefly considered other last names, including Doberman, but decided against making my friends among you learn yet another name.

Thank you all once again for your gifts and support, and please keep in touch. Don't forget our vehicle donation program. Have a wonderful spring!

Sincerely,

Ardis Braun

Adoption Updates



"Lucky" with Kym

FENDER BENDER,

the comical-looking Australian Shepherd-Airedale featured in our last newsletter, was adopted by Doris Keating of Fillmore. His new name is Lucky. Doris came to look for a good-sized dog that was very social and could live easily with her and her tiny Yorkshire Terrier on her horse ranch. She was referred to us by Kym Montijo, a friend and adopter of ours, who now works for Doris. They came together to view our dogs, and to our delight, they found Lucky to be the perfect dog from day one. He gets along well with the three little girl dogs living on the property, actually playing nonstop with Kym's Rat Terrier, Roxy. He is mellow and respectful of strangers and the horses, and he never tries to leave the property. After seeing the ranch property in person, we can see why! It is magnificent acreage that Doris converted from orchards into horse training areas, with beautiful 360-degree views and lots of space to run. Lucky was truly lucky that day!

WAITING FOR HOMES

PALOMA and PICASSO

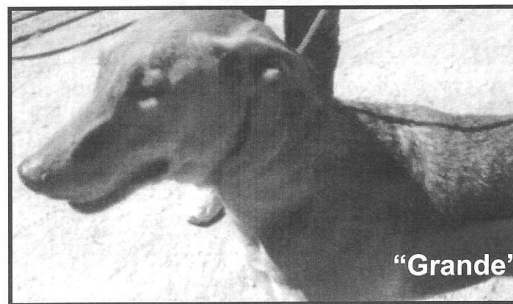
are a pair of Jack Russell Terrier mixes that came in together from an animal shelter where they had been turned in by their owner (reason unknown). They have been with us for years, and we are really trying to place them together, as they are quite co-dependent. Unfortunately, they're also flighty and haven't come to trust anyone very much in their time with us, though

they are not malicious and don't bite if they are leashed and picked up. We're seeking someone with a low-stress lifestyle who has the time and patience



"Paloma" and "Picasso"

to win their trust and appreciate their sweet personalities. They are only about 5 years old, so they should have fairly long lives ahead of them. They are also excellent watchdogs.



"Grande"

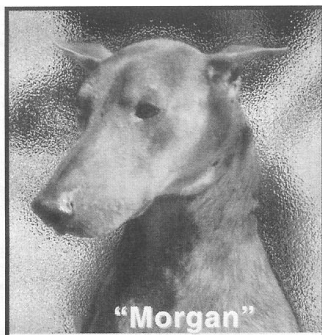
GRANDE

is the sister of Wendell, who was featured in an earlier newsletter. She's a really large Doberman-German Shepherd mix, now about 7 years old. She's been with us for over a year. Grande is a dog who is truly unhappy in her kennel environment. She stands at the fence and watches the happenings over here, but she isn't stimulated and really misses having more personal attention. We regret to say that she probably needs to be the only dog, as she is dominant with other dogs, though we can walk her around them on leash without any lunging or other aggressive behavior.

MORGAN

is a truly handsome blue male Dobie who has been with us for 2 years and never seems to be noticed. Like most blues, he doesn't have a great coat, but he has a

strong presence and is pleasant to have around as the only dog. He's a big boy, probably 90 pounds, and he's middle-aged.

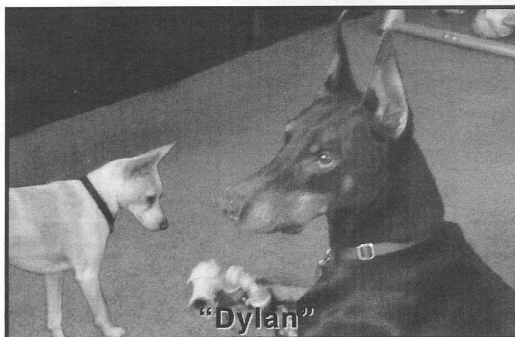


A FORTUNATE COINCIDENCE, OR DESTINY?

Every now and then a really unusual story unfolds about virtually everything in life. Naturally, the ones we know the most about are the ones involving our rescue dogs. I could write a book of these, and perhaps one day I will, but this one is a current almost-miracle story that just needs to be told.

On December 31, we received an e-mail from Arlene Stovall of Wildomar, who was devastated to realize she had to give up her fabulous 8-year-old boy Dobie, Dylan, because her husband was being transferred to Beijing, and the dog could not accompany them. She sent a few pictures of Dylan, looking amazingly handsome; a red male with show-cropped ears displaying his pleasant demeanor toward a little dog, and sitting at attention, waiting for his owner's bidding.

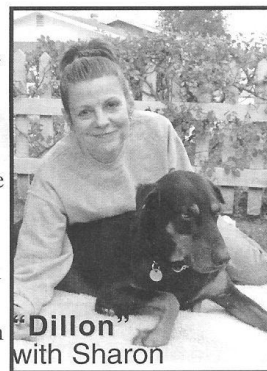
I was concerned that an 8-year-old dog might spend some length of time in our kennels if we had to take him in, and I knew he would hate it. As handsome as he is, 8 years old is 8 years old. (See the article on Dogs' Lives.)



At exactly the same time, Sharon Dean, a lovely friend and volunteer of ours (who incidentally is a very good dog trainer), had to put her Dobie, Dillon, to sleep. He was no longer able to get up and was losing his dignity. She asked to bury him here at the rescue ranch.

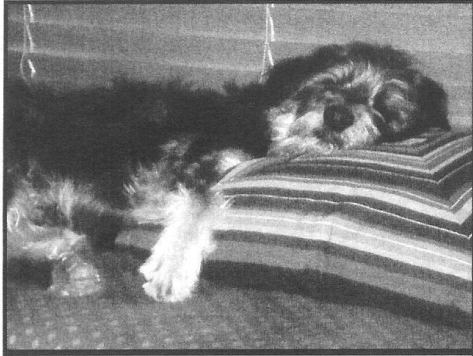
While Sharon was here, I told her that I knew I shouldn't ask because it was so soon after she had to part with Dillon, but that I had to ask: would she be willing to foster Dylan? It seemed almost too odd that both dogs were named names pronounced "Dillon," and that the passing of one and the urgent need of

the other would coincide. I explained his circumstances, and she said, understandably, that she really wanted some time to process the loss of her beloved Dillon, but she would have a conversation with Dylan's owner. After a tearful conversation with Arlene, the very happy

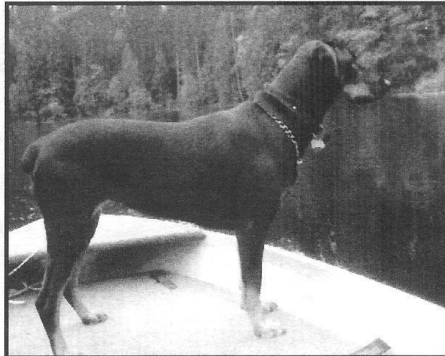


ending to this story is that Sharon took in and is keeping Dylan. He is good with all other dogs, even when they're grumpy, and he's exactly what Sharon needed. She had made the comment to someone else that she wanted one more Dobie in her life that wasn't a sad case or a throwaway from a pound. He's also going to be a good "demo dog," which is what trainers call their dogs who are well trained and obedient, to show clients what their dogs are capable of.

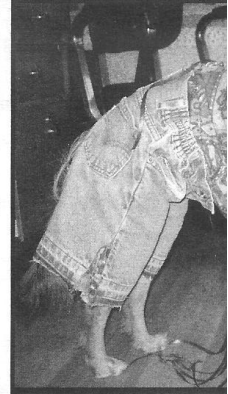
After Arlene and Sharon spoke about Dylan, it so happened that Arlene had another unusual chapter to this story to tell. Her father's name was Alex, and she had named her prior Doberman Alex, after her father. She adored this dog. After the dog passed away, she saw an ad that a breeder had placed, seeking a home for a Doberman he had named Alex. She was struck by the coincidence and decided to meet the pup, whom she purchased, and changed his name to Dylan. And then Dylan became the next Doberman in Sharon's life, following the one she had lost, named Dillon.



"Jack" Ball of La Canada Flintridge

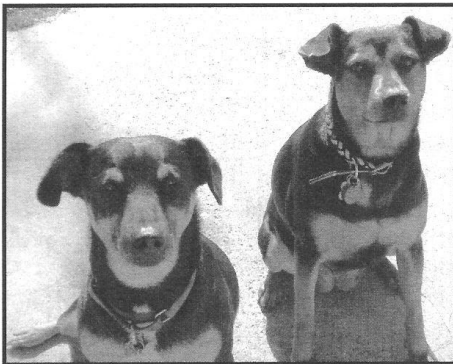


"Dazy" Brown of Simi Valley

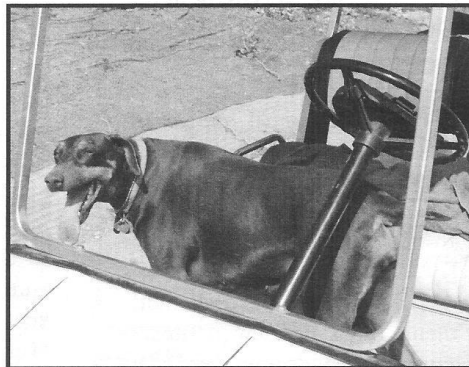


"Amber"

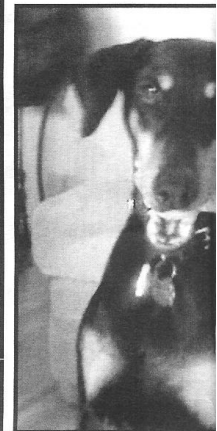
We're adopted!



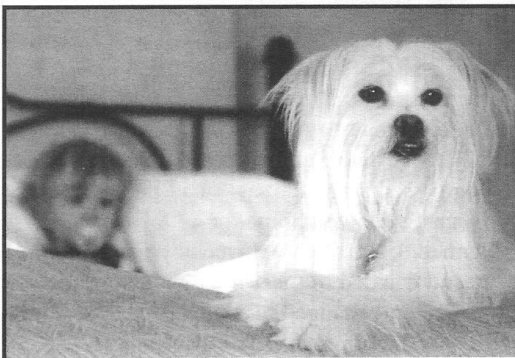
"Mailey" and "Nell"
Simoneau-Frost of Moorpark



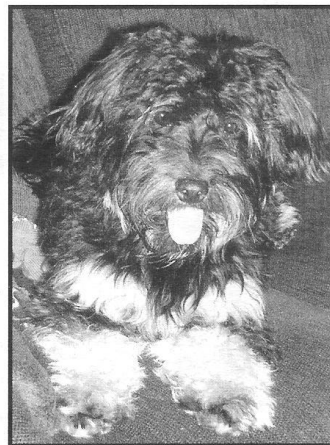
"Shadow" Bonar of Simi Valley



"Bart" Rob
of Santa Bar



"Zoe" Koslu of Playa del Rey



"Jessie" Kanewski
of San Carlos



"Carson" and "Lo"
Sikorski-Kerth of C



arter of Tujunga



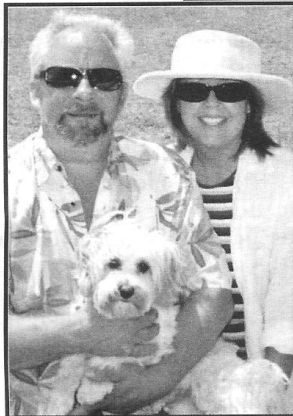
"Indy" Schledorn-Weiherer of Phoenix, AZ



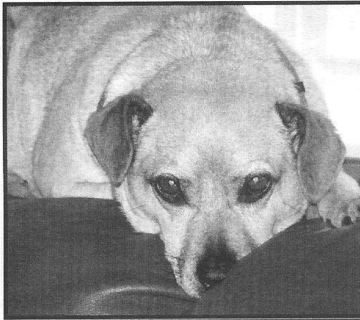
"Sammie Jo" and **"Webster"** O'Leary of Ventura



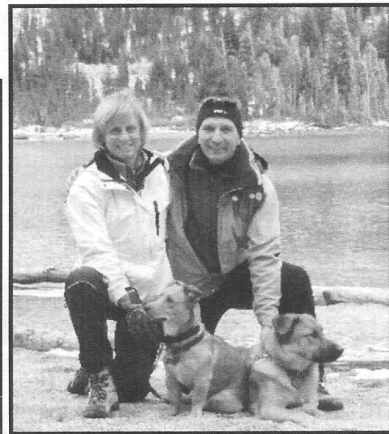
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"Martha" Watts of Santa Barbara, with Doug and Debbie



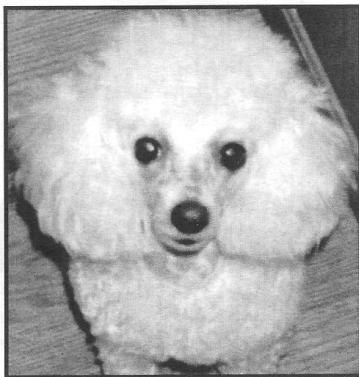
"Baily" Betz of Santa Barbara



"Max" and **"Brandi"** of Newbury Park with Heidi Christensen and Ed Morris



"Lucious"
ypress



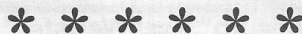
"Scully" Young of Alpine



"Clancy-Jackson-O'Malley" Young of Santa Barbara

MEDICAL MATTERS

In response to our last Medical Matters column about lick granulomas, we had “recipes” from several of our readers who suggested alternatives to the e-collar/cervical collar approach we found to be the only solution for our determined licker, Mino. Unfortunately, none of these recipes worked for Mino, but if any of you have dogs with lick granulomas, we will be pleased to share others’ findings in case they might work for your dog. Let us know!



Typhus!

If any of you haven’t been following the news lately, typhus is back in Southern California, with numerous cases reported in Orange County. This disease is spread by fleas, so make sure to stock up on Advantage or Frontline Plus, and use it religiously to control fleas on your critters.

Symptoms of this disease are similar to those of flu.

DOGS’ LIVES

Dogs’ lives are much too short, as most of us will agree. We at the rescue usually have trouble finding homes for dogs who are seniors or in advanced middle age. Two reasons are often mentioned for this: the medical problems and their associated costs for older dogs, and the fact that it’s so hard to lose them so soon.

I usually counter with the comment that, though it’s typically true that we lose older dogs much sooner, we can have so many more of them to enjoy in our lifetimes! If a dog is especially sweet or attractive, this is sometimes enough to push a would-be adopter over the line into choosing an older dog.

I am an avid reader, and naturally I read most books that have dogs in them. A lot of them are borderline junk reading, but once in a while there is a really good book with a dog as a central character. Colleen Anderson, whom most of you know is a fabulous volunteer of ours, gave me a book for Christmas by Dean Koontz called *The Darkest Evening of the Year*. I didn’t consider

myself a Koontz fan, though I did read *Watchers* some years ago, which featured a Golden Retriever as a main character, and enjoyed it very much. The new book I also enjoyed and decided to write to Mr. Koontz, applauding him for his excellent research on rescue groups and for his stand on puppy mills (he maligned them). I also asked his permission to quote a paragraph from the book (page 314), which I think states in a most articulate way the feelings we have about dogs’ lives being too short. He wrote me a lovely note by hand, thanking me for the compliments and giving his permission. Here is the paragraph from that book:

“Dogs’ lives are short, too short, but you know that going in. You know the pain is coming, you’re going to lose a dog, and there’s going to be great anguish, so you live fully in the moment with her, never fail to share her joy or delight in her innocence, because you can’t support the illusion that a dog can be your lifelong companion. There’s such beauty in the hard honesty of that, in accepting and giving love while always aware it comes with an unbearable price. Maybe loving dogs is a way we do penance for all the other illusions we allow ourselves and for the mistakes we make because of those illusions.”

Incidentally, for those of you who love to read as I do, I recommend the books mentioned above by Mr. Koontz, with dogs as main characters, as well as *Merle’s Door* by Ted Kerasote, and *Lost & Found*, by Jacqueline Sheehan. For Doberman fans, there are several books by Stuart Woods with the word “Orchid” in their titles, starting with *Orchid Beach*, that feature a talented Doberman named Daisy, and *Michelle and Me*, by Tom Shelby, about a search and rescue Doberman that worked with him almost telepathically in search and rescue operations. This latter book is out of print but is still probably available on Amazon.com. Otherwise, I have an extra copy I loan out.

I would be most interested in hearing about your favorites also!

THE TAIWAN CONNECTION

In addition to taking dogs from Mexico, we now have a pipeline for rescuing dogs from Taiwan. Several months ago, we were e-mailed by a marvelous British volunteer living in Taiwan, Caroline Tugwell, who asked if we would be



I want to support Doberman Pinscher and Little Paws Rescue!
I am making the following contribution:

\$100. \$50. \$20. \$10.

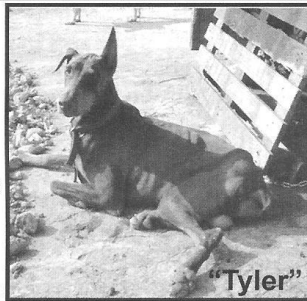
I am enclosing the best gift I can: \$ _____

Please charge my credit card.
Card # _____ Expiration date _____

Signature: _____

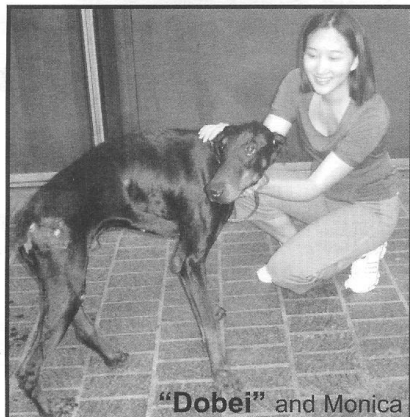
Please return this form with your contribution
Your contribution is tax deductible (Federal I.D. #77-0357865)
100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals.
We also have PayPal!

willing to accept a cropped red male Doberman from Taiwan if they could get him here. She attached a picture of the dog, Tyler, who is absolutely beautiful, even with one lazy ear and lacking about 30 pounds of groceries.



His trip had to be postponed because he had heartworms, which are prevalent all over the world, wherever mosquitoes exist. Then it turned out there were two Dobermans at her refuge, the other one sick as well. That dog, Dobei, recovered in

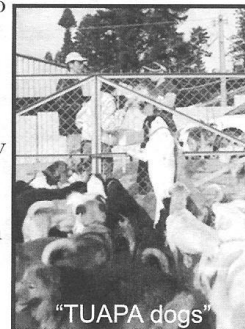
time to accompany a lovely couple, Monica Yen and Ruyu Wu, from Taipei to Los Angeles on February 7. Here is a picture of



Monica with Dobei, who is skin and bone, but not for long. He also has a bad rear leg, which we are getting medical opinions on.) Dobei is a very sweet boy, and he'll probably be available for adoption by the time you receive this newsletter. Tyler will hopefully be arriving in March or April.

The shelter in Taiwan, called TUAPA, houses about 1,400 dogs and is staffed completely by small isolated groups of volunteers who belong to a group called Taichung Paws. Caroline admits their conditions aren't ideal, with no full-time vet and cramped living conditions, but apparently this is far preferable to the alternative, which is, in most cases, living (and dying) on the streets. As Caroline says, "Taiwan is simply not the place for big dogs. There is no space here."

It so happens that Eva Air will accommodate two dogs per flight, so coordinating Dobei's rescue with Caroline and another lovely volunteer, Laura Kiemele of Taichung Paws, we agreed to take an additional dog who appears to be a Golden Retriever-Yellow Lab mix, whom we named Flash (because he inhales his food). He's a young, goofy guy, and he's available for adoption also. (See his photo on page 8.) Here in Southern California he is highly adoptable; in





Doberman Pinscher Rescue

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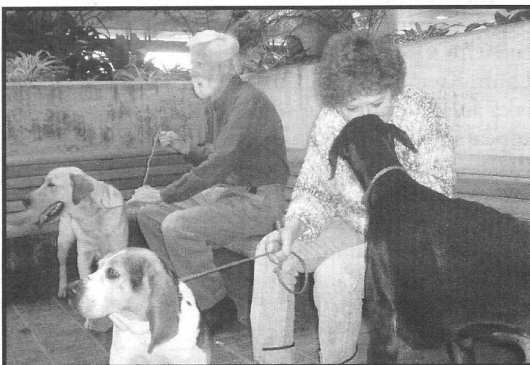
Taiwan, he may have lived out his life in a kennel.

Then, upon being told of the rescue operation, the airline agreed to accommodate yet a third dog on the flight, so another dog, a Beagle named Sammy, an abuse case, also made the trip. He's a chubby, happy, middle-aged fellow, and he's available also.

You might wonder if there aren't enough Dobermans and other dogs to rescue in our own country. The answer is most certainly YES, but there is first the problem of finding out where the dogs are that need to be rescued, and then organizing people at the other end (especially if it is far away) who are willing to obtain these animals from shelters, take them to vets to get their medical certificates required to fly, obtain crates suitable for airline travel, and get them bookings

and transportation to airports to make the trip here. There are rescuers for many breeds all over the country, but each group varies as to how far its outreach goes, how many animals it can take and how full they are, costs involved, etc.

Meanwhile, there is absolutely no way we could turn down dogs like Tyler and Dobei if they can get here, knowing what they have been through before they got here!



"Flash," "Sammy," and "Dobei" with friend Ted Berghofer and me

PARTING SHOTS



"Spike Lee" Pesselt of Grass Valley

Some projects are just too big to handle alone!