

Dobies and Little Paws Rescue Report

VOL. 13 NO 3
September, 2008



"Sady" Itzenhauser-
Strauss of Los Osos

"Dobie Doings"



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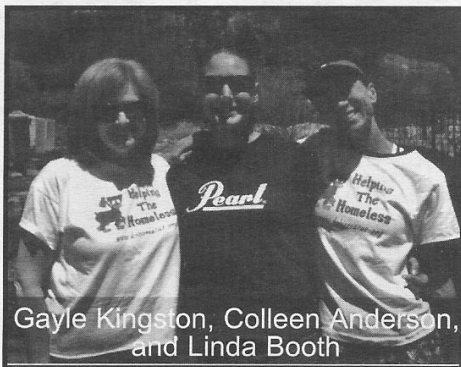
"Dinko" Beers of Ojai
with Lauren

Ardis Braun Director Suzette Smith Graphic Designer Michael Forester Webmaster Dennis Bolton Printer

It was a pretty uneventful summer overall. Summers usually mean slow adoptions, as folks are taking vacations or moving and want to get settled before adopting a new dog. That, coupled with the continuing drastic number of foreclosures on homes, has rescue facilities bursting at the seams. It is most tragic for the wonderful mixed-breed dogs in such abundance at the animal shelters, as rescuers have trouble keeping up with their own breeds and usually can't begin to help the lovable mutts.

Please continue to watch unoccupied homes that might contain animals left behind when the owners moved. We just heard from a realtor in Marina del Rey who reported that he saved a two-year-old German Shepherd from starvation when the owners left their home that had been foreclosed on. The dog was locked inside and had been without food for five days. Yes, there really are people who are this cruel.

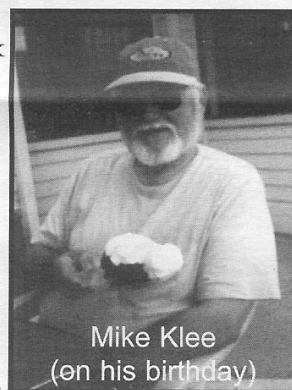
We want to thank all of you once again who continue to help us with your gifts of



Gayle Kingston, Colleen Anderson,
and Linda Booth

every kind. As you probably know, everything donated goes entirely toward helping the dogs in our care.

An especially big thank you to our terrific volunteers! Years ago, when I was still young and spry, and before we had our wonderful web site that probably increased our adoptions threefold, I did all adoptions myself. I couldn't begin to do that any more! The volunteers pictured here show up almost every weekend to help show dogs to our adopters, explain our policies, walk dogs, repair kennels, etc. They are the best!



Mike Klee
(on his birthday)

Don't forget that we love to hear from you, and we particularly love your pictures! If any of you have not already sent us your doggie holiday pictures from last year, please do so by November 1 so that we may include them in our next newsletter.

Smiles and hugs to you and your great dogs.

Sincerely,

Ardis Braun

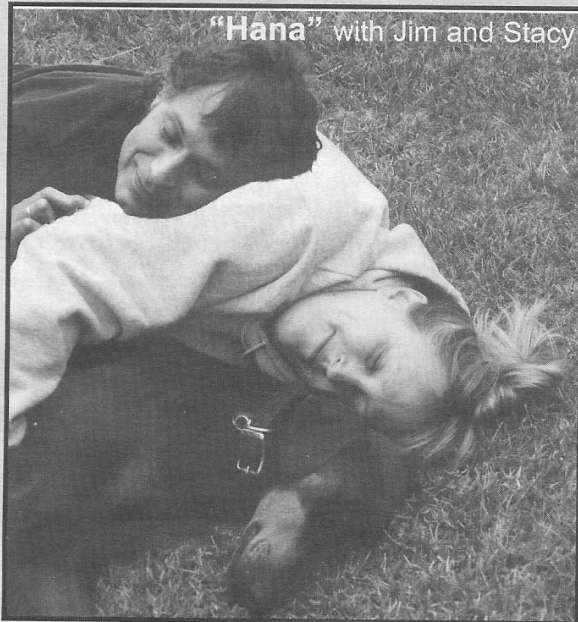
ADOPTION UPDATES

ZEPPELIN,

the lovely blue girl Dobie who was so timid when she arrived here, was adopted by Stacy and Jim Simmons of Long Beach. Her new name is Hana. She had already been worked with by our volunteers, who took her for walks and got her more comfortable with new and different surroundings. A few words from Stacy's and Jim's most recent e-mail:

"We wanted to let you know that Hana (Zeppelin) is doing great. She has adapted quickly to her new home and has made it her own....She greets the golfers at the golf course behind our house, but she cannot figure out why they don't come to visit.

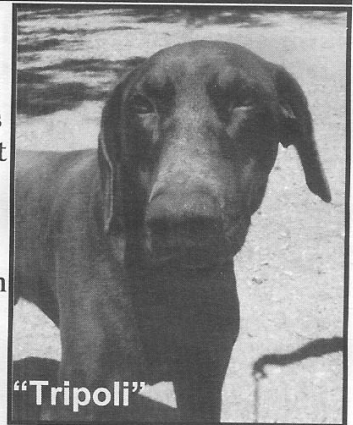
We can never thank you enough for the work you do with the dobies. Hana is a great addition to our lives. (Nah, she isn't spoiled!!!) As you can see from the photos, she is happy and comfortable in hew new life...."



WAITING FOR HOMES

TRIPOLI

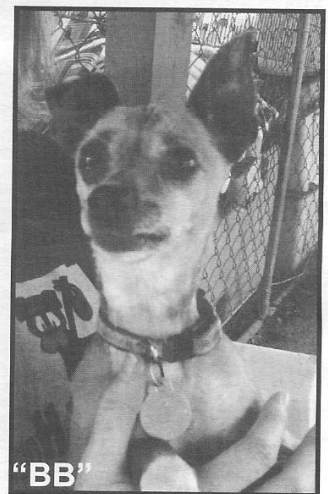
is a handsome 5-year-old red male Dobie who requires a special home that is low-stress and patient. He belonged to a homeless woman in upstate California who always kept him with her, tied to a shopping cart.



One day she was away, and Tripoli broke free and ran around the park where they lived. People became alarmed that a big Dobie was running free with no apparent owner, so the police and animal control departments were called, and they responded, cornering Tripoli in the ladies' room and Tasing him. Naturally, he became aggressive – because Taser guns hurt! He was impounded as a stray, and then it became difficult to get him released because the owner had no home, let alone a yard, to keep him in. Fortunately for him, two ladies who knew him obtained a court order to have him released to us so that we could find an appropriate home for him. It took a couple of months to win his trust, but Tripoli is now a playful, delightful dog who gets along well with large female dogs. He can still be a little skittish in certain situations, so he would do best in an adult home with a loving person or couple.

BB

is a small Chihuahua-Terrier mix who endeared herself to the animal shelter employees and to us. She lives well with almost any small male dog and



has spent several weeks in our cattery as well. BB can be a little "pack leader," however, so a household with more than two dogs probably isn't the best choice for her. She has one slightly twisted front leg from an old injury or birth defect. We estimate BB's age at about 3, and she weighs under ten pounds.

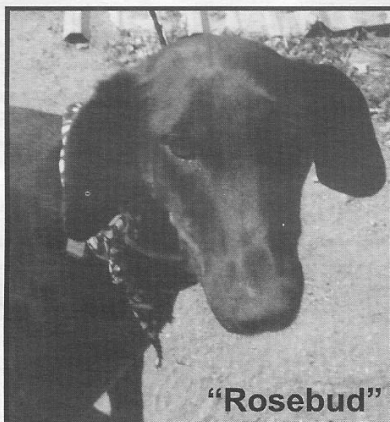
ROSEBUD

A good friend of ours, Phyllis Tavares, adopted a Dobie boy from us years ago, and she now lives in Maui, where she started a cat rescue organization. A few months

ago, Phyllis was visiting a friend of hers in New Mexico, and they visited the humane society in Albuquerque, unfortunately NOT no-kill, where they noticed a lovely red female Dobie, whom they dubbed Rosebud. After checking with us to make sure we would be interested, they obtained the name of Boni Galarneau, a volunteer at the humane society who loves and rescues as many Dobies as she can. When we contacted Boni, she said that, though she was unable to house Rosebud long-term, she could get her released from the shelter, house her temporarily while she got her medical certificate so she could fly, and get her crated and to the airport for us. All we had to do was pay her air fare, and Boni even helped with that. Rosebud is, as one of our kennel employees observed, a "tidy" dog who appreciates attention and can live with large male dogs. She's about 5 years old.

BUG

is a chubby little Norwegian Elkhound mix with a stub tail. He lives well with most other dogs, and he loves kids. He's housebroken, and he's 4 years old. Bug has a



"Rosebud"

twin brother, Soleil, whom he lived with at two separate homes, but these two dogs together always decided it would be such fun to dig under the fence and go exploring. Bug

is an excellent candidate for a family pet, with or without another dog, in a home where his yard is enclosed by a block wall or other fencing that can't be dug under.



"Bug"

VETERINARY MEDICINE AT ITS BEST

Various animal shelters e-mail a list of animals that are at "high risk" to rescuers like us. These lists are distributed regularly and usually include a cute photograph of each dog to break our hearts, and a little information about each dog. In June we got a list from a shelter including the picture and story of a dog we named Reggie. That picture is shown below. The info said he had a "mass in his ear," which meant he was pretty unlikely to be adopted by the public, because most people won't adopt a dog they know they'll have to spend a chunk of money on right away.

We were smitten by the picture of this darling little guy (can you see why?), and we figured we could spare a few hundred dollars for an ear surgery. A trip to our vet disclosed it was going to be far more complicated than that! Reggie had a batch of nodes in his ear canal that had completely closed the canal, and there was a nasty infection below the nodes, which had probably been brewing for years.



"Reggie"

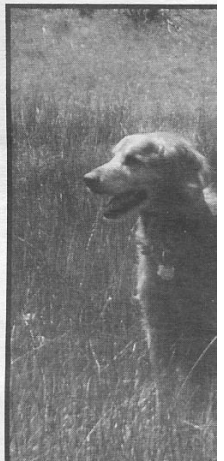
Continued page 6



"Ranger" Graves of South Pasadena,
with May



"Twinkie" Madigan of Santa Barbara



"Sputnik" and
of Rollin



"Toby" Meislin of Manhattan Beach,
with the cat



"Twinkie" and **"Howie"** King of Signal Hill

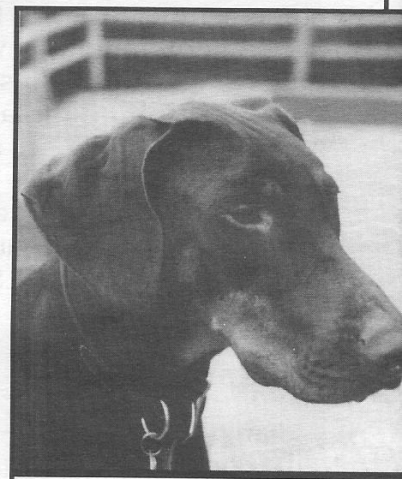
We're adopted!



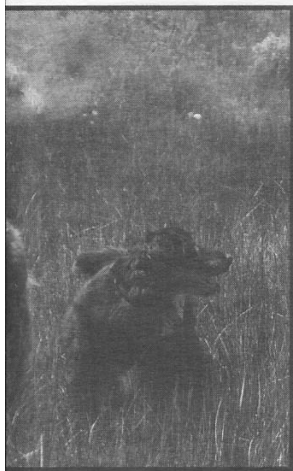
"Bailey" Saxton of Riverside,
with Elizabeth



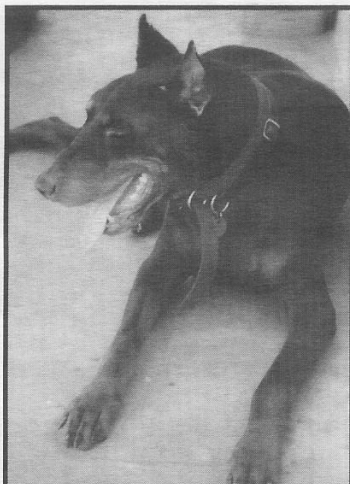
"Twiggy" Sugich of Santa Barbara



"Princeton" Weissmann
of Simi Valley



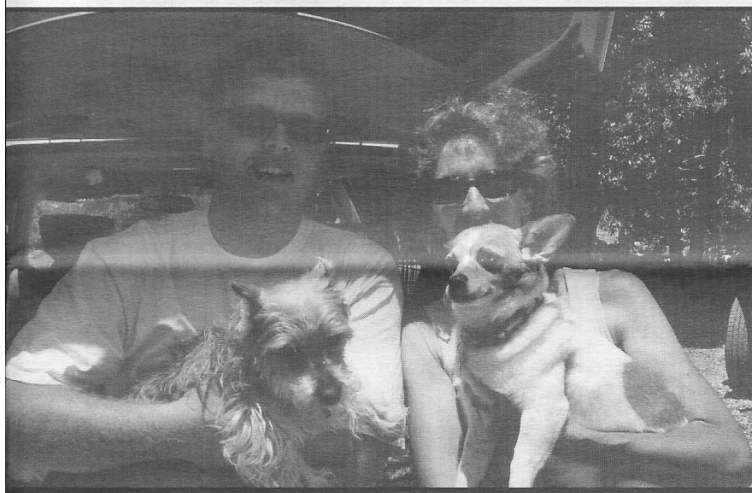
"Laika" Tang-Miller
Hills Estates



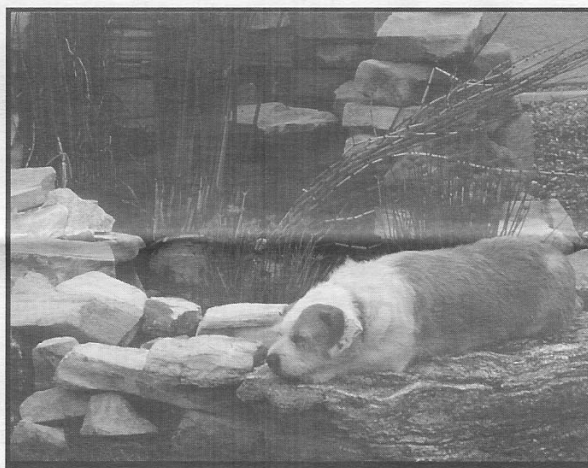
"Zephyr" Dentz
of Glendale, AZ



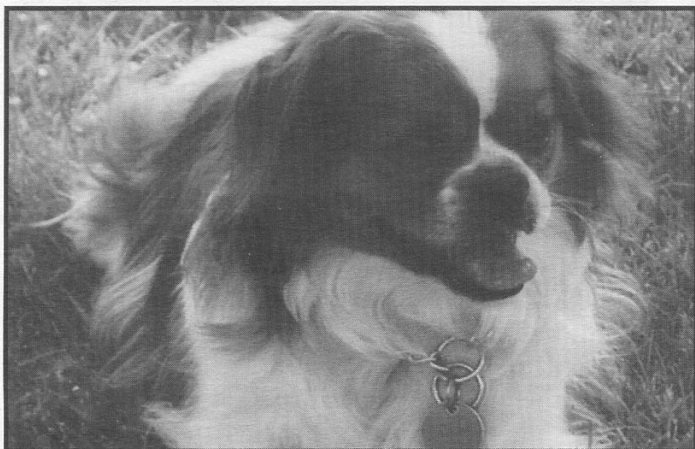
"Willie" and "Mandy" Brunk
of Paso Robles, with Corliss and Larry



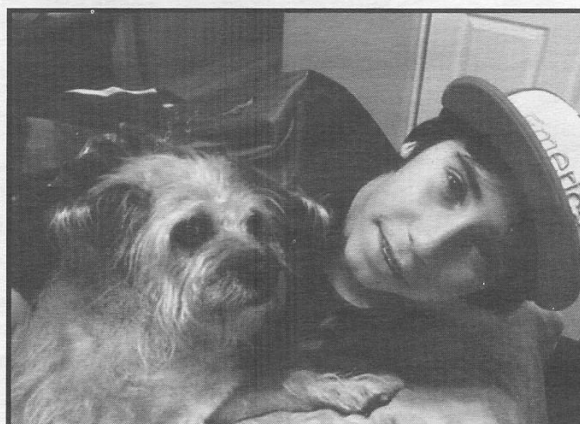
"Suzie" and "Lucky" Meagher of Ventura,
with Justin and Linda



"Lucille" Ulrich of Redondo Beach



"Otto" Watkins of Camarillo



"Einstein" Moir of Camarillo, with Chan

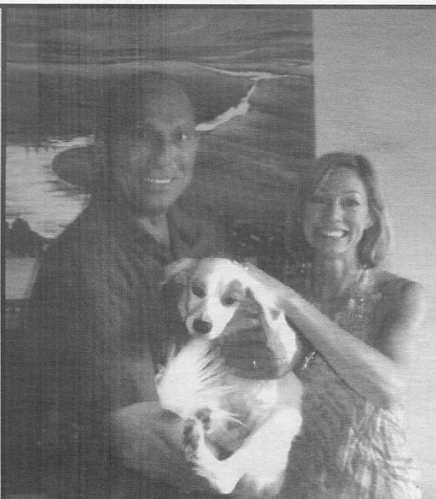
One of two specialized ear surgeries would be required: either an ear "resection," or possibly a complete ear "ablation," where the entire inner ear is removed, leaving the dog deaf in that ear. The reason the surgery is so specialized, we learned, is that there are nerves in the area where the surgery is performed that if damaged, or even offended, can cause temporary or permanent paralysis of the dog's face. Our vet clinic recommended two hospitals in Thousand Oaks that perform the surgery. We made an appointment with Dr. Christopher Frier at the Camino Animal Clinic.

Reggie was a favorite from the first moment. Dr. Frier confirmed that he could do the surgery, but it was going to be expensive. He said he is so fond of rescuers and what we do for animals that he would give us a 50% discount. We proceeded with the surgery, and all of us were in for another surprise: Reggie was even sicker than we all realized. His vet bill ended up being \$3,400 AFTER our discount! He had the same condition in the other ear, though further down the ear canal where it wasn't visible yet without a scope, AND he had impacted anal glands, AND he had giardiasis, AND he had mild pneumonia. This little guy's attitude was so great that, other than a little shaking of his head when his ear bothered him, no one would ever know he was sick.

Dr. Frier did a fabulous job with the surgery, after which Reggie made several more trips to the vet for rechecks, and with all of the strong medications he was on, he made a remarkable recovery – for awhile. On Day 12 he refused all food and was seriously weak, and it was evening, of course – so all the vet clinics were closed except the emergency clinics. We gave him a strong injectible antibiotic and subcutaneous fluids, and took his temperature, which was 104.5, about three degrees higher than normal for a dog. The next morning Reggie was back at the vet's. Dr. Frier was on vacation, but the relief vet, Dr. Erin Reif, did an outstanding job of bringing all the "heavy guns" to bear on the little guy's condition. She disclosed several days later that she hadn't expected him to survive. His temperature had spiked to 105.5, and he was almost too weak to walk. She x-rayed his chest, gave him bronchio-dilators, different types of very strong antibiotics, steroids to reduce inflammation, and even put antibiotics in a humidifier so that he

breathed them in. At the end of that day, the radiologist confirmed Dr. Reif's suspicions that Reggie had diminished lung capacity in one lung, and an abscess in the other.

This was unrelated to



"Reggie" with Brian and Erin

his ear surgery except that his immune system had obviously crashed, and he would never have normal lung function again.

Reggie spent the night at Camino so that he could rest and be free of all unnecessary stress. By the next morning, his temperature was NORMAL!!!! He was still a very sick boy, but he was better, and he continued to improve under Dr. Reif's good care, which included feeding him turkey from the supermarket.

Meanwhile, Dr. Reif and her husband, Brian Caramadre, who are a wonderful couple with two elderly female dogs and no kids, decided they wanted to adopt Reggie. They had both really fallen for him. By the end of the week from hell, Reggie went home with them and made himself at home. He gets better by the day, and he'll never have to suffer again from anything a good vet can fix!

MORE INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

In previous newsletters, we mentioned having taken a number of dogs from an animal shelter in Taiwan which is terribly overcrowded, with about 1,300 dogs living in small cages, who receive a few minutes of weekly exercise. They have recently adopted a "spay/neuter and release" program, where they capture the animals, spay and neuter them, and then unfortunately have to return them to the streets and a very uncertain fate. During the past nine months, they have altered NINE



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.
Card # _____ Expiration date _____

Signature: _____

Please return this form with your contribution
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100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals.
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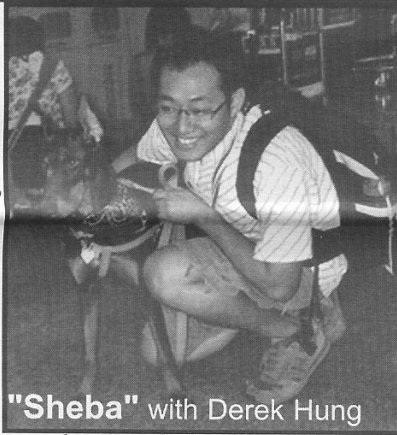
HUNDRED dogs under this program!

In March we took three dogs from their shelter, which is called TUAPA: a Doberman, a Golden Lab, and a Beagle.

The first two have been adopted into loving homes; the Beagle is still waiting.

In May, we accepted a lovely Doberman named Sheba (see pictures) from a private individual who could not keep her. A caring gentleman named Derek Hung accompanied Sheba on her flight from Taiwan, and she was adopted almost immediately by the Ublasi family of California City.

In June, we finally received Tyler, the



"Sheba" with Derek Hung

Doberman we were contacted about in the first place, who was too sick with heartworms at that time to travel. He is a large, proud red male, 4 years old, and he would love to be adopted by someone who would offer him the best America can offer.

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that Tyler enjoys the company of other dogs in his environment.

A Terrier mix named Rasca also made the trip with Tyler, because we were told that black dogs have virtually NO chance of adoption in Taiwan; they are considered bad luck. Rasca is a vivacious little girl of three or four years old who weighs about 20 pounds. She's dog-social and probably would be a great pet for a family. She appreciates ALL attention.

These dogs were accompanied on their flight from Taiwan by Yi-Syuan Lin and Warner Woo Lee.

Finally, at the end of July we accepted William for the same reason: he's black, which is considered bad luck by the Taiwanese. He's about 6 months old



"Tyler"



"Sheba" at home



"Rasca"



Doberman Pinscher Rescue
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and is mostly Border Collie. He's shown here upon his arrival with Ruyu Wu and Monica Yen, who accompanied him from Taiwan. William



experienced a bit of culture shock here; he gets a little frightened when we bring him out of his kennel and introduce him to new people and new places. He needs more socialization in terms of going for walks and meeting new people and dogs. We think he would do best in a home with another dog to give him confidence.

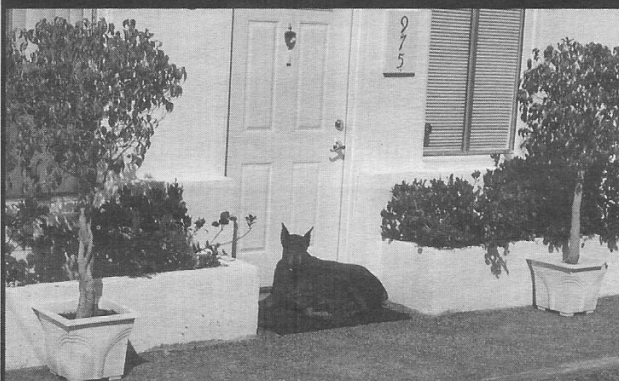
MEDICAL MATTERS

One of our adopters, Jan Reesman of Beverly Hills, found her dog Jordan paralyzed one day due to a spinal stroke, and Jan refused to give up on her and/or put her to sleep. She devoted much effort to getting Jordan rehabilitated, so now, a year later, Jordan runs and plays. If you would like more information on Jan's regimen, please e-mail her at janreesman@gmail.com.

DOGFIGHTING HOT LINE

There is a dogfighting hot line now, sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States. The toll-free number is 1-877-847-4787. You can receive an award of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a dogfighter. All info is kept confidential. The line is answered 24/7. You can leave a message, talk to an investigator, or get their e-mail address and leave your own. If a dogfight is in progress, immediately call the police at 9-1-1. Then call the hot line.

PARTING SHOTS



"Mischa" Stanavich of Los Angeles

"Home is where the dog is"