

"Misty" & "Joey" Mobley  
of Calabasas

## "Dobie Doings"



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**W**e have been seeing a lot of our old friends lately. Since we've been placing dogs for fourteen years, many of you have lost your original adoptees to old age and have come back for the second, and in some cases, third, generation of adoptees. It makes us feel marvelous that you return to us again and again, and it's always great to see you! Some of you even ask us to pick your new dog for you, which is most definitely an honor.

Adoptions, particularly of small dogs, have been at an all-time high, thanks to several web sites where their photos and descriptions are featured. Volunteers from the Animal Rescue Volunteers group in Simi Valley have been photographing a dozen or so at a time and posting them on the [1800saveapet.com](http://1800saveapet.com) and [PetFinders.com](http://PetFinders.com) web sites. They are looked up by breed or predominant breed, and many people just can't resist a particular face.

We are hoping for approval of the new kennel building in the next few weeks, so perhaps our December issue will announce the good news....

Thank you all again for your help of all types: financial, blankets, towels, bowls, toys and biscuits for the dogs, volunteer help,

everything! We all appreciate you!

We want to reiterate that if EVER you are unable to keep your pet that you've adopted from us, WE ALWAYS WANT THEM BACK!! Some of you feel compelled to find a new home for your dog if you are unable to provide a permanent home due to changes in your circumstances, etc. But the home you give your dog to may not be as conscientious as you are if THEY are unable to keep the dog, and one day it can end up back in the pound (see the story on pp. 2-3) because no one knew that the dog actually had a safe place to come back to! In addition, since all of our animals are now microchipped, we need to keep our microchip data base up to date, which means we need to know where the animals are. Please, if you cannot keep your pet, call us first!

Sincerely,

*Ardis Munck*

Ardis Munck

"Blessed is the person who has  
earned the love of an old dog."

-Sidney Jeanne Seward

## A CINDERELLA STORY

A few years ago we decided to explore the idea of kenneling a few of our Dobermans in another location, thinking that perhaps if potential adopters didn't have to travel so far, we might place more dogs. Also, our kennels were bulging at the time and we thought it would be good for the ones at the ranch to have more space. So we located a kennel in Apple Valley that would board dogs inexpensively and take good care of them. We moved 30 dogs there.

The experiment wasn't very successful. Only a few dogs were placed from the satellite location, so after the first year we began repatriating the animals kenneled there, bringing the last of them back nearly a full year later.

One of the dogs we had kenneled in Apple Valley for most of that two-year period was a dog named Cici, a sweet and gentle young Dobie mix with a long tail and natural ears. Cici was such an easy dog to handle; no bad habits and so social that she could be kenneled with any other dog and never caused a problem. Upon her return to the ranch, Cici was kenneled with a big play group of about 5 dogs, and she was always reasonably happy.

Enter Joyce Martin of San Bernardino. Joyce was shopping for something very specific: a female Dobie or mix with long tail and natural ears who liked other dogs and cats. She looked at several dogs, including Cici, and then went home to think about it.

When she came back, she brought a friend who, like Joyce, is a trustee for the Ria May Trust, a foundation established to assist charitable, tax-exempt animal rescue and humane organizations. They decided to help make our kennels more comfortable while we wait for the completion of our ultimate plan. They opted to donate several dozen free-standing kennels, resting pads and dog houses, plus a sizable cash gift, to help our critters through the interim waiting period...



We're happy to announce that, as of this writing, most of the kennels have been put up and the animals have been spread out to make them as comfortable as possible for the duration of the wait.

And Cici's news is just as good. Joyce chose Cici, now named Sara, to come to live with her at her compound, so large for a residential area that it resembles a mini-ranch. A true doggie Cinderella story! Our most recent bulletin about Sara announced that she has a fancy new toy, Go Dog Go, which launches tennis balls, which are then retrieved by Sara. "She is feeling fine and looking sleek and fit," and "she continues to treat the cat with respect, even when the cat is licking Sara's face!"

## ANOTHER GREAT MICROCHIP STORY

In our March issue, we told the story of Mike, a Doberman who was missing for six weeks after being stolen, who probably would never have gotten back home except for the microchip we implanted in him at the time of his adoption.

Here is another one.

In December we placed a little Miniature Pinscher mix with a family; she was microchipped and i.d. tagged as usual before leaving. One follow-up telephone call was made after adoption and everything was fine. At this point, we usually can't continue to keep tabs on every dog, as

there are thousands of them living in homes everywhere. (We love your updates, though. You can never overdo this!)

On July 9, our volunteer, Julie Carlsen, who covers the southwest Los Angeles County suburbs for us, received a call from her local animal shelter. A dog implanted with our microchip had been picked up on June 29 and was impounded at their shelter. We looked up the microchip number in the computer and called the family we had placed her with.

"Are you missing a dog?" I asked.

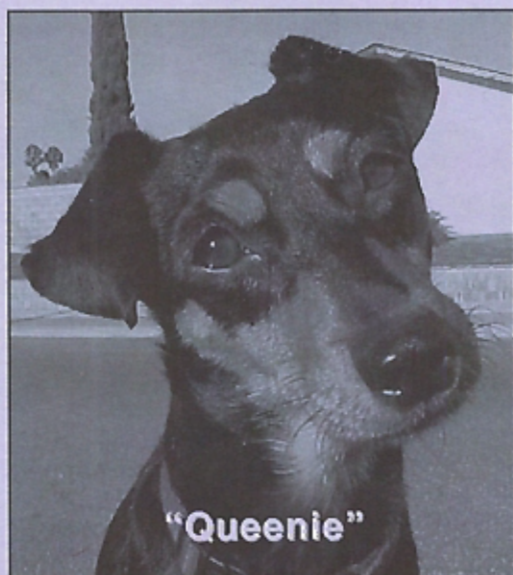
"Oh, have you heard something about Queenie?" the woman wanted to know.

"Yes," I said. "What happened?"

"Well, she wasn't working out for us, so we gave her to my mother, and she got out all the time, but she always came back."

A few more questions made up our minds not to return Queenie to her adoptive home, as the contract the ex-owner had signed had been breached four different ways: she gave the dog away (without even telling us), she did not keep an i.d. tag on the dog, she did not let us know she was lost, and she did not keep her on a leash when outside a confined area. Plus, she had not even gone to the shelter to look for Queenie. July 9 could have been Queenie's execution date.

Just as we were going to press, Queenie was adopted by Robert Rivard of Simi Valley, where we hope she'll live happily ever after.



## Adoption Updates



### Venus De Luxe

In our last issue we told you about Venus, a young WHITE female Dobie in need of a home. We had scarcely gone to press when she was adopted by Antje and Gary Frei of Los Angeles. The Freis had adopted from us before, a wonderful young male named Mel, and their idea was to get Mel a playmate.

Over two months have passed, and Venus, now Lily (because she very competently removed all the lilies from the back yard garden) has settled in nicely. Lily and Mel have their own room, called the Jungle Room, which has antelope prints all over so if the dogs enter with muddy paws, it will blend with the decor.

We had calls from several of you who were also interested in Lily, but, sorry, it looks like this one's not coming back!

### ZEKE

Just a quick update on Zeke, the hairless fawn male Dobie we featured in our June newsletter....Zeke has adapted exceptionally well to life at the ranch. He loves the freedom to run and chase squirrels and lizards, he is social with the other ranch dogs who run free on the property, and he doesn't try to escape. In short, he is probably going to remain here as one of our "keepers," the few whom we feel are actually happier living here than they would be in a new home.



# We're waiting for homes

Over the years, we've had a number of home-cropped Dobies; dogs who, incredibly, have had their ears cropped with scissors. How the butchers who do this manage to perpetrate such horror upon their poor puppies is beyond our imagination, but it is obvious that the results are not the work of veterinarians.

Some of you may remember Dirk and Chopper, wonderful dogs with home crop jobs who got the wonderful homes they deserved. We now have four more home-cropped Dobies in the program who are looking for their own homes with people who can withstand the looks of strangers who may think they were responsible for the brutality. It takes a special person.

## DARCY and DARLA

These two middle-aged girls look enough alike to be sisters, but Darla has obviously been bred numerous times in her life in addition to having pathetically nonexistent ears. They are both black and tan, social with other dogs, and sweet tempered.



## JAG

Jag was given up by his owner years after adoption because he became too territorial with other dogs.

He is housebroken and wonderful with people of all ages, he just resents other dogs near his territory or encountering them while being walked on a leash. A

very good stay-at-home companion! He's black and tan; a big, chunky guy about 6 years old.



## PUNKY

This youngster (about 1 1/2 years old) is social with other non-dominant dogs and people. He's exuberant and needs a young family, and his ears are actually long enough that they could be reshaped

to present an improved appearance. Punky is currently in a foster home in Arcadia, near Pasadena, and can be viewed in that area if desired.



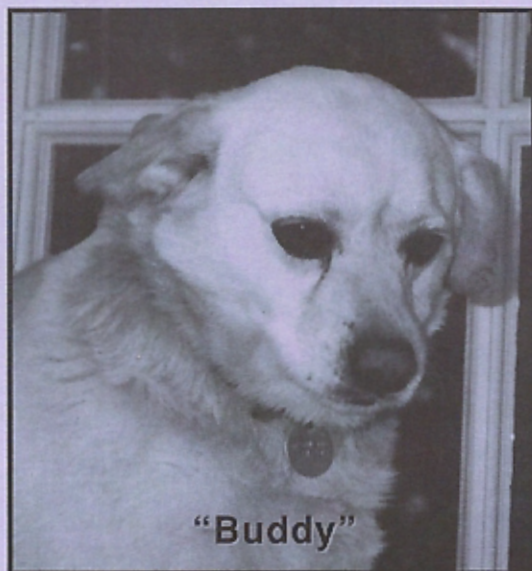
## JELLY BEAN

Little Jelly Bean is an older lady Chihuahua mix, probably about 8. She likes other dogs and kids, and she's fully housebroken. (She will even use a litter box, perfect for an apartment dweller.) She's black and white and weighs about 10 pounds.



## BUDDY

Poor Buddy. He had a good home with a military family, including lots of kids, and then they were transferred and Buddy became homeless. And homeless he has been for a couple of years! He's probably Yellow Lab and Corgi, about 5 years old, and a very sweet, plump little fellow (about 30 pounds). He does well with other dogs, too.



## NIK D. PINSCHER

Every now and then, there is a really special dog that makes a difference in the world, just like there are a few very special people.

Without a doubt, one such dog is "Nikolai" Collumb-Greene. We recently got to visit with Nik again, more than nine years after his adoption. Following is an excerpt from an e-mail we just received from Dr. Liz Collumb, which should explain some of Nik's specialness.

Dear Ardis and Eric,

Tom and I tremendously enjoyed our visit to "The Dober Ranch," as we refer to your facility. Thanks again for microchipping Nikolai and Clio. Here is a not-so-brief profile of Nikolai, also known around our house here in San Diego as Nik D. Pinscher.

Tom got Nik from DPR way back in June of 1992. We don't know for sure how old Nik is (and he's not telling), but our best guess is that he's about the same age as our other dog, a Golden Retriever mix named Clio, who is now 10.

Tom and Nik originally lived the bachelor life in Venice Beach. After initial debates with Tom about existential issues such as housetraining, shoe-chewing, and sofa-sleeping, Nik settled in nicely. Nik attended the Mar Vista Dog Obedience School, where he graduated #1 in his class (valedogtorian) in late 1992. Nik turned out to be a sweet, mellow, athletic, social dobie.

Tom and Nik eventually decided they couldn't live without me and Clio, and a wedding took place in July 1995. The dogs did NOT take part in the ceremony, reception or honeymoon, although they did get nice collars made to match the bridesmaids' bouquets.

Then our whole pack moved to San Diego in the fall of 1995. I attended and eventually graduated from UCSD School of Medicine in 1999 ... and so

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# LOOK-ALIKES

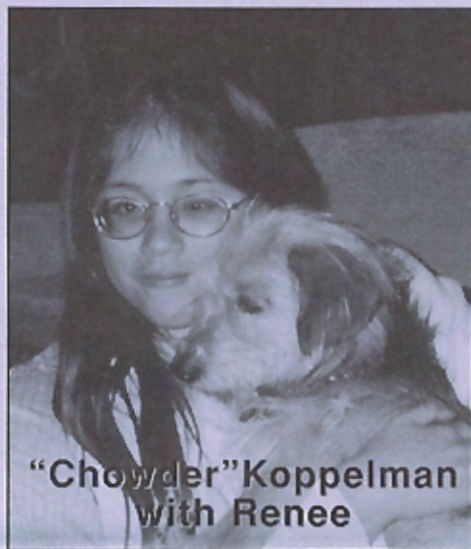
Nearly everyone has thought, at one time or another, that a particular dog resembled its owner. Haven't we all seen a red-headed, freckled person walking a red and white speckled Brittany Spaniel down the street, or a big, burly, self-impressed jock type strutting his serious-faced Rottweiler?

In a recent Los Angeles Times article, a reader asked

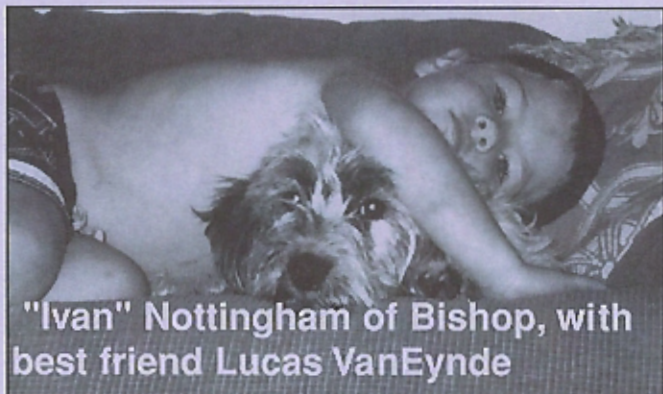
Dr. Joyce Brothers if she could comment on why dogs and their owners so often resemble each other. Her answer:

"Owners prepare food for their pets and usually decide what amount is appropriate. Chances are, if an owner is slim and muscular, his or her dog will also tend to be fit. The animal might jog with the owner, and the dog isn't apt to be given special treats as frequently as he is if the owner is overweight.

Aggressive people who have a need to dominate others are likely to select a breed with similar traits or to try to develop that threatening personality in their animals. Warm, friendly individuals usually select animals that demonstrate these traits. Small people are often drawn to smaller pets because they're easier to handle."



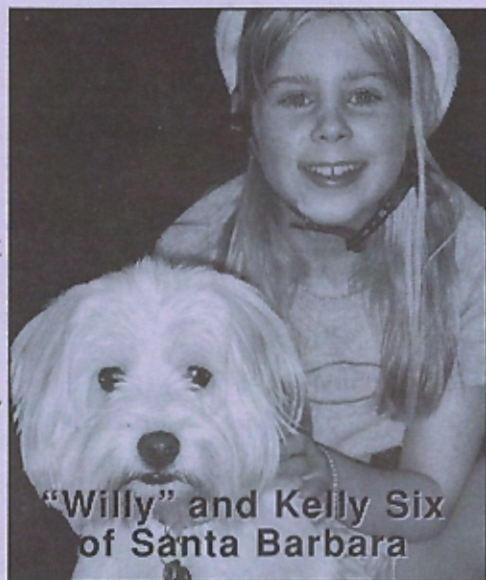
**"Chowder" Koppelman  
With Renee**



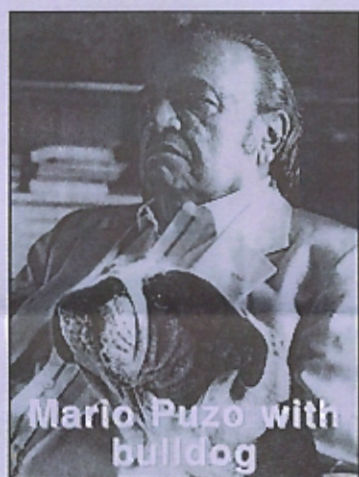
**"Ivan" Nottingham of Bishop, with  
best friend Lucas VanEynde**

This response certainly addresses reasons for similarities in build, but what about facial similarities and expressions, hair color and length, etc.? Here are a few of your look-alike photos.

We don't imagine author Mario Puzo actually owned a bulldog, but if he had, the resemblance would have been remarkable! (This composite is the work of Suzette Smith, our graphic artist, and not an actual photo.)



**"Willy" and Kelly Six  
of Santa Barbara**



**Mario Puzo with  
bulldog**

## GROUNDBREAKING NEWS!

by Eric Munck

**B**y the time you read this, we will hopefully have broken ground for our new kennel building. It is imperative to get the pooches in their new home by Christmas, as it gets really cold and wet around here by January. As most of our readers already know, plans call for a 5,000 sq. foot facility with an additional 5,000 sq. feet of fenced-in outside runs. This is a massive undertaking, both logistically and financially, and Dobie Rescue needs all the help it can get.

Many of you have been very generous in the past, and every single cent donated to Dobie Rescue goes DIRECTLY toward feed and care for the pooches. Even the employees are paid out of our



## 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.

own pockets, and we quite often have to subsidize the feed and vet bills as well. Rescuing dogs is a perpetual financial drain. We are financing the kennel building by taking out a \$150,000 loan which, of course, must be repaid. So even if you cannot help us right now, maybe some time in the future?

### **What we need right now are the following:**

- \* Cash donations. As a token of our appreciation, each donation in the amount of \$1,000 or more will result in a kennel run being named after the donor or their choice of dedication.
- \* A \$40,000 donation to pay for the concrete, or, as an alternative, a benefactor within the concrete industry. Anybody know anyone? For a donation of this magnitude, our special care/hospital unit would be named after the donor or their choice of dedication.
- \* Donations of vehicles. Quite a few folks have generously donated cars, vans and a motorcycle, which I have fixed up and sold to benefit Dobie Rescue. This program works quite well.

- \* Fundraisers! Put on your thinking caps and see what comes up! E-bay auctions have worked very well in the past.

Recently a very nice 1994 Dodge Caravan was donated, which was a god-send, as we desperately needed a reliable dog rescue vehicle. I engineered a compartment to transport sick dogs within the van without infecting the healthy ones. It consists of a hermetically sealed box with an independent air-conditioned air supply. I can control the amount of air and the temperature from the dash, and the spent air is exhausted thru the floor of the van, thus avoiding cross-contamination. Works great! The van itself is very comfortable, which is an important consideration, as Ardis and I drive 300-400 miles every week picking up dogs all over creation. In dog rescue one has to be proactive, otherwise too many beautiful dogs get killed in the shelters. We are fortunate to be blessed with a great network of volunteers who travel to their local shelters and spot dogs (and put our name on them) for us, so we can minimize the time actually spent with the paperwork process, and thus cover a larger territory. We thank you all, and look forward to having as many as possible of our supporters join us for our dedication ceremony on a date to be announced soon.

# Doberman Pinscher Rescue



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did Nik! During this time, Nik earned his Canine Good Citizen certificate, and trained as a "therapy dog." One of the most difficult parts of his therapy dog training was getting him to understand that, under certain circumstances, it was now OK to get on the furniture (ie, climb into bed with a patient or sit on a chair).



As part of his training, he also accompanied me to many of my medical school labs and classes. Nik quickly became the mascot of the UCSD Medical School, and received his own yearbook entry and portrait (see photo on right).

In his therapy work, Nik spent time with patients at the La Jolla Veterans Administration Hospital, the UCSD Hospital, and the Gifford Clinic. He also participated in a research study, which demonstrated that contact with trained therapy dogs produces statistically significant reductions in depressive symptoms in chemotherapy patients.

Unfortunately, as previously reported in "*Dobie Doings*," UCSD is one of the few medical schools in the United States that

still includes dog vivisection labs as part of its medical school curriculum. Nik has helped in the ongoing effort to end these labs; he appeared in a TV news feature about the dog-lab debate. He also appeared in a recent magazine article profiling Nancy Harrison, MD (founder of the non-profit organization Doctors against Dog Labs-check out their web site!). In a big victory for Nik, Nancy, and all others against dog labs, over two-thirds of UCSD medical students opted out of these labs last year!

Though Nik has now retired from his hospital work, he still provides excellent therapy to me and Tom at the end of our long working days.

-Liz



"Nik D Pinscher"



UCSD School of Medicine  
Class of 1999