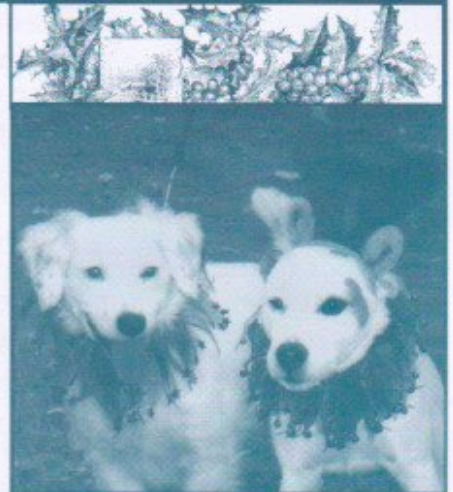


"Dobie Doings"



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Fillmore, California 93015
Phone (805) 524-5102
www.dobierescue.org
e-mail: dobierescue@earthlink.net



"Henry" and "Whitey"
Owsley of Ventura

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

This past quarter has been such a devastating one in many ways. The one that affected us most deeply at Dobies and Little Paws was, of course, hurricane Katrina and its dreadful aftermath. Being a dog rescue foundation, we felt that the best thing we could do to help was to take in some of the sick, starving animals whose owners had to abandon them during the forced evacuation.

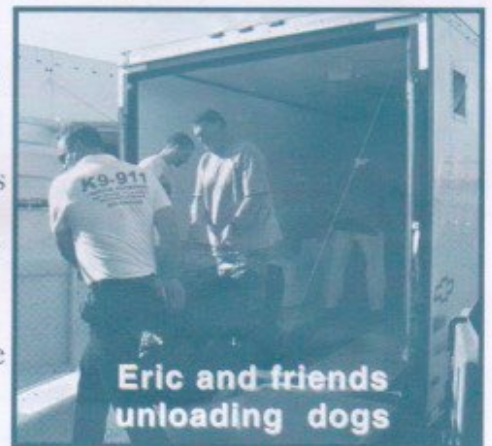
There was much communication back and forth on the internet, so I put the word out that we would commit to taking fifty dogs, but we would appreciate getting dogs that could live together peacefully. That pretty much included anything except Pit Bulls and Jack Russell Terriers. Another rescue group coordinated the arrangements, and we and several other groups spent the day Tuesday, September 20th, waiting for the dogs to arrive on their airlift.

The jet landed at about 3 p.m., and most of us waiting broke into tears of joy that these animals, who had been through so much, were safe and on their way to getting the protection and care they needed. There were supposed to be 150 animals on the flight, but, due to bureaucratic red tape, only 80 dogs and 22 cats were allowed to board.

We brought Eric's 48-foot enclosed trailer loaded with 80 empty crates for immediate shipment back to Louisiana as soon as the animals were unloaded. Between us and a few others with horse trailers and vans, all the dogs and cats were loaded up and taken to a staging area in Torrance, the Centinela Feed and Grain warehouse. These

great folks allowed us to remain until late evening processing the animals. They were thoroughly vet-checked, including heartworm testing. All of us were shocked and disheartened to find that 50 of the 80 dogs had heartworms. (Please read the article inside about heartworm and its prevention.)

Due to good publicity about the animals' arrival, many private citizens showed up who were willing to take a dog or cat to foster. As a result, we ended up being assigned only nine dogs from this airlift, three of which had heartworm.



Eric and friends unloading dogs

After taking the dogs into our facility, between two other rescue groups taking one dog each and the willingness of others willing to foster a dog for us, we ended up having to keep only two dogs. Our hope also was that, of the five foster homes, most might end up loving and keeping their new family member. (At least four apparently will!)

We made one more attempt to take in a large quantity of hurricane dogs, which ended up being a disaster. Eric will describe that effort in his article, "Keepers," on pages 7-8.

The best news is, of the dogs we took in, two

0807

have already been reunited with their owners! In both cases, it took six weeks for the dogs to be matched with their owners. There are so many animals posted on the web sites devoted to rescued animals that it is almost literally like looking for a needle in a haystack. The stories of these two lucky dogs are on pages 6 and 7. Get ready with your box of Kleenex!

We want to thank all of you who opened your hearts and your wallets to help us with the extra burden of caring for the hurricane dogs, in addition to the wonderful support you give us year round to enable us to do our "usual" rescue work. Enjoy our centerfold holiday pictures of your dogs from previous years, and have a happy and healthy holiday season ~ the best ever!

Sincerely,
Ardis Munch



Ardis with dogs having just arrived on airlift

WAITING FOR HOMES

HOWIE

is a 7-year-old Cocker Spaniel who was lucky enough to cross paths with someone who took him in until a rescue could be found (us) to provide him with longer-term care. We've had Howie for 1 1/2 years, probably because he has a disability. (He has a bad rear leg, probably the result of an old injury.) Howie is housebroken, good with other dogs and kids, non-destructive, and terribly sweet.



BLUE.

is a large blue male Dobie with a nice temperament. He can live with a large female dog and will, in general, defer to her. He's affectionate without being too needy, and he's mellow. He can probably work with a family with older kids. Blue takes a small thyroid pill twice daily to make him feel and look his best.

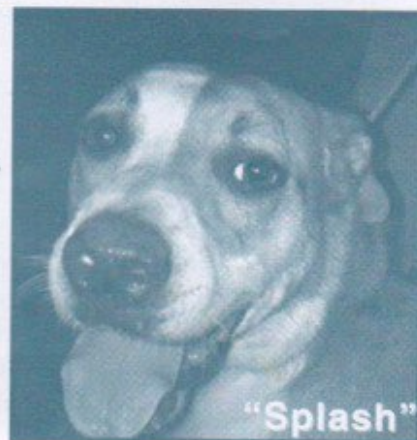


SPLASH

is the only dog we have left at our kennel that we took in from hurricane Katrina. We aren't sure of his breed; probably a Pit Bull mix of some kind.

We named him Splash because he loves to play with water coming out of hoses.

He also loves tug-of-war, and he's a tall, happy, goofy boy of about 18 months. Unfortunately, he doesn't like other dogs and will immediately fight with them. He would enjoy a big back yard with adults and older kids, and - good news - he's heartworm negative!

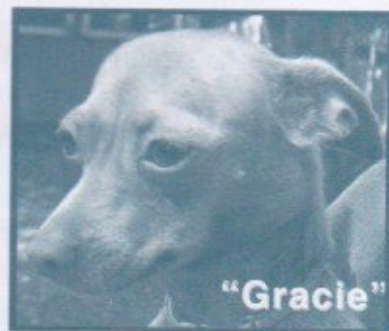


GRACIE

originally came to us from the owner, who said she snapped at her grandchild.

Actually, Gracie doesn't enjoy anything unknown or unpredictable; she likes her environment to be mellow and familiar.

She's a young adult Italian Greyhound-Chihuahua mix who weighs about 9 pounds. She is very loving to an adult owner.



Adoption Updates

CORINNE,

the sweet older girl Dobie featured in our last newsletter, has been adopted by Melanie Berger of Pasadena.

Initially, Melanie, an old friend who has adopted a number of dogs from us previously, just wanted to help by fostering a dog to make room for one more dog from hurricane Katrina. But, as she says, "Corinne is so happy, and I just love her."

Corinne gets along perfectly with Melanie's other dogs, and she has "adopted" the sleeper sofa. Her worst behavior is to sneak unattended food off the counter (a whole loaf of rye bread!) because she loves to eat.

Another happy ending for a deserving dog and a deserving owner.

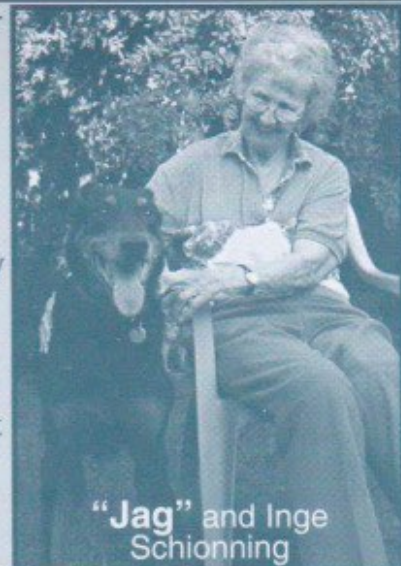


He did another lengthy stint with us, and we finally placed him with lovely people in Westlake Village, Barbara and Harry Heilbroner. Jag was older by then, but the Heilbroners didn't care that he wasn't beautiful and didn't like other

dogs; they were older themselves and just wanted one dog. Jag spent just over a year there, and then Harry passed away from heart disease, Barbara following the next year with emphysema.

Jag was back with us again, we feared, for the rest of his life. A number of months later, Susan Schionning's mother's old dog passed away. Susan, as many of you know, is our webmaster, volunteer, and founder of Doberman Pinscher SOS for special needs Dobermans. She thought perhaps her mother, who has Alzheimer's but still lives in her own home with the help of a full-time caregiver, might like Jag.

We think the picture above tells the story. It's another happy ending for a good dog and a good owner.



JAG'S MERRY CHRISTMAS

Some of our long-term readers will remember Jag's story. We originally got him from an animal shelter, where the employees were almost apologetic about showing him to us because he had "home-cropped" ears (someone cropped them with scissors). He is also slightly mixed, as Dobermans go, with a little more fur than is correct for the breed.

We took him anyway. It took some time to get him adopted, as many people do not want a dog that other people will feel sorry for, as they probably think those people will think they did that to the dog. He had a happy home for several years but was eventually returned because he was dog-aggressive.

MEDICAL MATTERS

HEARTWORM!!

The most surprising thing about the airlifted dogs from New Orleans was the high incidence of heartworm. Fifty out of eighty dogs, a staggering 62.5%, had heartworm!

Heartworm can occur anywhere there are mosquitoes, which transmit the infection. In our area of Southern California, heartworm is at a low level currently, but it is becoming more prevalent due to lack of preventive medicines and increased incidence in wildlife such as coyotes. Whether the animal survives or not is dependent upon its overall health and how

Continued Page 6



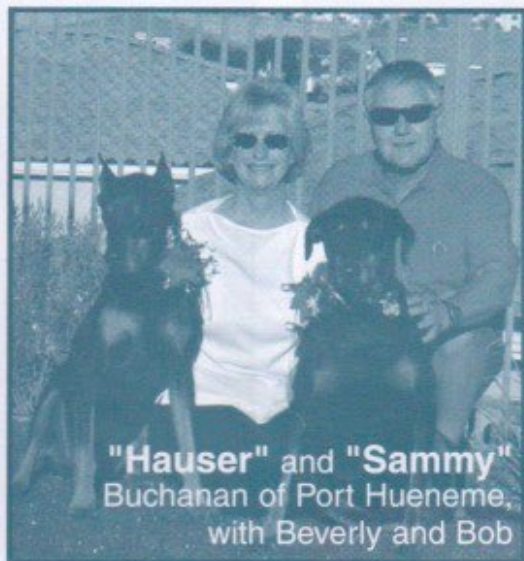
"Buddy," "Kobe," and "Alfie" Taylor with Hannah, Lisa and Evan of Thousand Oaks



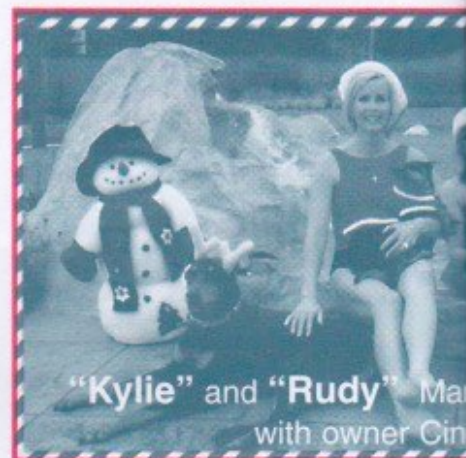
"Max" and "Friday" Miller of Quartz Hill, with Mark and Catherine



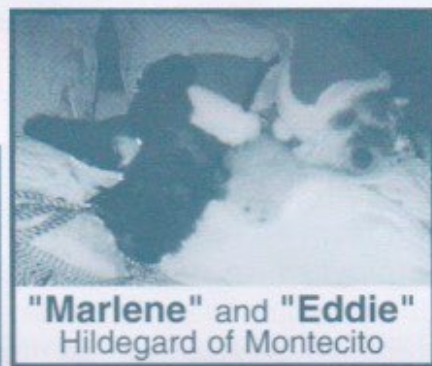
"Abby" and "Ginger" Frederickson-Martinez of Montebello, with Allison



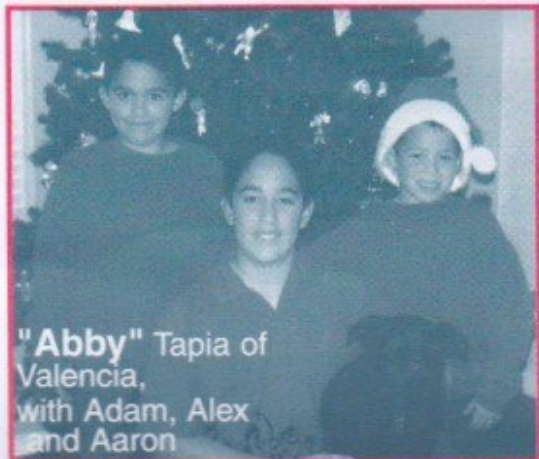
"Hauser" and "Sammy" Buchanan of Port Hueneme, with Beverly and Bob



"Kylie" and "Rudy" Mar with owner Cindy



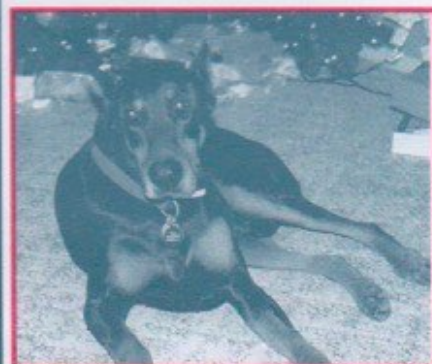
"Marlene" and "Eddie" Hildegard of Montecito



"Abby" Tapia of Valencia, with Adam, Alex and Aaron



Happy Holidays



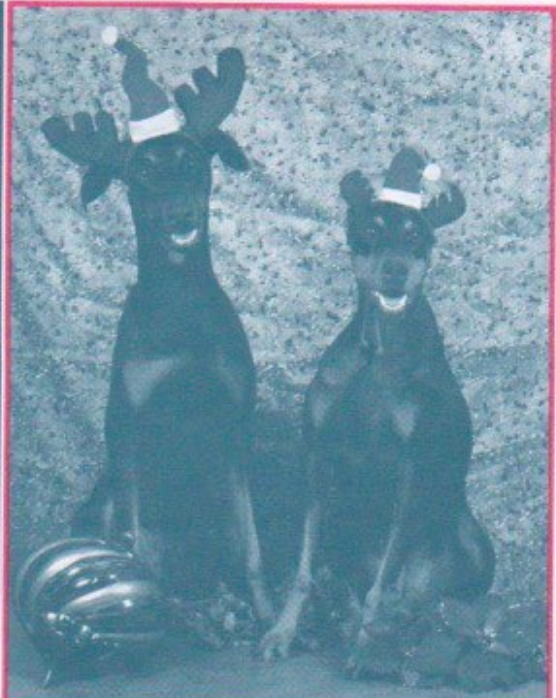
"Zeus" Jandro of Madera

"Peanut," "Lacy," and "Butters" Owyong of Glendale, with Santa



Happy Holidays

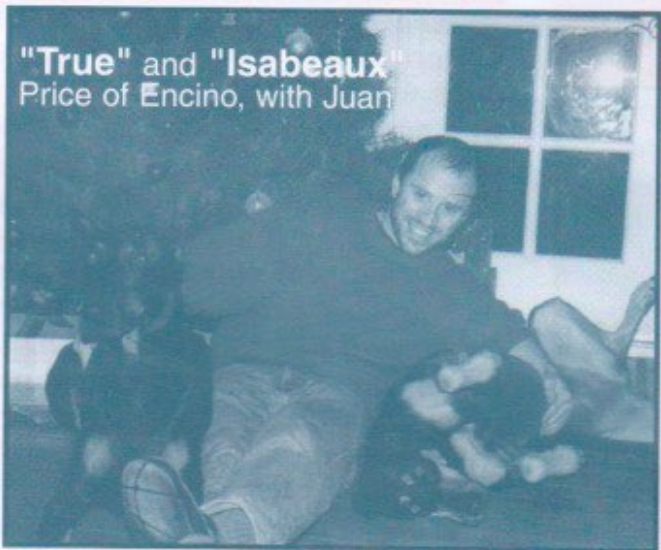
"Bailey" and "Brinkley" Cohn of Villa Park



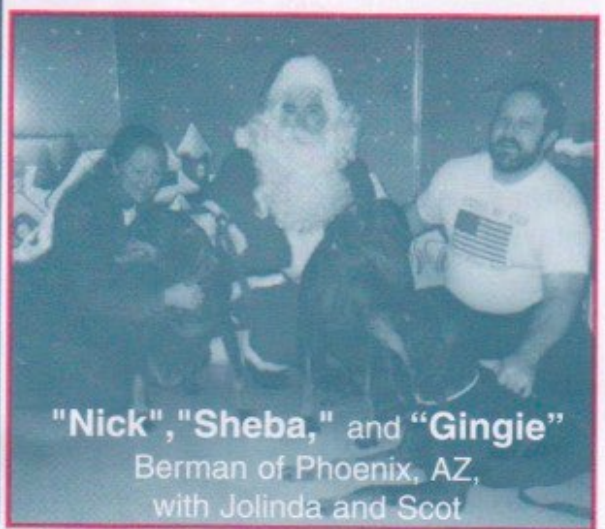
"Dijon" and "Monet" Kahler of Torrance



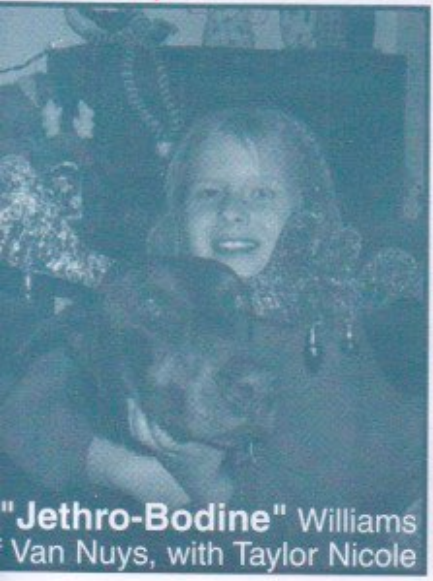
igo of Bonita and friends.



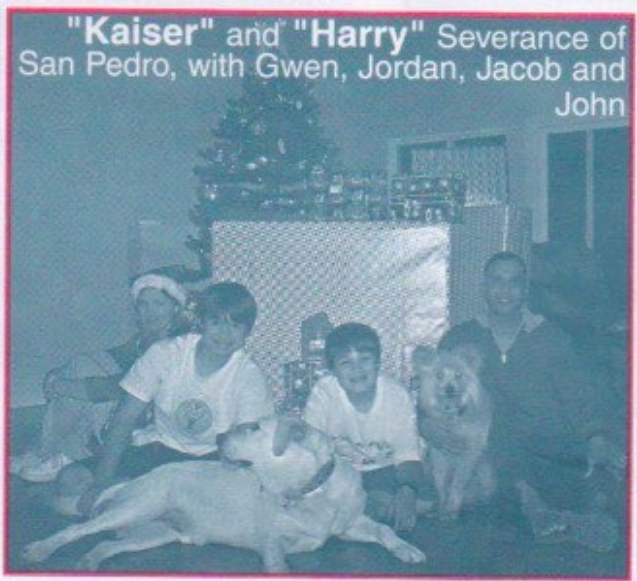
"True" and "Isabeaux" Price of Encino, with Juan



"Nick," "Sheba," and "Gingie" Berman of Phoenix, AZ, with Jolinda and Scot



"Jethro-Bodine" Williams Van Nuys, with Taylor Nicole



"Kaiser" and "Harry" Severance of San Pedro, with Gwen, Jordan, Jacob and John



"Sadie" Buffehr of Mariposa



advanced the infection is when diagnosed. Treatment is essential, but it is risky and requires hospitalization for several days. Very sick and elderly animals are at higher risk of not surviving the treatment.

The worms are quite long, up to twelve inches. Large numbers have the appearance of spaghetti within the chambers of the heart, and they clog the circulation so that blood cannot properly reach the lungs and other vital organs. Symptoms include coughing, labored breathing, anemia and lack of energy. Because prevention is effective and inexpensive, we recommend you take your pet for a veterinary exam and have the heartworm test done. If the test is negative, a heartworm preventive such as HeartGard can be started. It's inexpensive, easily administered, and needs to be given only once a month. Then you'll never have to put your furry friend through the difficult, expensive, and life-threatening heartworm treatment.

LUCKY LACEY

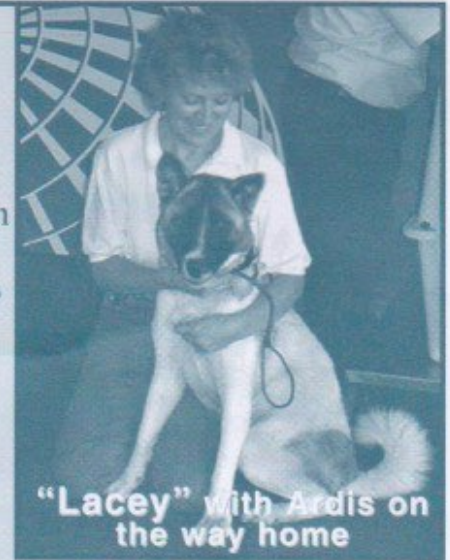
We had never had an Akita in our program before. Though Lacey wasn't very social with other dogs, she was a pleasure to have around. Always happy, ready for play and attention, she was quite enjoyable.

She is one of the dogs we took in from the hurricane Katrina airlift, and she had ID tags. We called the number on the tag, and the owner's name, address, and phone number were provided to us. Unfortunately, the owner, Anthony Lowe, had a disconnected phone number; not surprising, since so many folks in New Orleans, where he lived, were homeless. We sent a letter by certified mail, hoping it would be forwarded or held for pickup at the post office. Nothing.

Finally, six weeks later, an e-mail came. Lacey's owner had made contact and was residing in Monroe, Louisiana, in an apartment. We called immediately and spoke to Bridget Lowe, Anthony's wife. She was so happy to hear from us! She said she had never realized how much she cared for Lacey - who had always been Anthony's dog - until she saw Lacey's pic-

ture on the internet and knew she was safe.

Bridget said they didn't even have a camera to take pictures of Lacey's arrival, as they lost everything in the hurricane. She said they would try to get pictures taken to send to us. What a great feeling to be able to return their beautiful dog to them just in time for the holidays!



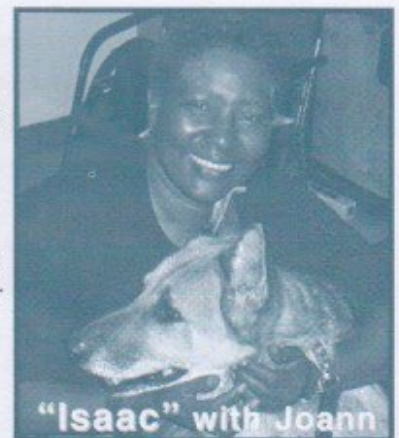
"Lacey" with Ardis on the way home

...AND LUCKY ISAAC

Isaac was also a pleasure to know. He's a "gentleman" dog, as we refer to those dogs who are well-behaved and kind. He was another hurricane Katrina dog who was fostered nearly from the beginning with Michelle St. John in Santa Paula. Michelle just loves German Shepherds, so when she saw Isaac, she volunteered immediately to let him come to stay at her home.

As with Lacey, Isaac had ID tags; quite a few of them, actually. Unfortunately, his owner's phone was also disconnected, and the certified mail we sent was also unanswered. But, six weeks later, a few days after we spoke with Lacey's owner, we had contact information for Isaac's owner as well.

Her name is Joann Lloyd, and she had to vacate her house when evacuations were mandatory, and once again, no pet evacuations were permitted. She left Isaac indoors with plenty of food and water. When we spoke with her, she had returned to her house but was living on the second floor and was still



"Isaac" with Joann



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.

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100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals

without electricity as of late October.

Joann, a retired attorney, was beyond happy to hear from us. She lost her husband five years ago and about the same time discovered Isaac in a junkyard, ill and depleted, and asked the owner to give Isaac to her. She hospitalized him for a week and cured his heartworms. Then they built a close relationship, probably saving each others' lives. The picture shows a very emotional reunion between Joann and Isaac.

Good News

Now there's a web site for dog-friendly rentals available. Please save this link and share it with friends who may need to find a dog-friendly rental house or apartment. And then provide the link.

<http://www.fidofriendlyapartments.com/apartments/ca.htm>

(InternetShortcut)

URL=<http://www.fidofriendlyapartments.com/apartments/ca.htm>

Keepers by Eric Munck

Since we didn't receive as many dogs from hurricane Katrina as we were able to take in, I was "volunteered" by Ardis to drive to Payson, Arizona. 150 dogs were stuck there that needed to be taken in and fostered, according to the Best Friends animal group in Utah. Prior to

departing, I loaded up my 48-foot enclosed car trailer with about sixty crates, a 100-gallon water tank, a large Kawasaki generator, and a huge cooling fan. My truck went in for an alignment and a quick oil change. Austin, my trusty Queensland Heeler companion, said he was ready for anything. We left at 11 p.m. the night of October 4th to pick up about fifty storm orphans. It was a mission doomed for failure and a first-class disaster. All went well until we started climbing uphill out of Phoenix. Payson is at 5,000 feet, and it's a long grind, especially when you're towing a 12,000-pound trailer. Suddenly, without warning, the motor quit. I suspected vapor lock, and sure enough, there was nothing but air in the fuel filter. I sat there for 3 hours waiting for things to cool down. Austin and I made friends with a couple of state troopers.

I had intended to pick up the dogs late afternoon on the 5th and drive all night back home to ensure they would be as cool as possible (in addition to ventilating the trailer with a giant fan powered by the portable Kawasaki generator). By the time I got to Payson, it was dark. I called the people with the dogs to get directions to their place and was told they were another 40 miles away on a narrow, winding road. I twice repeated to the woman giving me directions that I was pulling a 48-foot trailer, the size of a semi. Having received no warnings, I attempted the road; big mistake! It soon became a treacherous mountain trail! I came to a hairpin that was too tight to negotiate. On one side was a mountain, on the other, a vertical drop of about 300 feet. The trailer slid sideways,



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ending up with the left set of wheels suspended in thin air. One false move and the trailer would have slid into the abyss, pulling the truck, Austin, and me with it. The vultures would have been happy! No cell phone service, either.

Abandoning the trailer, I drove the truck back into town and spent the night. The following day I found a tow truck driver with a big rig that put my trailer back on the road and got it turned around, all for only \$1,080. While towing the trailer back out of the woods, the suspension on my truck came apart, I lost control of the truck and went into the nearest ditch at about 2 mph. As luck would have it, the tow truck was still with me, so we abandoned the trailer (again!), put the truck on the flatbed and towed it into Payson. If the suspension had failed on the freeway, the whole rig would have jackknifed, the trailer would have crushed the truck, and I would not be writing this.

I ordered new parts to be FedEx'd from Bakersfield, California to repair the suspension, which failed because the alignment shop didn't tighten a bolt. Then I called the Payson people and asked them to bring the dogs into town, since it would not be possible for me to reach them. They refused, claiming they didn't have any vehicles. I called Ardis, who got in touch with the Best Friends people, who made some calls and actually located about ten volunteers who were willing to drive down from other places in Arizona, get the dogs, and bring them to me. That didn't happen, either, because by then the people with the dogs had decided that they didn't

want to give the dogs to anyone. What a waste of time! We can only hope they're taking care of the dogs' heartworms!

One good thing that came out of this adventure was a very good piece of equipment that was donated for the purpose of keeping the orphans cool. I had put out the word that we desperately needed a generator to power my 110-volt, four-foot-in-diameter fan to circulate air in the trailer for the pooches. A first-class gentleman by the name of Chris Nelson, the owner of Santa Barbara Kawasaki, donated a top-of-the-line, electric-start 5,000-watt generator! We had already used it the day we went to pick up the dogs from the airlift, and it worked like a charm.

We also want to thank the good folks at Newco, our pet food distributor, and Diamond and Pedigree dog food companies, for the large quantities of food donated to help the hurricane orphans.

WISH LIST

Dear Santa,

We've been extra-good this year. We need: Crates, new or used (to replace the ones we sent to New Orleans); canned dog food, flea-tick shampoo, Advantage, Frontline, old blankets, unwanted vehicles in any condition, and spare change.

Love,
Dobies & Little Paws

