



**"Manfred" Burnhardt of Carmel (senior)**

## "Dobie Doings"



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**"Ty" Trabuc of Santa Barbara (senior)**

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

Our last issue, featuring many of the handicapped and imperfect dogs we have placed, was so well received. Thank you for all of your fan mail! We have the stubborn belief that there is a home somewhere for nearly every dog we rescue. Our challenge always is to find that home. It only takes ONE, if it's the right one!

There were a few handicapped alumni that were not included last issue that we simply had not heard back from owners about, and they will be included in the next issue. This issue is devoted primarily to our older dogs. We are constantly striving to find loving homes for our seniors. Both permanent and foster homes are welcome! (See the short article on p. 5 regarding our foster program.) As of last year, our web site is not the only way to showcase our seniors; there is also the Senior Doberman Project (see story on p. 6). Most of our seniors are free to good homes if the new owner is financially challenged, and frequently we'll even deliver them. Senior dogs make particularly good pets for senior citizens, as they are less active, less demanding, and usually have better manners. Many come already trained!

Our new adobe kennels are progressing well. As of this writing, we have 13 of them on nicely-cleared pads in the shade of the old oaks, and we've worked most of the "bugs" out of them so they are just the way we want them. Remember they are also available for private purchase (see <http://www.adobeadope.com>).

Many thanks again to all of you who continue to support our efforts with your generous gifts.

Our vehicle donation program has been working well and has enabled us to turn unwanted cars and other vehicles into support for the animals.

It's always a pleasure to hear from you, whether by phone, mail, or e-mail. When e-mailing photographs, please send them in jpeg format so that we can not only view them, but save them and transmit them for use in our newsletter.

Sincerely,  
*Ardis Munch*

## Adoption Updates

Of the five "imperfect" dogs featured in our last Waiting for Homes section, three were adopted! Here are their stories:

### SLOOPY,

the mini-Doxie-Rat Terrier mix with the deformed foot, was adopted June 15 by Cindy and Ian Singer of Carpinteria. Here's their e-mail, two months later:

Sloopy is an amazing addition to our family, she loves to wake up all our children in the morning. As a mother it's a little frustrating, but so sweet to see the children's faces as they wake. Sloopy has a deformed paw and at first she didn't jump onto the beds or the couches, and she acted as if she had a disability. Now you would never know Sloopy has a paw with 3 toes and is a touch shorter than her others. Sloopy runs, jumps and



**"Sloopy"** with Oakley, Chloe and Teagan

keeps up with her best (dog) friend Sunny. Sloopy is very easy going and absolutely sweet with the children. The twins love to dress Sloopy up and push her around in the doll stroller. She loves it and she lets the children hold her and cuddle her all the time. Sloopy also loves to sunbathe every morning. She and Sunny lay out on the patio together, usually with Sunny's head on top of Sloopy's back. Sloopy and Sunny are definitely high energy but full of love. Thank you Ardis for giving these animals a second chance at a happy life.

## PRANCER,

our big Dobie boy with a slight neurological impairment that caused him to hop alternately on his front legs, has a wonderful new home with Molly Landers of Menlo Park. Here's her e-mail, one month later:

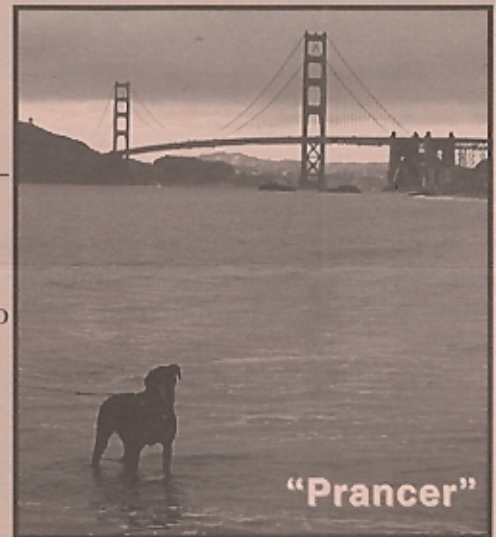
Greetings from northern California! I just wanted to send you an update on Prancer -- he's settled in wonderfully, and has turned into quite the velcro dog! The initial difficulties he had with our stairs have completely disappeared, and the hindpaw scuffing of the first few weeks has lessened notably. He's continuing to improve remarkably, notable on an almost day-to-day basis, and where at first he was somewhat reluctant about his walks, now he gets excited the moment anyone goes near the door -- he can't wait to bound down the stairs out to the street!

I'm also finding he's one of the most intelligent dogs I've yet worked with-- he's picking up hand signals like they're old hat, and we've had to start looking into alternate languages to use for voice cues, as he's so eager to please he's starting to trigger off of everyday conversation, if we happen to mention 'walk,' 'sit,' 'wait' or the like.

A lot of his improvement I credit to days in the water and on uneven surfaces -- the former strengthening his hindquarters, and the latter

making him more aware of what he's doing with them to begin with. Taking him to the beach for the first time was highly entertaining -- you could tell he loved the water, as the second it caught him he'd run farther into it, but he couldn't figure out what in the world to make of it chasing him up the beach. By the end of the day, with a bit of reassurance, he was bounding into and out of the surf like a veteran.

He's an incredibly affectionate and attentive dog as a whole -- he loves to sit with us while we watch TV and just rest his head in our lap, and will sit for hours to be curried and brushed. He seems to want to snuggle with anything available, actually -- much to the dismay of our cats, who still aren't entirely sure what to make of him, though they've warmed to him considerably. I suspect they've decided he's just a really, really large sort of bouncy cat with no tail. And bouncy he is -- the prancing in place of the first couple of weeks has gradually abated, and while he still does it at times, he's starting to show enough confidence in his coordination to jump about. All .. over .. the .. place. :)



I'm including a picture from his first day at the dog beach --unfortunately, by the time we'd thought to fetch the camera, low clouds had started rolling in, so the beautiful blue sky and warmth we'd had throughout the day doesn't show.

--Molly

## JILL,

(formerly Peekaboo), our little one-eyed Shih Tzu, now lives with another Shih Tzu by the name of -- you guessed it -- Jack!



## WAITING FOR HOMES

(Senior dogs)

### GUS

was returned to us after spending most of his life with his owner who became homeless. This purebred Doberman is now 8 or 9 years old, black and tan, and he has soft ears and a tail. He's housebroken and prefers to be an only dog. Poor Gus has been waiting for his new home for years and his age is becoming more and more evident. He won't ask for much. Could someone give this boy a comfortable and loving home for what is left of his life?



### SABRE

has been in the rescue program now for 5 years through no fault of his own! He has never been adopted, so he's never had the chance to show what a good boy he is. Sabre gets along with most female dogs and he is big and good-looking for his 7-8 years. We think he would be a fine family dog for adults with older kids, or a great companion for a senior. He appreciates everything and has been waiting far too long for a loving home.



### JITTERBUG

is a beautiful red female Dobie, 8 years old, with perfectly cropped ears. She bonds well, is affectionate, protective, dog-social, housebroken, and has a lovely temperament. She's not recommended for small children, as she is pro-



tective of her resting areas, but she is fine with older kids. She needs to lose some weight and she may require medication for a slight bladder leak. Poor Jitterbug spent 2 years at a boarding kennel until her owner decided to give her up for adoption, so Jitterbug needs to make up for those lost years in the super-wonderful home she deserves!

### LOLA

is an elderly Poodle-Spaniel mix who is so dear that she had to be rescued! We took her to the vet, where she had 17 teeth pulled (she has 4 left). She is good with other dogs and is believed to see and hear reasonably well.



### SILVERINA

is a fragile little Silky Terrier mix, about 10 years young. Her hearing is good, though her eyesight is becoming clouded, and she runs and bounces like a puppy. This photo was taken before her badly matted coat was shaved, so she needs regular brushing to keep her healthy and attractive. She does well with other dogs and loves to be held and cuddled.



### 8-BALL

has been with us over three years, and he's such a good little guy. He's a chubby Dachshund mix, and he's about 8 years old. 8-Ball gets along with other dogs within his territory. He's patient and quiet, probably a dog who would bond well with his owner.



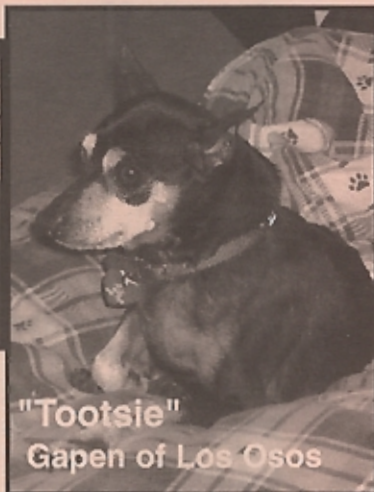
**SOME OF OUR  
WONDERFUL SENIOR ALUMNI**



**"Rusty" Teitell of  
Manhattan Beach**



**"Dauber" Chavez  
of Santa Paula**



**"Tootsie"  
Gapen of Los Osos**



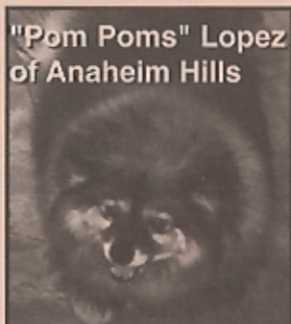
**"Coconut" Schuchert  
of Big Horn, WY**



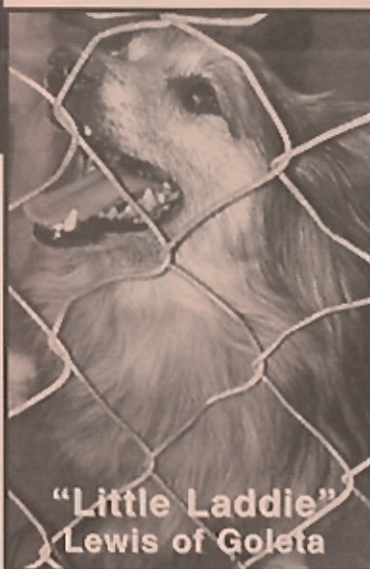
**"Mister" Gill of  
Big Bear City**



**"Garth" Beach  
of Santa Ana,  
with Alan**



**"Pom Poms" Lopez  
of Anaheim Hills**



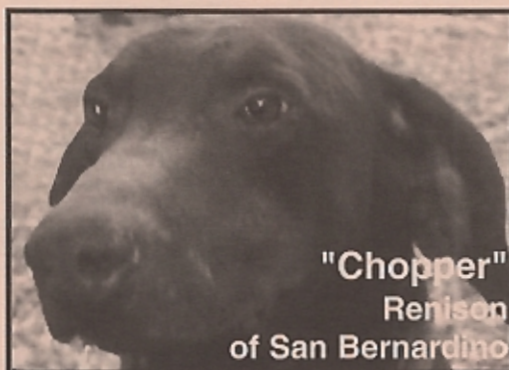
**"Little Laddie"  
Lewis of Goleta**



**"Miss Daisy"  
Dillon of  
Port Los  
Angeles, WA**



**"Zach" Murphy  
of Oxford**



**"Chopper"  
Renison  
of San Bernardino**



**"Duke" Hanson  
Phoenix, AZ  
with Addison**

From Catherine Hanson: This is my first experience with getting a dog from a rescue organization and I highly recommend it! Dukey is the sweetest, most even tempered dog I have ever had the pleasure to have in our family. We knew we couldn't get a Doberman puppy at this time in our lives, we are away from the house a good part of the day, but I wasn't sure how getting an older dog would be. It is wonderful! No messes, no training -- just instant love.

Thank you for all that you do.



**"Roger" Lambert  
of Denver, CO, with  
owner Angela**

From Angela Lambert (How's this for being an older dog fan?): "Roger has not had trouble adjusting to anything. He literally has not had one accident in the house, has never chewed anything, listens all the time, doesn't bark..., is perfect with anyone or animal and loves to go bye byes in the car! I just began the process of getting him certified so that we can volunteer at hospitals/hospice and bring a happy moment to troubled people!"

From a recent e-mail by Trisha Frederickson of Montebello:

When I decided to adopt a senior, I wasn't quite sure what to expect; what I thought and what I got were two different things. Archie had been at the rescue for 5 years, so I knew he was ready for a home. When I brought

him home, I thought he would just want to lay around, being a senior and all. Was I wrong! He kept up with the rest of the bunch (a Golden Retriever and two Dobies) and became one of the gang almost immediately. He loves to play with the other three and loves to fetch the tennis ball. His small tail is constantly wagging and his mouth is always open as if he is smiling. When people think of a senior dog, I think they automatically believe the dog will just want to lay around and be too old to do anything; definitely not in my case. I am sure that if most people gave senior Dobies a chance they would find their opinions about senior Dobbies changing as well.



**"Enzo"  
Dolan  
of Dingman's  
Ferry, PA**



**"Giselle"  
Schionning of  
California City**

**"Geneva"  
Berger  
of Pasadena**



## ABOUT OUR FOSTER PROGRAM

Foster homes are always desperately needed. Many of the dogs are very social and can just hang out with other dogs already in the home. Others need to be the only dog and ask nothing more than food, water, shelter, and a little attention. The dogs who need fostering the most are those who go unnoticed at the rescue ranch for long periods because they are older, average-looking, or of an unpopular mix. Please consider fostering a dog for us, or help us try to locate possible foster homes for these deserving dogs. Medical and feeding expenses are tax-deductible, or we can provide assistance in these areas if requested in advance.

Susan Schionning, our webmaster and very committed volunteer, has accepted the new role

of Foster Program Coordinator. She knows most of the dogs in the rescue and can discuss specific dogs that may be suited to particular homes. Please contact her to discuss any possibilities:  
cell 661-400-2256;  
office 661-275-4794;  
e-mail [dobiesos@earthlink.net](mailto:dobiesos@earthlink.net)

## THE SENIOR DOBERMAN PROJECT

SDP is the joint effort of a network of people who work with three other Dobie organizations and are responsible for the showcasing of senior Dobies on the internet, including the creation of a web site, [www.doberman911.org/seniors/](http://www.doberman911.org/seniors/) and for allotting space to seniors in need in The Doberman Digest magazine.

Our rescue has benefited from their help, and, in turn, our volunteers Susan Schionning and Mariah O'Donnell have provided many hours of service to benefit SDP.

## MARIAH and KILLIAN

**M**ariah O'Donnell came to us to adopt her first Dobie in December last year. She was an easy placement: not married, no children, no other dogs. We could place nearly any dog on the property with someone like her. She chose a dog we called Bradley, a handsome red male with poorly cropped ears who had always had to be kenneled alone at our facility, as he could not seem to tolerate any other dogs.

Not too long afterward, we received a bombardment of e-mail about an older female who was at a high-kill shelter. She looked just pathetic in her picture. Betty Cochran, our Fresno counterpart, said she would take the old lady. We made arrangements to pick her up and arrange transport for her to Fresno. When we got to the shelter, they said she had already been adopted! The adopter turned out to be none other than Mariah, and she decided to keep the old lady, whom she named Cinderellie, who happened to get along famously with Bradley, whom she renamed GusGus.

Since these two took up residence with

Mariah, she has been a regular foster mom for many of our Dobies passing through on their way to the rescue, particularly if they need special treatment for depression or stress-related problems. Mariah got seriously hooked on this special breed, and in particular on the sweet old-timers, such as Lucky, her eldest..

One dog who passed through her care is a dog she named Killian. He didn't have a name when he came to her from a shelter in her area (Orange County). While hanging out with the critters at home one evening, he spilled a bottle of beer, which happened to be Killian's Red. He was Killian from that moment on.

After a suitable length of time, Mariah brought Killian to the rescue where he could be viewed and, hopefully, adopted. He wouldn't be an easy placement, as he was still underweight and about 7 years old. During this time, he was posted on our web site and noticed by Ed Connelly of Loma Rica, California, near Sacramento, about a 7-hour drive from Fillmore. Ed noticed Killian first because of his Irish name (Ed himself being Irish), and Ed wanted Killian, but he had been in a terrible accident in which he had lost a leg, and he couldn't drive to Fillmore to pick him up.

While we were trying to work out transport for Killian, he began to get stressed, we assume, because he began losing his hair and developed several raw areas from licking himself, probably due to boredom. We arranged for him to go back to Mariah until we could get him to Loma Rica.

Mariah actually intended to take him, but just about the time she planned to go, Cinderellie broke into her locked garage and ate TEN POUNDS of ribs! She then bloated. After an emergency vet bill of \$2,200, Cinderellie survived, but Mariah was at that point broke and not able to take the time off to go to Loma Rica.

So Eric and I delivered him on July 21. It was a long ride up the 5 Freeway, but the destination was so beautiful that we fell in love with it. Suddenly after the flat ground before Sacramento, rolling hills and beautiful trees and horse country are the scenery. We handed Killian over to Ed, spent a few minutes watching Killian investigate every corner of his new property, take a long drink out of the fountain, meet his new canine friend, and we were off.

Three and one-half weeks later, we got the fol-





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lowing e-mail from the Connelly family:

Dear Everyone:  
Since Killian arrived home 7/21/03 and had an unexpected surprise waiting at the gate for him (Sandy, a 4-year-old Shepherd rescue), it was love at first sight. The two jokers team up to tease the donkey, play with the kids and soak up tons of love. Sandy is training Killian to play and have some manners, typical female.



Killian is learning about toys (even the cats' toys). Oh yes, the cats moved next door to Grandmother's house. The next game will be tether ball as Sandy is a Soccer and TB addict. Killian is learning English rapidly and thus adding to his confidence and enjoyment of all things, his confusion is not nearly as severe as when he arrived home.

His first car ride (and only to date) was somewhat upsetting for him as he seemed to be afraid he was going to be left somewhere strange again. He went completely nuts when he got HOME, we swear he grinned for 3 days. Next time will be better and he'll learn to enjoy outings.

He has become a very good watch dog and his person Dad says he has a distinct bark for all events, from Grandmother and friends are here to some unknown is out there Dad and off he goes to

protect his home and family (even the donkey), he has a cat holler, seems to be a born communicator.

Loyalty is another trait, along with gentleness. His person Dad lost his left leg in March and is learning to use a prosthetic limb, sometimes he is in a wheelchair and others he hops on crutches, at those times Killian is very concerned and extremely careful and controls his natural hopping and dancing to the extreme.

If Killian is 7 years old, it certainly isn't evident except for a few white hairs, he acts like a happy 3-year-old. He behaves better than a child of that age. We were all amazed when he was in the house and decided he needed to go out. He simply went to the door, stood on his hind legs and turned the doorknob then pushed the door shut when he was outside.

His health is great, the skin allergy must have been stress-related. He's putting on weight though he is a Type A personality. We were expecting some altercation between him and Sandy at meal time but none developed. Surprising since he was starved for so long and will eat the cats' food if he finds it.

On his Report Card the entire family gives him an A+. Thank you all for saving a wonderful boy and letting us share in his life.

Sincerely,  
Edward & Claire Connelly, James, Eddie, Ginger, Hanna and Grandmother Chris  
Loma Rica, California

## Doberman Pinscher Rescue



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Fillmore, California 93015

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### **Keepers** by Eric Munck

#### **OUR FIRST CORPORATE SPONSOR!**

Barbara and Alex Elliot of Ojai are old friends of Dobie Rescue ~ they have two wonderful dogs, both of which came from us. Over the years, the Elliots have generously donated time, money and even established and supervised the e-bay auction we held a few years back. Equally generous, their son and daughter-in-law donated a very nice Jeep Wrangler, and they don't even have a dog!

It is with pleasure that we announce that Dobies & Little Paws now has its first corporate sponsor, [www.nextalarm.com](http://www.nextalarm.com), thanks to Alex Elliot, who happens to be the CEO.

According to their web site, [nextalarm.com](http://www.nextalarm.com) offers home and business alarm monitoring for just \$14.95 a month, which is about half of what the other alarm monitoring companies charge. And you don't have to sign up for a binding 36-month contract; just pay as you go, month by month.

The best part is that [nextalarm.com](http://www.nextalarm.com) will donate \$1 per account per month to Dobie Rescue for the duration of your association

with [nextalarm.com](http://www.nextalarm.com). So you cut your alarm monitoring bill in half and help feed the dogs at the same time. Truly a win/win situation!

To explore this further, log on to [www.nextalarm.com](http://www.nextalarm.com) or call toll free (877) NEXT 911 and find out why most alarm companies overcharge by as much \$29.95 a month and learn how you can receive the same quality service for just \$14.95 from [NEXTALARM.com](http://www.NEXTALARM.com) and help us feed the critters!

### **Parting Shots**



**"Coco" Thompson (senior dog on right) of Lakeside, with Aspen and Jade**