



"Gobi" Sovich of Fillmore and Pinon Pines

"Dobie Doings"



2946 Young Rd
Fillmore, CA 93015
Phone (805) 524-5102
Text (818) 317-1054

www.DobiesandLittlePawsRescue.org
E-mail: dobierescue@earthlink.net



"Daddy" Tomlinson of Napa

Ardis Braun - Director **Colleen Anderson** - Webmaster & Graphic Designer **Dennis Bolton** - Printer

It's beginning to sound like a broken record, but we are still spending all of our time and energy trying to save as many of the Dobermans and a few others as we can before they meet their final deadlines in animal shelters. We're not taking dogs from owners (other than returns of our own dogs when necessary) since 80% of the large dogs in shelters are not getting out alive. Sadly, there is no end in sight.

The good news is that we are placing dogs. Where previously we would give dogs with mildly challenging behaviors a chance, we're not able to do that any more, which means that the dogs we do rescue are more social and therefore more adoptable. It's really, really hard making some of those difficult choices though.

We are still rescuing a few "little paws," but due to the situation with Dobies and other big dogs, we're more often using a foster home or two that can shelter smalls while we get them ready for adoption. The little dogs are faring much better in animal shelters too because they're easier to house in apartments, and many people during and post-Covid had to move to apartments. So for the small dogs, the demand for kennel space is much reduced.

The number of puppies needing homes, *everywhere*, is incredible. There must be numerous reasons for this, but we assume that it's mostly related, one way or another, to the Covid pandemic. In a conversation with a rescue facilitator at one of the

Central Valley animal shelters in late April, she said the shelter had more puppies than adult dogs at that time.

We are very grateful for all of the assistance that our adopters and friends have given us to cope with the unprecedented challenges we've faced during the past couple of years. Having more dogs has meant more dog food, more vet bills, more labor necessary to feed and clean the kennels, and we seriously could not have met all of these needs for more dogs than we have ever had, without your help.

Thank you,

Ardis Braun

p.s. Pictures and videos shared on our Instagram and Facebook pages do not make it to my office and are unable to be saved, so please also share them via our e-mail and/or text number above. (;

ADOPTION UPDATES

SMOKEY

had been one of our favorites, even having privileged status in the front yard of Ardis' home for several months before he was adopted. He was overlooked for over a year, and his only flaw was that he didn't meet other dogs well when on leash. Soon after we made it our mission to get him adopted into a



great home, that happened when Mary Scherger and Don Busse visited from Lakewood, and he won their hearts too.

From their recent e-mail: “We are delighted that Smokey was chosen to be featured in your newsletter. He’s such a

good dog. Smokey has been very patient with Trooper, our deaf Dobie, also an alumnus from your rescue. After a brief adjustment he stepped into the role of being her ears. He enjoys our daily walks and enjoys meeting people.”

CHIP

was one of four siblings, all of whom were rescued because of him. His Doberman head perched on his Heeler-patterned body represented two breeds we love, so all of the pups came to the ranch, and Chip (now called Riley) then made



his way on to first-class veterinarian Kathleen McFarlin and her husband, Bob Blamire in Santa Barbara. The Blamires had lost two beloved dogs in a short time span, and Chip had big pawprints to fill, but his sweetness truly won them over.

From Kathleen: “Riley is sweet, playful, and adorable. He lets me brush his teeth and trim his nails, but is less than perfect for a bath. Remarkably he is completely housebroken after living in a kennel for so long. He loves to meet all dogs and has three special girlfriends: a Lab, a Shepherd mix and a Husky mix. Play dates are the highlight of his day. The wump, wump of his tail brings us joy and Riley has made our house a home again. Thank you Ardis and Colleen for giving this gem of a dog a chance at a forever home. P. S. He plays with treats by running to the middle of the yard and tossing them up in the air. After doing this many times, he finally eats the treat.”

RUDOLF

now lives in Lakeland, Florida with Missy



Atkins and her husband. Missy has a fondness for white Dobermans, having had them from us previously, and she goes to great lengths to get them to Florida. Her update: “Rudolf, now Cash, has fit right into our home in sunny Florida. He has a backyard that he can play in and he loves his morning and evening walks.

He is very happy and is getting used to his two brothers and sister. He even has some cows in a pasture close by that he loves to watch. Cash is very smart and learns commands quickly. He is a great pup.”

CHUCK,

our sturdy young Dobie mix boy, was adopted by Michael and Julia Kastendiek of



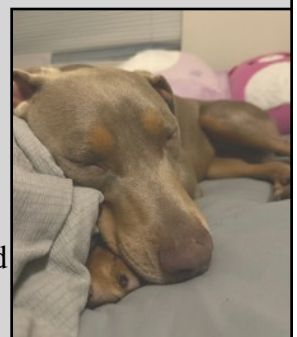
Chatsworth. As often happens, when Julia saw Chuck’s picture and video, she knew he would be “the one.” A resemblance to a previously loved dog didn’t hurt either.

“We are pleased with our adoption of Chuck; he is now called Ki-too...His obedience could barely be improved (excellent recall!), but we will be working on it anyway, tricks, etc., and will be confidently taking him off properly for adventures and visits.

He is clearly a resilient pup and weathered all the storms of his past lives with his trusting nature intact.”

FORTUNA,

now called Tiana, is one of four Doberman-American Bulldog mixes we rescued some months ago, and she was adopted just before we went to press by Chiara Izzo of Los Angeles. A



few days later, she said: “She’s doing great! She’s a little shy, but each day she’s breaking out of her shell more and more. She loves going on walks and running around the lawns. She loves meeting all the new people, cuddling, and taking naps.”

WAITING FOR HOMES

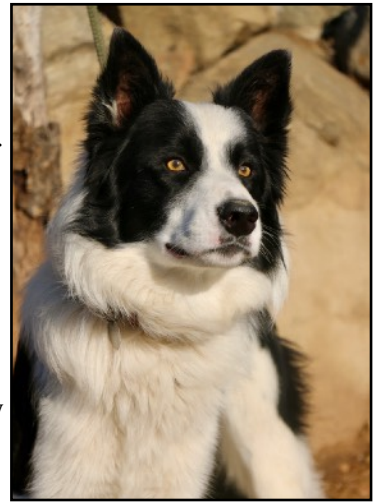
ALEX

is one of several dogs we took from the same litter of Doberman mixes at their animal shelter. We have their DNA to share with interested applicants. He's just over a year old, having progressed to an estimated 75 pounds now. Alex has been compatible with all other dogs he has been kenneled with, other than initially being possessive over food from his earlier life experiences. A young family would be ideal for this funny, playful, gawky young guy.



BARNEY

was a spur-of-the-moment rescue on a day we were near his animal shelter and received the call about an urgent Border Collie (BC's being one of our favorite breeds). He's handsome, and big for a Border Collie, and he's sharing a kennel compatibly with another male dog who displayed alpha-dog behavior when they first met. Barney is about 2 1/2 years old and needs physical activity, like most dogs of his breed.



ELLA

is about 5 years old, and it took some time for her to progress from being a scared, shut-down dog to the affectionate, gentle, easygoing and non-confrontational dog she is now. She has spent over a year with us and has become a favorite here. Though her overall health is good, she does require an inexpensive thyroid pill twice a day to feel her best. Ella is alert, smart and very engaged with her humans.



PLUM

sis a beautiful young fawn Dobie girl who was surrendered to an animal shelter with her sister at age 7 months in October, 2022. (Ultimately the girls didn't get along - typical of siblings - and were separated.) Initially Plum is somewhat timid, but if allowed to progress at her own pace, she blossoms into quite the star. Having a large male canine companion would probably be a plus for her.



She has a solid body style and probably weighs about 70 pounds.

BLUE

is actually a red Dobie but he came with his name. He's a big mellow guy of about 7 years who lives easily with large female dogs and enjoys walks, playtime, and snuggling. Blue always comes to mind when adopters mention liking "big" and "mellow" in the same sentence. He has already waited over 1 1/2 years for his own home.



HOOVER

is a tall, handsome 3-year old Dobie who misses his human(s). He spends most of his time waiting at the front of his kennel and often barking softly to let us know he's there and ready to go home. Hoover is active and energetic, so he would be an ideal adventure partner. He's good with most dogs, especially large, playful females, but prefers attention from people above all else.

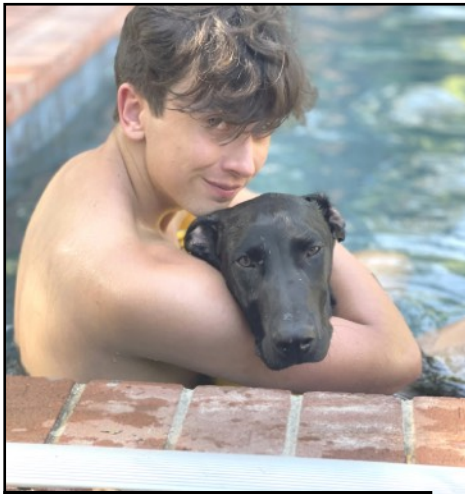


OSO

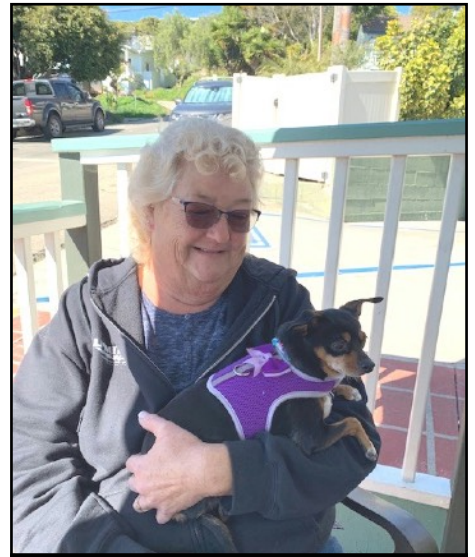
was adopted from us as a young pup in early 2018, so he's almost 5 now. He was returned by his owner



"Bruce Wayne" Alvis-Miller of West Hollywood

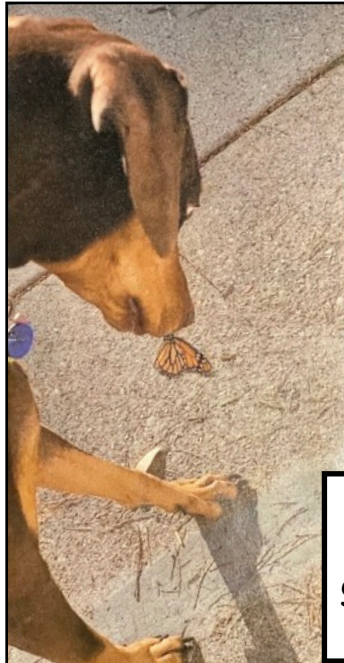
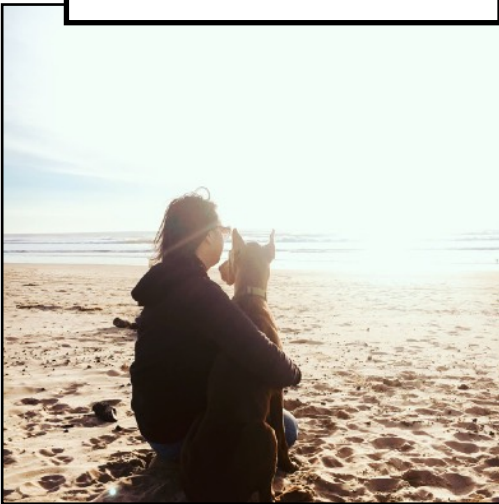


"Bean" Mealey of La Canada, with Sean

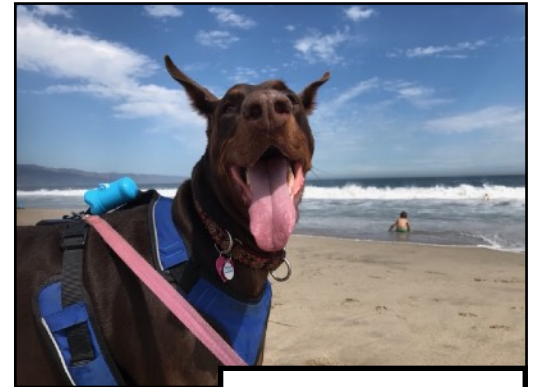


"Tea" Gapen of Bullhead City, AZ, with Louise

"Derek" Shelby of Oakland, with Amanda

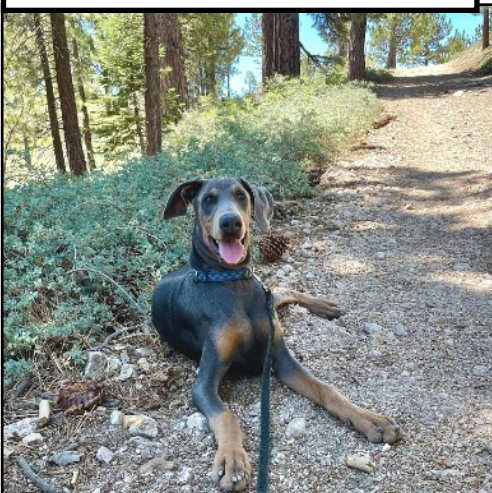


"Mazzy" Bidle-Schultz of Lomita



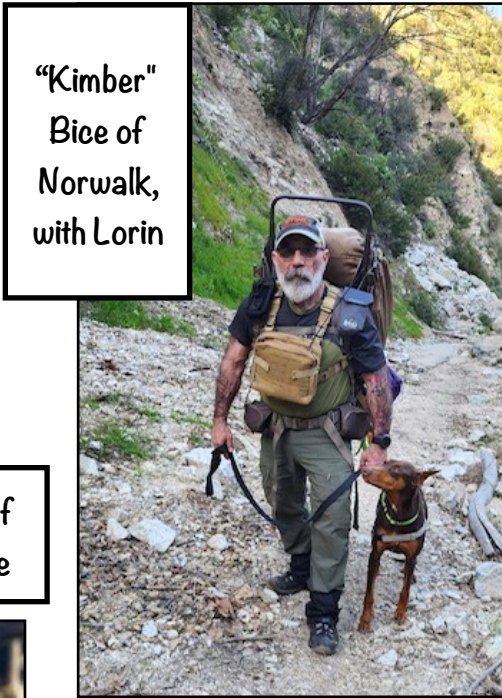
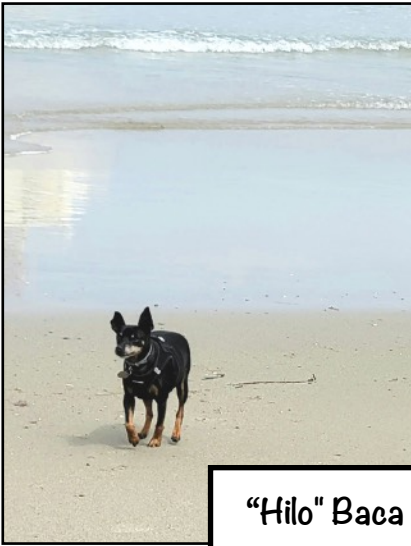
"Kahlua" Zindroski of Granada Hills

"Atticus" Roberts of Simi Valley



"Bella" and "Ki-too" Kastendiek of Chatsworth, with Julia





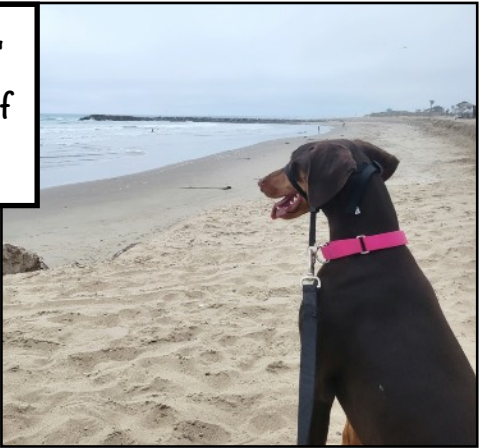
"Hilo" Baca of Port Hueneme

"Kimber" Bice of Norwalk, with Lorin

"Camo" Cole of Vista, with Ashley, Jeffrey and family



"Poppy" Warren of Encino



"Kiki" Konyashin of Newbury Park

Happy Adoptees!



"Jagger" Kaczorek-Baier of Santa Monica



"Kenji" Baelig of San Jose

"Maximus" and "Minion" Watkins of Glendale

Waiting for Homes continued...

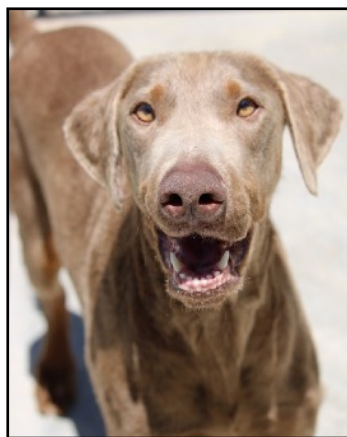


for attacking a Chihuahua but has been compatible with large female dogs since his return. He is housebroken, good off leash, isn't destructive, and knows obedience commands. We're hoping for an experienced adult owner to continue obedience work with this handsome Dobie-Shepherd

mix to deter impulsive reactions to situations he encounters.

SURFER

was a shelter favorite at his animal shelter, always friendly, with his happy tail nub wagging nonstop. We have kenneled him with other large dogs here and he seems compatible with females, but he can at times



be a little overbearing with other dogs and would be ok as the only dog in the home as well. He's a blue Dobie, 4 years old, and he weighs about 75 pounds.

WILL and GRACE

were turned in to an animal shelter together, and they are quite bonded. At 7 years old, Grace doesn't have good adoption prospects if placed individually, as she has some arthritis, probably from



not having had an easy life. We would love to see her final years be happy and comfortable living with Will, who is about 2 years

old. These red Dobies get along well and respect each other. We would supply pain medication to a new owner for her as long as needed....

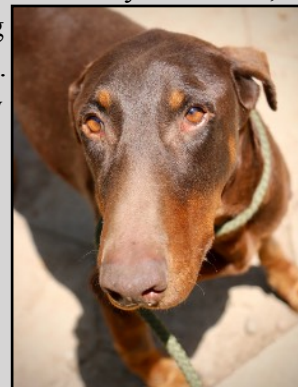
ANOTHER "IT TAKES A VILLAGE" STORY

There are so many "It Takes A Village" stories that we could never share them all, but two recent ones are typical and help to give credit and thanks where they're due.

Every Monday, including on April 10, Chandra Looney (the new Rescue Coordinator at Stanislaus County Animal Shelter) puts out a "Final Due Out Notification" list for dogs at their high-volume animal shelter, identifying those that have to receive rescue commitment by the following Saturday. In this case, that Saturday was April 15th.

Because it's so important for us to have fairly social dogs during this time when there are so many more Dobermans than we can possibly help, I (Ardis) e-mailed Chandra, asking if she could ascertain whether the Doberman on her April 10 list, named Pretty Boy Floyd, was social with people and dogs.

Chandra replied to us on Wednesday that week, having made two videos showing Floyd's behavior with other dogs. In the first video he initiated play with the other dog, a female; in the second video the female wanted nothing to do with him, which was also ok with him. I committed to him.



By that time our entire area was foggy for the next few days, and about the only way we can get dogs transported from as far away as Modesto is with the help of Pilots n Paws, the volunteer pilot group. As is often the case, Mike Gennis, our Hero Pilot based in Placerville, offered to transport. It had to be on Saturday though (Floyd's last day!) to fit with his other commitments, and he could bring Floyd only as far as Bakersfield. Usually that would be no problem, but Saturdays are our open house days, so being away for 3+ hours was not going to work.

So I asked Jennifer Cribbs, our wonderful almost-every-Saturday volunteer, if she could make the trip to Bakersfield to meet Mike at the municipal airport there. Jennifer is always willing to help and among our volunteers she lives closest to Bakersfield, so she was the logical first choice.

On that Saturday, Chandra personally delivered Floyd to the airport in Modesto to deliver him to Mike, who then flew him to Bakersfield. where Jennifer



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and Mike linked up at the airport without a hitch, and Pretty Boy Floyd arrived here at the rescue ranch midday on what would have been his last day, looking beautiful, happy, and totally entitled!

At about the same time we became aware of Pretty Boy Floyd, we had an e-mail from Nancy Rhee, the rescue liaison at the Stockton animal shelter, wanting to put a pregnant Dobie on our radar. I was reluctant to transport a pregnant Dobie with any other shelter dog because of the likelihood that the other dog would be

incubating kennel cough or worse, and automatically put the mom and pups at high risk.

So, on April 21, with Carmen almost ready to give birth, two of the same heroes did it again. Carmen was transported to the airport, picked up by Mike again (and by that time weighing a LOT), flown to Bakersfield airport, again met by Jennifer, who again delivered the dog to a prearranged “nursery,” where she gave birth throughout the night of the 24th to beautiful little red Dobie pups.

We owe all of the great people who help these rescue efforts succeed a huge THANK YOU and want you to know how much you’re appreciated!



SPECIAL HOMES & SPECIAL DOGS

Sometimes the stars line up for certain dogs. Naturally there are some that we grow to truly love because they’re so endearing and worthy, and sometimes these dogs end up spending a long time with us waiting for that special home. We despair to think that one of these will pass away in his or her kennel without ever getting that home.

Sometimes, though, favorite dogs hit the jackpot. There are so many stories we could tell that we’d have to write books instead of our quarterly newsletter.

Example: in March this year, Liz Huszarik, one of our favorite adopters, had to say goodbye to loved dogs of hers. They had wonderful lives that they shared with her at her lovely ranch in Los Olivos with all of the love and vet care humanly possible.

So when these dogs passed away, Liz had a huge hole in her heart. She has always tended to help the less fortunate ones, so this time she decided to adopt our two remaining tripods, Buddy and Moseley, one of whom (Buddy) had spent over a year waiting for his own home.

Buddy had an injured, painful and unrepairable rear leg that required amputation, and Moseley, a more recent case, had





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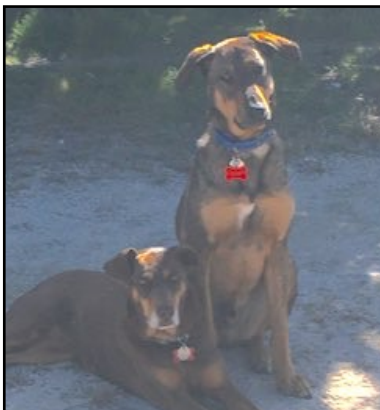
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

endured a fracture as a young dog that was splinted and bandaged, but the bandage was never changed. Thus, as Moseley and his leg grew to adulthood and the bandage did not expand, his leg was entirely necrotic by the time he arrived at his animal shelter. It's a miracle that he survived the infection. Naturally we said yes when rescue was requested for him.

Liz is a person who is very happy to let her dogs "hang out" and set their own limitations in her environment. The dogs met and spent an hour together in one of our big play yards, and we might have imagined it, but they seemed to have smiles on their faces when they left.

Another recent adopter, Sharon Coleman of Mountain Center, came to us at the urging of Frank Sovich, one of our terrific regular volunteers who walks dogs, does transport for us, and assists with many of our projects at the rescue.

Sharon was ready to adopt a dog, or even two, and open to our endorsements of precious, deserving



dogs. She had already noticed Stella on our website and social media posts, and we also felt Stella would be a good choice. She had been adopted from us a few years earlier at age 5 by a woman who passed away, and none of the family members were

in a position to take her in. Stella actually lived in an empty house until the family contacted us and returned her to our care. Our hearts broke for her, standing in her kennel looking completely hopeless and abandoned. So she made Sharon's list.

Then our thoughts went to Hatchi, a favorite Dobie-Shepherd mix that had spent a year with us even though we featured him in our newsletter twice, brought him to an adoption event, and showed him often. He became Sharon's second pick.

From both of these wonderful adopters we get regular updates with pictures and glowing reviews about the dogs and how much they're loved. (We always tell our adopters that they can never overdo this!)

PARTING SHOT

"Valentine" and "Juliet" Williams of Moorpark, with Claire



Happy 4th of July!!