



"Tosca" Seno of Ventura, with  
Dianne

## "Dobie Doings"



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"Misty" Michaelsen of San Diego

**Ardis Braun** - Director **Colleen Anderson** - Webmaster & Graphic Designer **Dennis Bolton** - Printer

**A**nother new year has arrived, and it's amazing how quickly they pass! I wish we could say that the new year looks to be a better one for the animals, but unfortunately it seems to be worse than ever. There are many reasons for this, but they all add up to the animals having not even a fraction of what they need to exit to safety from animal shelters by adoption or rescue.

We have been accepting virtually no dogs from owners, hoping that since they aren't facing imminent euthanasia, there is a chance that a friend, relative or neighbor might take the unwanted dog, or maybe even that the owner may hire a good trainer to help fix a problem behavior that is making it necessary to rehome the dog. We have convinced a few owners – many of whom weren't even aware of the dire situation at animal shelters - to look into these options.

As always, we are enormously grateful to our ground transport volunteers and to the wonderful pilots with Pilots n Paws that continue to deliver more than half of the dogs we rescue from all over the state. Many of the central valley shelters have a very short holding period for stray dogs because of the space they require for new intakes, *every day*.

During this past holiday season, as always, we heard from so many of our adopters, sharing heartwarming stories and pictures of their dogs. Our daily workload doesn't permit us to respond personally to most of these great updates, but please know how much they're appreciated! They are our

reminder that we do make a difference, perpetually trying to help to make families' and dogs' lives whole.

We're also grateful to you for financial and every kind of help, be it supplies, volunteer help with transport, videos, fundraising, dog-walking, and every other kind of involvement. As a reminder, your financial donations are tax-deductible.

Keep us in mind as soon as you can squeeze in another great dog, and have a wonderful spring!

Sincerely,



*Ardis Braun*

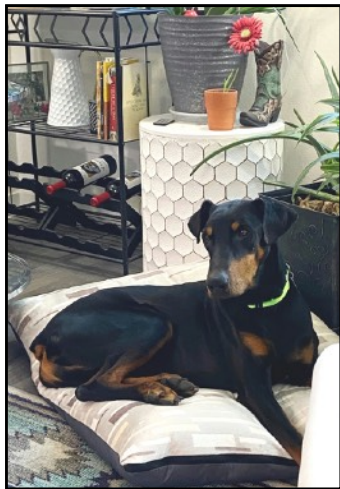
## ADOPTION UPDATES

### DAWN

is a dog we liked very much during his stay with us. He had been adopted here and then returned much later due to the owner's living situation, and he had an excellent bio except...he didn't care for other dogs. We were able to kennel him peacefully with a non-confrontational female though.

Marianne Douglas of Las Vegas came to see us in early January, and she was open to suggestions. She has no other pets and hoped for a housebroken, obedient dog. Of course we recommended Dawn, and of course she is thrilled. His new name is Archie.

"Ohhhhh, is he happy!!! Absolutely!! And so



am I!! We were meant to be. He settled in like he's lived here for years. Absolutely NO problems, he's contented, loves, oh does he love, to go for walks which turn out to be speedwalking for me. Anyway, love him tremendously. As my friend said, 'he's a keeper.'"

**BINDI**

was a scruffy, half bald Terrier mix that we couldn't leave at her animal shelter once she crossed our path, and she hit the jackpot! Gail and John Young of Santa Barbara, former scruffy-dog adopters, took her home just before we went to press. An early report from Gail:



"Another outstanding rescue from Dobies and Little Paws Rescue! We're thrilled with our new girl, currently called 'Billie', she's smart, fun, energetic and full of joy...a true love."

**ERIKA**

was with us for just over a year when she finally got her lucky break on November 15th with adopter Dan O'Keefe of Lakeview Terrace. He only wanted one dog to be his constant companion and she fit the bill perfectly. Erika definitely had some energy to burn off when she got home but we saw her briefly after her adoption where she looked really happy and healthy.



**WAITING FOR HOMES**

**Smokey**

has been with us a year already, and we think he's too good a dog to spend another year! He's 4 years old and weighs 63 pounds, so he's on the small side, and

though he can be shy initially, he is playful and happy when he's appreciated. Currently Smokey lives with a new female who is roughly the same size he is, with the same temperament. It's our opinion that he doesn't need another dog, but having an uncompetitive female in his world might add another sweet dimension to his life.



**Trixie**

is a 1-year-old Dobie-Shepherd mix pup who was picked up with her sister as strays running at large. They spent about six weeks at their animal shelter but weren't claimed or adopted.

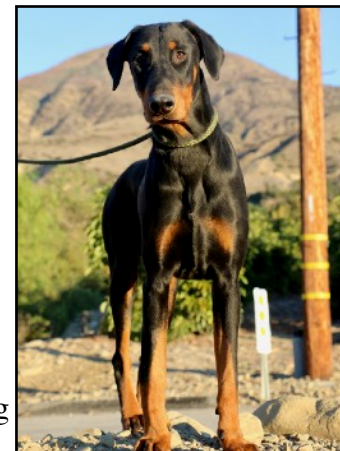


We had no space for them but we were so sure that they would be adopted that we weren't overly concerned. Finally there was cause for concern, so the girls came to the rescue ranch. Trixie gets along with an adult male Doberman and a female Doberman mix but does have a dominant streak around some other dogs. We think

she can live with another large dog in a home with the right chemistry. Trixie loves people and she's an active, eager young learner ready for a home where she can get the training and leadership she needs.

**Taz**

was rescued from an animal shelter that requested rescue assistance due to his broken leg. His leg had been splinted at the shelter, and fortunately the bones were aligned well enough that he healed pretty well without surgery. As he ages, he may experience slight self-limiting behavior on hikes or long walks, so perhaps no marathons for him. Taz is a handsome 3-year-old boy who weighs about 66 pounds, and he's social, for the most part, with other large dogs of both sexes. He's a happy dog, always eager to engage in activities and the first to dash to the door to participate.



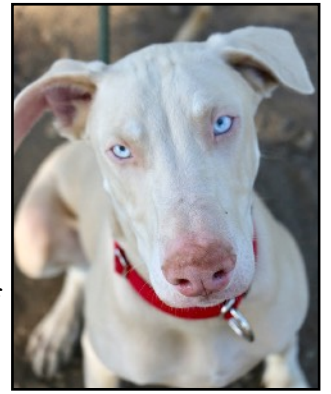
## Chip

is quite a unique little guy. His Doberman-looking head perched on his Heeler-colored body made us notice him right away, and he's the submissive member of a Dobie mix family of youngsters we took in. He would be a good companion for any other dog that would enjoy one. Chip is about 9 months old as of late January 2023, and he weighed 38 pounds. He may reach an adult weight of 45 pounds or so, and he's all ready for training and a new family that would enjoy doing that with him as he grows up. It would probably be best for Chip to have at least one other dog in the home since he has been used to living in a group with several others his whole life.



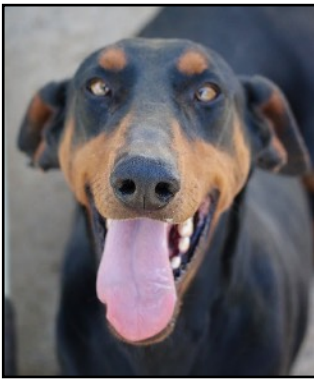
## Rudolf

came to us at the end of October, 2022 from an animal shelter that was overfull and needing space, like all of them are now. He is really an attention-getter and attention-seeker! At 1 year old, he's full of energy and needs to learn better manners, as well as needing medical maintenance throughout his life for the health challenges white Dobies face. Unfortunately, Rudolf doesn't seem to be able to live with any other dogs but he remains wonderful with people.



## Waldo

has now been with us for a few months so we have gotten to know him better. He's about 3-4 years old with a gentle and happy nature, especially with people he knows. He has been non-reactive toward other dogs on leash for the most part but his behavior interacting with other dogs has been hard to predict. At this time, we cannot recommend him for a home with another dog or cats. Waldo is crate trained, quiet and has a medium energy level.



## Rogue

is darling. She actually spent two weeks free-roaming our fenced acreage with a bunch of other dogs...until she started bullying and threatening a few of them. She lives with other dogs of both sexes compatibly in her kennel though. Rogue is quite the diva: very smart, attentive, obedient, and she'll make someone the perfect pet. She learns commands instantly. Her only physical limitation is from an old injury in the rear, probably having been hit by a car. When running it's not at all noticeable, but at times she favors one leg a little when taking slow walks. We think Rogue, a red Doberman, is about 3, and to avoid any future conflicts with a dog in the home, she would do best as the only dog.



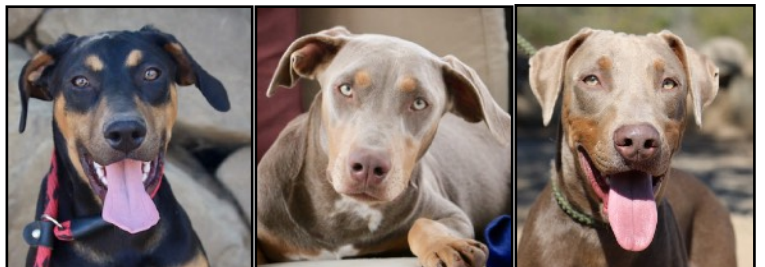
## Polly Pocket

was a favorite at her animal shelter, so much so that all of the employees came to see her off when we picked her up. Polly Pocket is a blue Doberman, about 3 years old and under 60 pounds. She has successfully kenneled with large male dogs but she gets jealous in the home and will resource-guard her person from the other dogs. She may need to be the only dog in the home unless she has an owner that can keep very clear boundaries. Polly Pocket was surrendered to the animal shelter because the owner had "too many dogs," and she came to us on April 23, 2022.



## Rose, Fortuna, and Chuck

These three dogs are here because of pleas from their animal shelters, wanting to get them out of their jurisdiction because of a terrible ex-owner. The two on the left, Rose and Fortuna, are 50% Doberman and 50% American Bulldog. They were DNA-tested. The male on the right may not be related to them but the similarity is obvious. They're a year old. The girls are mostly housebroken; all three did a bit of puppy chewing when they were briefly adopted.





"Adonis" Wedding of Inglewood, with Ed



"Cody" Barr of Moorpark



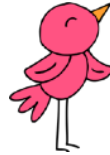
"Lacey" Franco of Newbury Park



"Rusty" and "Ryder" Fields of San Marcos



Happy Adoptees



"Luna" and "Ty" Cicketic-Knox of North Hollywood

"Tyson" and "Zia" Canevari-Brown of Sherman Oaks



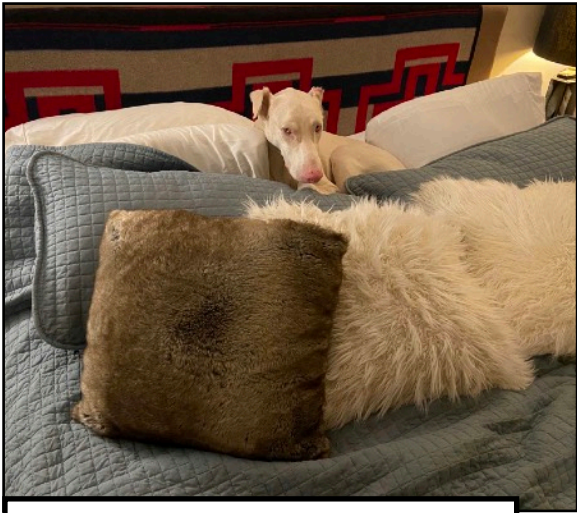
"Prancer" Frolova of Grass Valley



"Stella" Harris of Menifee with Jaxson

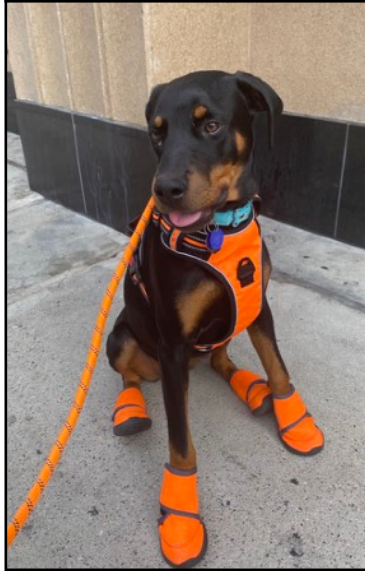
"Paddy" and "Alvin" Cannon of Santa Barbara





"Albie" Schafer-Gold of San Jose

"Sasha" Odupitan of Los Angeles



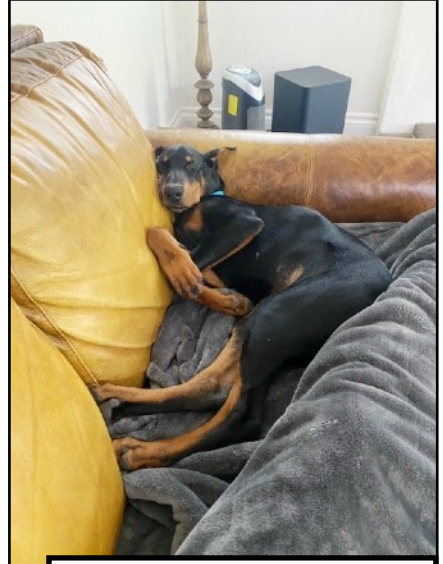
"Coco" Armstrong of Fillmore



"Ava" Gabar of Simi Valley



"Nellie" Andrew of Santa Ana

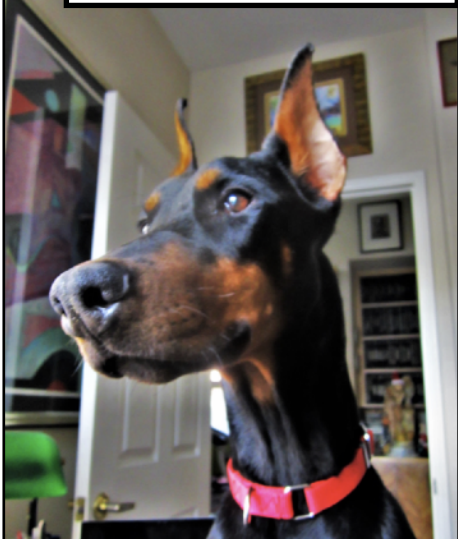


"Raider" Stead of Santa Rosa Valley

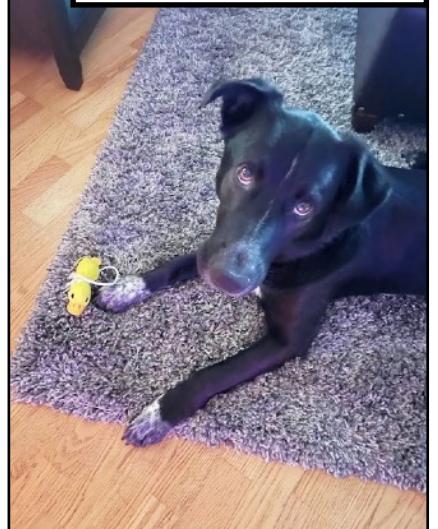
"Milo" Tieken of Ventura



"Addie" Gruja-Bell of Mission Viejo



"BoBo Bear" Rohr of Newbury Park



# PUPPIES GALORE

One of the awful consequences of the huge numbers of throwaway dogs during the past two years caused largely by Covid is the number of pregnant mothers and litters of every breed imaginable. Some of this was the direct result of animal shelters releasing adopted dogs unspayed and unneutered, relying on the adopters to do it. They felt they had to allow this because of the scarcity of spay and neuter appointments available. One shelter we routinely deal with, a very high-volume shelter, said they were able to secure only about 5 appointments per month. But without releasing many times more adoptees than that, they had no room for new intakes, which they still didn't. That of course resulted in euthanasia rates probably never seen before.

The cost of spaying and neutering at private vets, which adopters would have had to do, can range from \$200 for an uncomplicated neuter to many hundreds for a regular spay, and much, much higher if it's a Doberman who tests even halfway down the scale for a bleeding disorder called VonWillebrand's Syndrome. So many adopters couldn't, or wouldn't, take on the expense of doing the surgery.

As you can imagine, we were getting calls every week about pregnant Dobermans about to deliver or those who had already delivered, from owners that didn't want them. With the pregnant Dobies, it was anyone's guess what the pups would look like. In some cases they actually were 100% Doberman puppies. A super-sweet red female, Babs, delivered a batch of reds and fawns that were purebred, and we were able to get them to the vet in time (four days old is the limit) to get

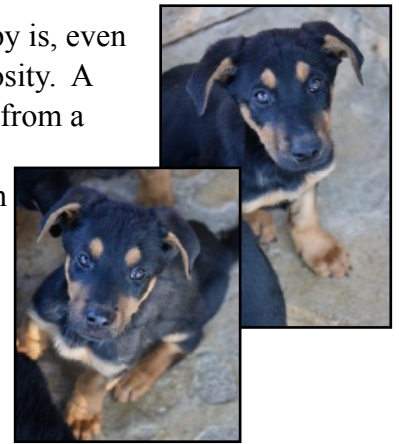


their tails docked. We had so many puppy applications!

More often, though, the mother is a Doberman and dad is...something else, often a lot of different breeds. There can also be more than one dad to a litter. We have used the Embark tests for DNA because many people want to



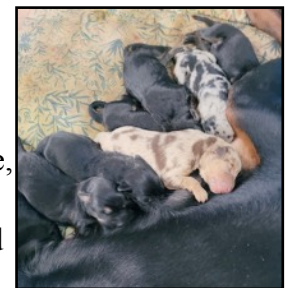
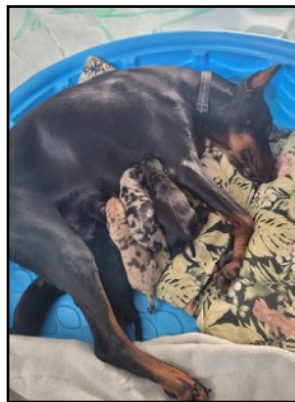
know what their new puppy is, even if it's just a matter of curiosity. A current litter that we have from a mother named Palma are all black and tan pups with more fur than a Dobie. They're old enough for adoption now (February 2023), and we're anxiously waiting to find out what the other 50% is.



A good mother named Libby whelped a small litter that looked mostly Dobie except for one blond pup looking more like a yellow Lab than anything else. Sure enough, their DNA showed them to be 50.0% Doberman, 15.6% German Shepherd, 14.2% Lab, 10.3% Great Pyrenees, and 9.9% Husky. The yellow pup on the right is still available as of this writing.



Right now we're at capacity with two mother Dobermans, one in boarding and one at our wonderful puppy foster home with Vicky and Jerry Kitchens in Piru. The latter puppies are 8 total; six of them black and tan like the mother, Athena, and two merle-colored ones, so dad may have been part Aussie, Catahoula, or Heeler. These two litters should be available late March-early April.



Casa de Love Rescue in Redding has been overwhelmed with puppies because they are able to have them indoors, to the extent that their founder is able to fit them in. Many adorable mixes are there also!



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 Visa, Discover, American Express or MasterCard!**

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Please return this form with your contribution  
 Your contribution is tax deductible (Federal I.D. #77-0357865)  
 We also have PayPal and Venmo  
 100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals.

## RUBY THE SURVIVOR

By Colleen Anderson

Sometimes an “easy rescue” is anything but. Meet Ruby, a young red female Dobie we got from an animal shelter in the high desert. She had been adopted from the shelter but came back only a couple weeks later because they claimed she kept digging out of the yard. Unfortunately, the shelter was really full and Ruby needed out immediately because she was at risk. Her plea made the rounds on social media and volunteers Vicky and Jerry Kitchens made the drive out there for us to pick her up.

When Ruby arrived she was clearly very sick. Her nasal discharge was thick, she refused all treats and she had a sunken-in appearance we associated with dehydration. She was isolated quickly and we started her on antibiotics that day. After decades of seeing upper respiratory infections (common in animal shelter environments), it became quickly apparent that this was not an ordinary infection. Ruby was refusing all food and water while being very lethargic. Since it was the weekend we only had one option: the emergency vet. While waiting our turn I took a short video of Ruby, knowing I would need to do some fundraising because the emergency vet isn't cheap and I had no idea what kind of treatment she would need. What first appeared as some shaking in her leg now looked more like twitching and a fellow rescuer suggested the possibility of distemper due to the now neurological symptoms. She was vaccinated as an adult dog at about 2 years old so I couldn't imagine that was

the cause, but all the symptoms fit. The emergency vet felt the same but Ruby's test results wouldn't be back for a few days so they gave her some supportive care and I brought her back to the rescue.

The next couple of weeks were a daily struggle. Ruby had to be isolated from other dogs so she was crated in Ardis' living room and I walked her several times a day. She refused to eat anything I offered her, which included anything yummy I could think of. She also refused to drink any water which was quite scary, so I was giving her subcutaneous fluids to keep her hydrated. I also used a syringe to get broth, water and a little bit of baby food into her whenever she would allow it. Her results confirmed distemper later in the week and that left her future very uncertain. The vet warned me that if Ruby's neurological symptoms progressed then we would have no choice but to humanely euthanize her since they would be permanent.

Every day I was nervous it would be her last and there were times when I had to consider if I was doing the right thing for her because she wasn't able to survive on her own without constant assistance. However, every day she looked at me lovingly, excited to go for her next walk and explore new smells. Her nasal discharge dissipated and





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her twitching wasn't getting worse so I held out hope every morning and every evening. Finally, one day she went over to the water bowl I was filling the syringe from and she started to drink. I was so happy! It would be several more days before she would eat on her own and despite turning down every delicious food I could think of, she dove into a bowl of regular kibble. We were finally thru the worst of it and Ruby got stronger every day, still enjoying her walks most of all.

While being less common than Parvovirus, Distemper is usually a deadly virus with a very low survival rate but most of that is because it hits very young puppies that aren't vaccinated. Little pups don't have the strength to endure any level of dehydration or the sometimes devastating neurological symptoms that can occur. Ruby's case is curious because she is an adult. She must



have had no vaccines as a puppy and contracted the virus prior to receiving her vaccination at the shelter or prior to the vaccine being effective (sometimes it can take up to a week). It really is so important to make sure all puppies are properly vaccinated, not only for their current health but

future health as well.

Ruby has been tested twice for levels of the Distemper virus because we really aren't sure if she could still be contagious at this point. Her tests do come back positive for the virus but with dropping levels. The ideal home for her would be one where she has space to explore without encountering other dogs in public. She currently lives with a social group of vaccinated, adult dogs without any health or behavioral problems. Ruby still twitches a bit (it gets worse when she's stressed) but it doesn't affect her daily life at all. I'm really hoping a forever home is on the horizon for this girl who fought so hard to survive.

## PARTING SHOT

"Koda" Lowe  
 of San  
 Francisco



Sometimes  
 best friends  
 make the  
 best pillows



