



"Chipper" Revard of Oxnard

"Dobie Doings"

2946 Young Road
Fillmore, California 93015
Phone (805) 524-5102
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with the winning dogs' pictures printed on them. Anyone wishing to order these cards should send \$10.00 for each packet of 12 cards, including tax and postage. They will make great stocking stuffers for the holidays, and should be ordered by December 1 to ensure delivery in time for the holidays.

Sincerely,
Ardis Braun
Director

The big news this issue is, of course, the photo contest winners. Choosing these winners was one of the hardest things we've ever had to do! First there was the problem of just too many great pictures. Some dogs are so beautiful, so cute, or so photogenic that they can win contests just by sitting there. We tried not to be swayed by the looks of the dog because, we reasoned, this was a photo contest, not a beauty pageant.

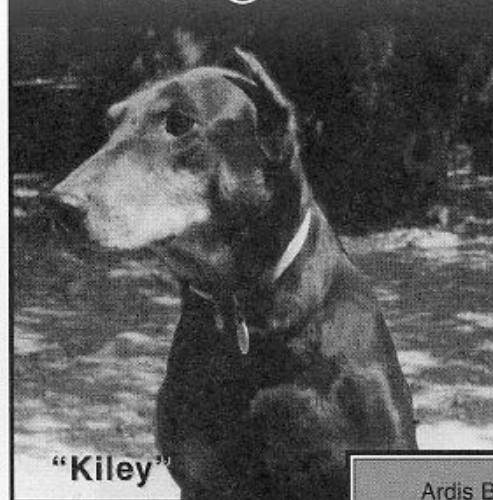
Then there was the problem that some great pictures were wonderful in color, but did not offer enough contrast to reproduce well in black and white. Another problem was that many pictures showed dogs in scenic settings, but the dogs were too far away without the help of a telephoto lens.

It took many tries to reach a consensus. Judges deadlocked and additional judges had to break ties. The final six were chosen from ten finalists by drawing them out of a hat. The winning photos, we hope you agree, are outstanding, and also tell a little story or convey a mood, taking them a step beyond just being great pictures of dogs.

If your photo didn't win this time, don't give up! Due to the popularity of this contest, we'll be doing it again soon. The four finalists not drawn out of a hat will almost certainly be among the winners in the next contest.

The winners will be receiving free packets of cards

Waiting for Homes

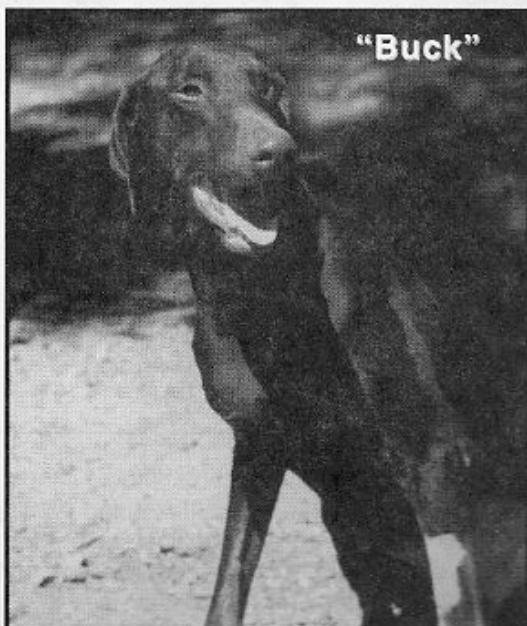


"Kiley"

"Kiley," our dear 9-year-old Dobie who has spent four years at Dobie Rescue, still awaits a home of her own. She can live with most large male dogs and has a winning personality. We still hope she will have her own couch to lie on before her time runs out.

Ardis Braun
Director
Suzette Smith
Graphic Designer
Dennis Bolton
Aaron Lucas
Printer

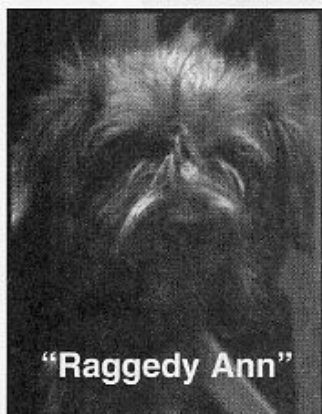
- ☐ Waiting for homes
- ☐ Adoption Updates
- ☐ Contest Winners
- ☐ Medical Matters



"**Buck**", the 4-year-old red male Dober who was featured in our last issue, is completely rehabilitated and ready to be adopted. He has had three major surgeries since arriving at Dober Rescue: first the difficult repair of his badly broken leg, then a complicated neuter surgery requiring removal of an abdominal testicle, and finally a rush surgery to remove a corn cob from his small intestine, which some kind soul probably thought they were doing him a favor to give him. At any rate, he is the most expensive rescue dog to visit our sanctuary to date, and now his exuberant personality needs a private home and back yard to romp in.

GOOD NEWS:

As we were going to press,
Buck has just been adopted by
Janice Tancredi of Glendale



"**Raggedy Ann**" is a sweet 13-pound terrier mix who was apparently abused prior to her rescue. She is fearful of everyone but she never tries to bite. A patient, gentle, low-stress home would be perfect for her, and she gets along well with all other dogs.

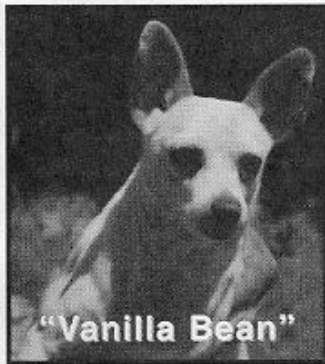


Here is little "**Jake**," a 15-pound Miniature Pinscher. He's about 3 years old, completely housebroken, and not nippy. When we first rescued Jake, we took him to the vet and learned that, as we had suspected, his leg was broken. The vet did not know how old the fracture might be and whether casting it would help. Casting did not help; the leg needs to have a stainless steel plate installed, a \$600 minimum surgery. We were hoping the "Happy Memorial Fund" would be able to pay for Jake's surgery, but all funds were used to help Buck (above). Jake needs to have surgery, either to repair his leg or to have it amputated. At the top of our wish list, of course, is an adoptive home for him that would fix his leg and offer him a warm, quiet, comfortable place to recuperate from the surgery.



Remember "**FRANKIE**," the beautiful American Eskimo who survived distemper? He has wormed his way into the home and heart of Virginia Green of Los Angeles. Virginia was referred to us by her sister-in-law, Betty Green, who previously

adopted Mabel. Frankie shares Virginia's home with a sweet male Sheltie, and at last report everyone was getting along famously.



"VANILLA BEAN ", the Chihuahua mix who has epileptic seizures, was adopted by Veronica Martinez of Winnetka. Veronica has another epileptic Chihuahua, Stimpy, so she has a soft spot in her heart for these deserving tiny dogs.

From the Arellanos of California City: My husband, our youngest son and I visited your beautiful facility the Saturday before Easter. We came in search of a small dog. You introduced us to our **"Susie"**, a mixed Pomeranian. David, our youngest son, bonded instantly with Susie. As the enclosed picture indicates, their bond continues to grow with each passing day. Susie is a loyal and loving companion for our youngest--important as we live in a rural community which offers little recreation for kids.

David and Susie spend hours digging tunnels for "their" cars. Susie even helps David play checkers by stealing his opponent's checkers off the board!... David loves Susie and Susie is loyal only to David - a perfect love match! Thank you for saving her from certain death...

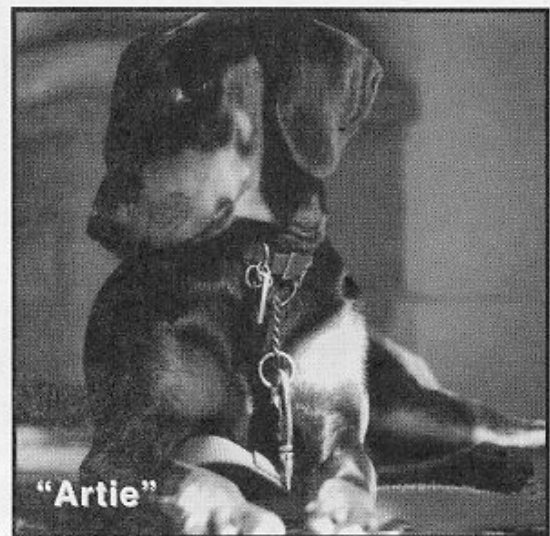
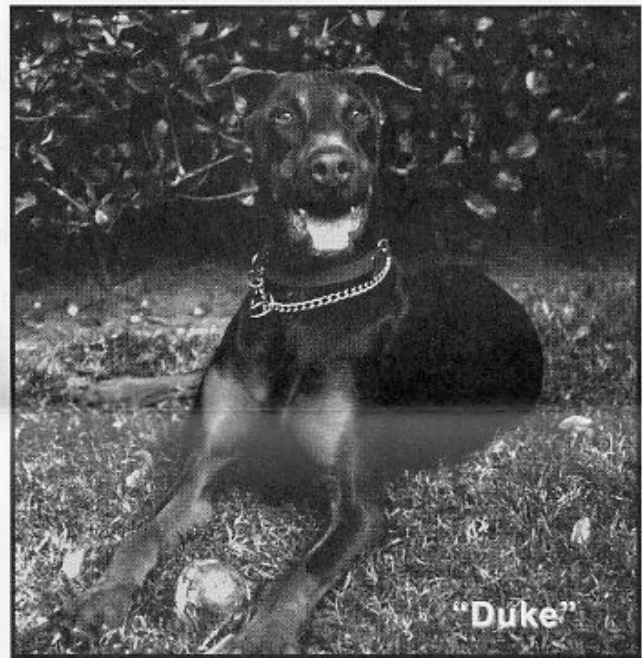


From the Krotee's of Newport Beach: We had the good fortune of adopting **"Artie"** from your shelter this past March. She is a beautiful, intelligent and loving creature, and immediately won our hearts. Filled with puppy exuberance, Artie loves long walks, visits to the dog park, rawhide bones and giving big sloppy dog kisses. But by far her favorite sport is roller-blading with Dad. Here is a recent photo of Artie (about 12 months old) relaxing in the sunshine. Many thanks...

From Astrid and Bruce Jastremski of Playa del Rey: We adopted **"Duke"** from Doberman Rescue in August, 1992. ... On his first anniversary with us, we threw a party to celebrate. We had a bone-shaped cake and all thirty guests bought Duke a gift. He now has his own personalized photo album (one of the gifts).

The album is now more than half full of wonderful pictures of Duke. His ball is in almost every picture - placed there by him, never posed by us... We can't imagine another animal that is as much fun and has as much personality as Duke.

Thank you so much for the wonderful work you do and, most of all, thank you for Duke.

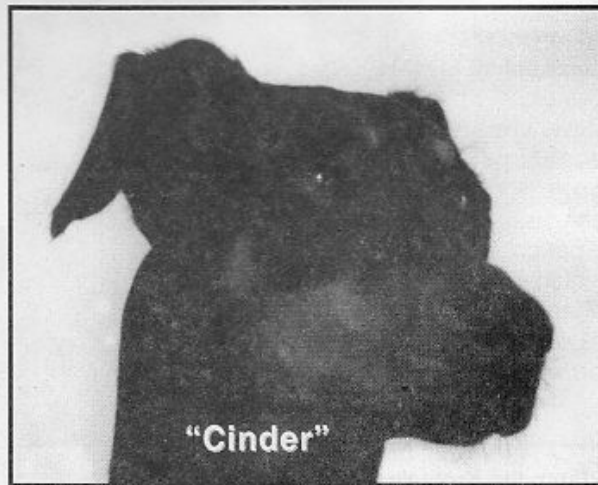


Here they are

"Cujo" - owned by Marlo Schofield of Sherman Oaks: Your newsletter is uplifting. This world is too often filled with bad news; it is great to see good deeds being accomplished. A year ago, when I had to put my one and only dog of nine years to sleep I thought I'd never find another dog I'd be crazy about. After a few months, I became lonely so I decided to look for another dog to love. After being passed from one phone number to another, I ended up calling the Doberman Pinscher Rescue. Who would have guessed that I would have found what I was looking for - a small furry "toy" - at a Doberman Rescue "ranch" of all places? Well, it's been a year now since I adopted my "wind-up toy." He's a fun mix of Jack Russell Terrier and Lhasa. I named him "Cujo" (like the rabid dog in Stephen King's novel) because I thought it would be a ferocious-sounding, funny name for a fifteen pound loveable puppy. He's a good form of exercise for me.. he wants to play ball 20 hours a day! (The other four hours he'd be devoted to eating!) He is the most endearing puppy - smart as an owl, sly as a fox and playful as a toddler.... I am happy to say that this is exactly the dog I would have hoped for. He is such a joy to me, my family, and to every guest who comes to our home. One can't help but fall in love with that adorable face. Thank you, Ardis. Pets truly are good for one's happiness and health.

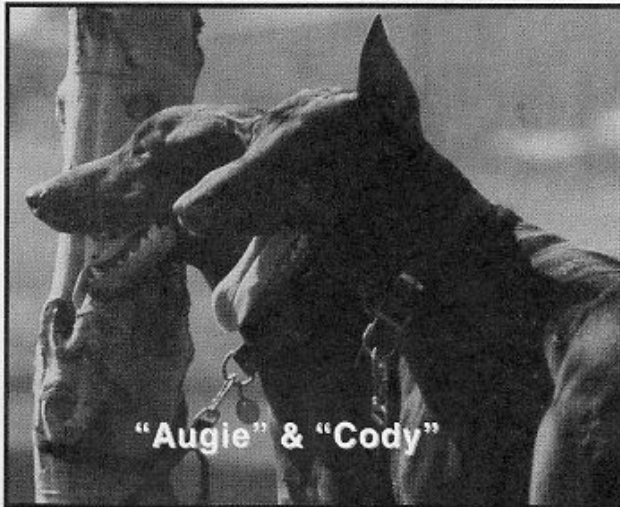


"Romeo" (deceased) - owned by Cathy and John Mocniak of San Clemente. (See June issue of "Dobie Doings.")



"Cinder" - owned by Marlene Rose of Oxnard: It's been three months now since "Cinder" has joined our household. Her new name is "Wendy," which she just loves. Pound for pound she is by far the "toughest little dobie" full of spirit and vinegar... We've just finished the "canine good citizen" class and she now has her "degree"... now it's off to the intermediate class with Oxnard Obedience Club. I hope you'll be able to come visit us soon...

the winners



"Augie" & "Cody" - From B. J. and Herson Perez of Ontario: Here's some photos of "our boys." Both are doing well, and are sweet-hearts. We always get compliments on our "beautiful Dobermans!" Augie is coming out of his shell, thanks to boisterous Cody! (Cody's only problem is he still hates our cat. So we've decided to send him to school...He's worth it, he's so wonderful with kids even though he looks like a terror, he's a doll.) Just don't ask our cat!

I put a lot of time into Augie. He and Cody are a perfect match and "best friends." I'm glad we decided to adopt TWO! God bless you for all your work with all your Dobies. We sure love ours.

"Spike" - owned by Susan Rogers of Ojai: Spike has turned out to be the best dog I've had - it took over 6 months for him to get a solid feeling of safety. (We couldn't raise our voices, arms, etc. He was also afraid of men and teen boys.) He is a great beach dog! He romped in the waves for the first time...He's also developed quite a sense of humor - he pokes me in the backside with his nose when he's excited. Thanks....



"Bear" owned by Bonnie and Steve Brewer of Simi Valley: Just a note to let you know we are all doing well. We named our little guy "Bear." He's doing great - He's gained 5 pounds and the vet says "too many treats!" As you can see from the picture he prefers the cat toys over the 10 or 15 dog toys he has - The cats are adjusting to Bear.



MEDICAL MATTERS

Not all of you reading our newsletters are Doberman owners, nor, necessarily, even Doberman lovers. The following few paragraphs are for the benefit of the "Dobie people" in particular.

Probably the weakest part of the Doberman is its neck, specifically the area between the 6th and 7th vertebrae. It has been speculated that this is the result of professional breeding using show dogs with a spinal defect, resulting in almost every Doberman in the country now carrying the gene for "Wobbler's Syndrome" in its gene pool.

Wobbler's Syndrome is often mistaken for hip dysplasia, which is quite uncommon in Dobermans. Wobbler's is very common and can manifest itself as lack of coordination between the dog's front end and back end, or painfulness in raising its head or in getting up, etc.

After the onset of the disease it is not possible to reverse its course but it is possible to stabilize it with surgery, though it is expensive and has a long rehabilitation period. In older dogs, treating the symptoms with an anti-inflammatory drug may be of short term benefit.

What we particularly wanted to address in this article is helping to prevent Wobbler's. If you cringe every time you see someone yanking their dog around on a choke chain, you have good reason to flinch. This can be so injurious to a Doberman that it can even cause Wobbler's symptoms to emerge. We highly recommend either a harness, a "Promise Halter" or other type of halter, or a pinch collar if you own a Doberman who pulls hard on its leash. The harness will not stop the dog from pulling, but it may save the dog's neck. The halter, newly adapted for use in dogs, is actually quite a simple device which forces the dog's head downwards if it pulls hard on its leash. Finally, the pinch collar, which some find so deplorable-looking, is nothing more than a choke chain with pressure points (not barbs) which make it uncomfortable for the dog to pull.

If you walk your Dobie but find that he/she invariably walks you, please check into one or more of these devices. Your dog's life could depend on it! The following is a more technical treatise on Wobbler's Syndrome written by Dr. Bruecker, especially for "Dobie Doings".

Wobbler Syndrome of Doberman Pinschers

By Dr. Kenneth A. Bruecker, DVM, MS,
Diplomate ACVS

A special form of disk degeneration can occur in the neck (cervical spine) which results in instability of the vertebrae (neck bones). This is known as Cervical Vertebral Instability (CVI) or Wobbler Syndrome. Doberman Pinschers are especially prone to this disorder. It usually affects middle-aged dogs, ages 4-9 years. We tend to see it in males slightly more often than females.

The disk, made up of fibrocartilage, is positioned between each vertebra to act as a cushion and shock absorber (Figure 1). Degeneration results in collapse and bulging of the disks causing compression of the spinal cord (Figure 2).

When the disk degeneration occurs in the neck (cervical spine), the result is neck pain and nerve dysfunction behind the affected area. The nerve dysfunction may manifest itself as numbness, weakness, wobbliness and loss of control of bladder and bowel. If left untreated complete paralysis may occur. The signs may come on suddenly or gradually (over many months). Since affected dogs may have trouble getting up and walking, the signs and symptoms are often mistaken for arthritis or hip dysplasia. Although we can be suspicious of the cause of the signs, a myelogram is required to be certain of the diagnosis. A myelogram is a special x-ray study performed under anesthesia. A spinal tap is performed, a contrast agent is injected through the needle and x-rays are taken. The contrast agent outlines the spinal cord and highlights the tops of the disks. Degenerate disks will be seen to bulge up and cause compression on the spinal cord.

The treatment may vary depending on the severity of the compressions and how many disks have degenerated. Anti-inflammatory medication alone is usually ineffective in the long run and the condition only worsens. Surgery should be performed early, before permanent, irreversible spinal cord damage has occurred. A number of different types of surgical procedures are used depending on the compression. Essentially, surgery is directed at removing the degenerate disk or stretching and fusing the spine at the location or both. A bone graft may be taken from the shoulder to enhance fusion. Surgery, if performed before irreversible damage to the spinal cord has occurred, will be successful in 90-95% of Wobbler patients.

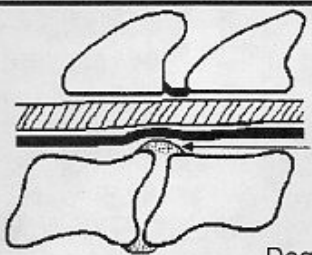


Figure 2

Degenerative disk causing compression of the spinal cord

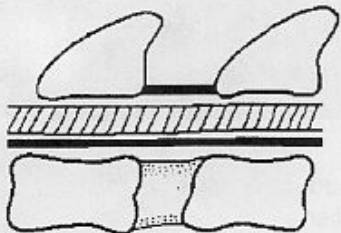


Figure 1

After surgery, patients are rested for 6 weeks. If needed, they must be helped to stand and walk. Physical therapy consisting of slings, carts, exercises and swimming may be important for recovery of strength and coordination. If permanent spinal cord damage has not taken place, patients will begin to show improvement within six weeks, regardless of how long they had been affected. Continued improvement occurs for 6 months. Seventy to 75% of patients will not have future disk problems.

Dr. Bruecker is the director of the Veterinary Medical and Surgical Group of Ventura.

PARTING SHOTS...



From Dennis and Lauren Ballas of Sun Valley: It has been a little less than 2 weeks since "Pudge" has come into our lives. She seems to be very happy, housebroken, playful and protective. I couldn't have asked for a better companion. She has adopted our 9 month old as one of her own, and she follows him around the house "checking up" on him. She loves to go out for walks around our neighborhood and to our local parks. She is very well behaved on a leash. .. Thank you Ardis, for saving her for us!



Doberman Pinscher Rescue



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

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)

Here is an update on "**Smoky**", the blue male Dobie who waited four years for his new home with Sandi Schwartz of Los Angeles:

Can you guess which dog. ...

- ★ snores like Winston Churchill
- ★ loves Chopin, Strauss, and Willie Nelson
- ★ must lie across my lap (my rupture will be his rapture)
- ★ chases cats
- ★ loves mashed potatoes
- ★ loves watermelon
- ★ is inseparable from his "sister"
- ★ growls at me when I reprimand his "sister"
- ★ barks when the phone rings
- ★ whines/sings sotto voce if I'm on the phone too long
- ★ must constantly be kissed or touched
- ★ swats me with his paw for more kisses
- ★ loves his oatmeal spoon-fed only
- ★ thinks that everything out of the micro is for him
- ★ preens after his monthly shower
- ★ likes a dab of Polo on his forehead



- ★ watched lovingly as his "sister" demolished 26 photos
- ★ loves his mom fiercely
- ★ thinks Laurel Canyon is the niftiest place for him to spend the happiest days of his life.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUES:

- White Dobermans?
- Dobies who love water?
- New addition to the rescue ranch
- "Believe It or Not" stories

Doberman Pinscher Rescue



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