



"Abby" McEvoy of Sedona, AZ

"Dobie Doings"



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"Triscuit" Scott of Goleta

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As we reflect back on the year 2020, it feels to so many like a year we have survived, not one we have enjoyed. Undoubtedly many of our adopters have lost homes in the terrible fires, and others have lost dear friends and family members to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are deeply sorry for these losses, and we can only hope that the worst is behind us.

As mentioned in our fall newsletter, one of the few good things about the pandemic is the record number of adoptions benefiting our always-present pool of great dogs waiting for those adoptions. The number of dogs adopted from March 20 through November 12 was 283; almost all of them Dobermans. We've always kept some little dogs and other non-Dobermans available as well, but animal shelters have had good success placing small dogs, and far less of them have needed rescuing. Our adoptions peaked in late September, largely due to our having placed so many of our youngest, most social dogs, leaving those requiring more experienced homes having fewer challenges, still in our care. Naturally we're replacing adopted dogs with new rescued dogs, and as we get to know them, many of them are also young, social, and quickly adopted.

You may notice that almost none of the pictures in this year's holiday newsletter are small dogs. We hope more of our small-dog adopters will send holiday pictures of them this year (hint, hint)!

Sadly, we've had to forego our get-togethers

like Oktoberfest and the Deck the Halls with Bones and Balls holiday party because of the pandemic. As a reminder, we have a small stock portfolio for stock donations, and we also appreciate all of your year-long donations via check, credit or debit card, PayPal, Venmo, and Patreon. Every donation of every kind is appreciated. We couldn't survive without your help.

As of this writing, we're embarking on another four years of leadership in our country. We are not political in this forum and we never will be. The only request I have, as a current member of the human race, is to try to make our environment a better, not worse, environment...not only for us, but for today's children, and their children, and their children. Please, try to think of two things you can do to benefit the environment. Please....

Happy holidays,
Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

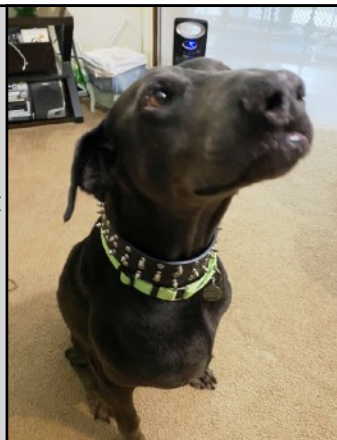
It's a pleasure to be able to say that of the eight dogs featured in our last newsletter, only one (Kendra) is left!

PICASSO,
our blue Dobie boy with a strangely-shaped

face who had spent a long time with us, was adopted by Suzie and Bill Edwards of Fillmore. A few weeks later we got this from Suzie:

“When we first saw Picasso on the website, we noticed his unique muzzle and eyes. We watched a video clip to get a feeling for his personality. His handler described him as sweet and eager to please. I have anxiety and was considering adopting an older dog to keep me focused and safe. I had watched tens of Doberman documentaries to get an idea of what to expect from the breed. As a teenager, I had a Staffordshire Terrier/Doberman mix and loved him. He ‘parted the Red Sea’ when the Olympic Torch spectators crowded the streets in 1984, giving a front row seat of a bit of history.

When Picasso was brought to us, he hung his head low, made a b-line past me, placing his head ever so gently in my husband’s lap. Picasso was incredibly sweet and we felt we found the good boy we were looking for. He didn’t make a peep until the 6th day when he let out his big bark at strangers approaching our front yard. He’s an excellent guard dog. Yet at the dog park, he is very friendly and playful. He gets playfully frisky with our two cats and is mesmerized by our bearded dragon. He’s been great all the way around and adjusts to changes in his surroundings with ease. We feel truly blessed to have Picasso and are so very grateful for the Doberman Rescue’s good work.”



MISTY,

the little white fluffy cutie, was adopted almost instantly by Don Brown of Burbank. We had expected that she might be a little harder to place, being 8 years old and having to be fed a special diet because of her earlier bladder stone surgery, but we literally had over a dozen inquiries about her the minute she was posted!

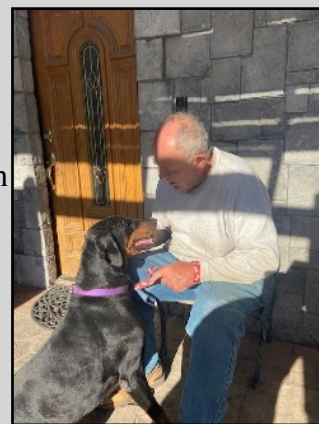
Don’s son Cameron says she is the best dog: “My dad is so happy! They are best friends and they



go everywhere together.”

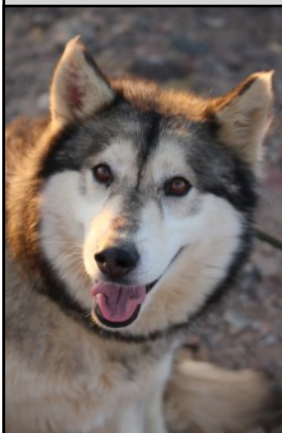
BARDO,

who is an all-around good boy, was adopted by Sam Mulley of Tarzana. Sam says: “Bardo is so happy here. He has lots of love, plenty of food and horsing around with Penny. I got her from you two years ago. He sleeps with both of us in the same room. Bardo follows me around the place, in the yard and in the house. Never does anything wrong. I can’t say how nice you were, to let me adopt him.”



LOBO,

our unique Husky who was known for his tendency to escape, has not actually been adopted, but Del Pinho, mentioned later in these pages because of his adoption of Hoss, is fostering Lobo at his home, and we’ve already seen how that can work out! A recent update from Del was that Lobo had bonded with Del’s “significant other,” Bella, and didn’t seem inclined to run away at all. Fingers crossed.....



HARVEY,

a charming red boy we had for 7 months, was adopted by Ronnie and Jason Baim of Agoura Hills, pictured below with “his” kids: Sadie, Tatum, Tessa and Xander. While here, he had displayed such territorial behavior toward other dogs that we thought he would probably need to be the only dog in the home. Not so! These great folks brought their beautiful young Husky mix and their kids to meet Harvey, and he excelled in all categories!

An early update from Ronnie: “Harvey is doing great! He was timid



at first, but by day three he had settled quite comfortably into his new home and with his new family. He is just the sweetest! He is so happy and gentle. He adores our kids and can't get enough cuddles from them. He is also getting along great with our other pup, who is a year old. They are all bringing out the playfulness in him! We are so lucky to have found him. Thank you, Dobies and Little Paws Rescue!"

ATHENA

had been a fence-jumper at her previous home and was the reason her owner relinquished her. If left indoors when they were gone, she was destructive. What a difference a new home can make! Russ and Julia



Berens of Las Vegas viewed quite a few dogs the day they came to visit, and Athena was "the one." Russ told us later: "We love her and her name. She is the sweetest...all she wants is lots of love and touching. She even sleeps next to our bed. She seems to love my shoes...doesn't chew them, just wants them for her bed. She seems...like a little fawn."

KAIA,

a beautiful senior girl that didn't need a very long stay here (thankfully, because she was depressed and wouldn't eat) was adopted by Nancy and Keith Taylor of Newbury Park. Two months later: "Kaia has settled into our home very well. She absolutely loves people – dogs not so much.



She has become a good companion. Kaia apparently has two speeds, full out running or napping. We feel very lucky that she has come to live with us."

WAITING FOR HOMES

Evangeline

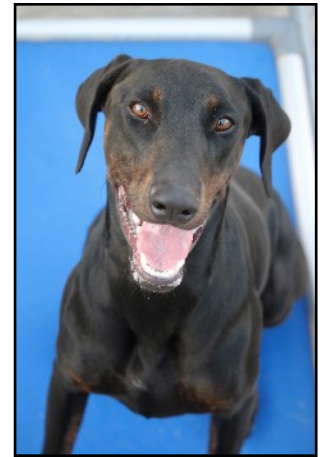
is an older red sweetheart. She is quiet, not destructive, gentle and wonderful with people.



She would make an easy-going companion for someone looking for a sweet soul that just wants a loving home. Evangeline is good with most dogs but she enjoys her space and does best with larger, calm male dogs. She does have some scarring on her face and body from an old case of mange. She will never look perfect but her heart of gold will surely win you over.

Dante

is an energetic 2-year-old who was surrendered to an animal shelter because his family had to move to a rental that didn't allow Dobermans. He was adopted and returned because an incident occurred at a park where a child got nipped. The details weren't clear. Though Dante lived with children, his energy level is high and though he isn't particularly large, he's extremely strong, so leash training is a must. He has some obedience training and he's mostly calm in his kennel with an adorable, charming personality. Unfortunately, Dante is not good with other dogs so he'll need to be the one and only, without access to other dogs.



Roomba

happened to be in the front office when we went to his animal shelter for a different dog. As soon as we heard that he is blind and physically challenged, we realized that if we didn't rescue him, maybe no one would. He is quite the character! He's active, funny, and completely fearless!

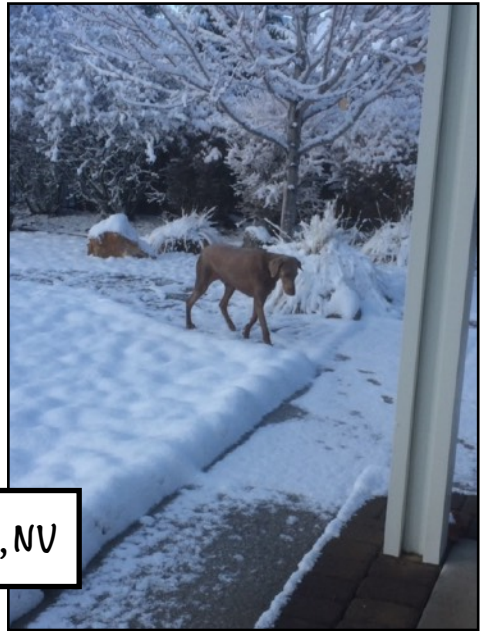


Roomba is about 3 years old and he's a lightweight, about the size of a Miniature Poodle. In fact, he probably is some sort of Terrier-Poodle mix, but we won't know his normal look until he regrows his recently-shaved hair. He must have been awfully matted, so he probably doesn't shed.



"Jordan" and "JimBob"
Curlee-Dominski of Encinitas

Happy Adoptees



"Luke" Murphy of Sparks, NV

"Mae" Lemieux of Cottage Grove, MN



"Dani" Byer of Huntington Beach

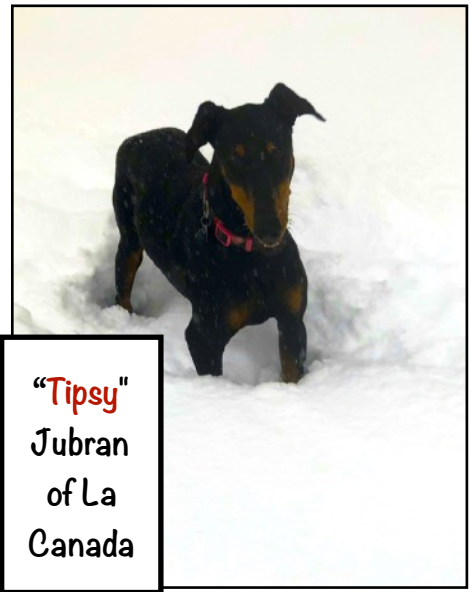


"Miss Melley" Scott of Huntington Beach, with Lydia

"Vader" and "Athena" Chavac of Pasadena, with Dahliena and Bryan



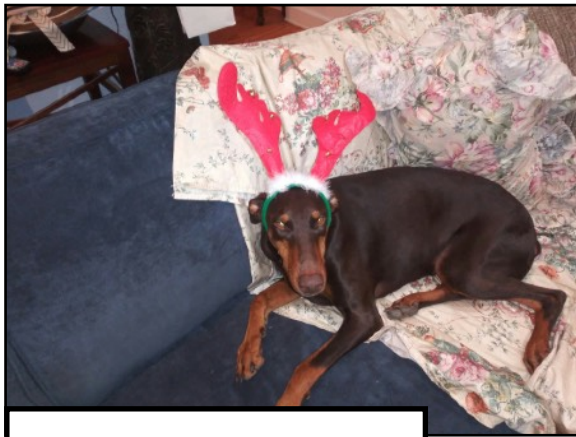
"Diego" Uy of Riverside



"Topsy"
Jubran of La Canada



"Casper" Atkins of West Palm Beach, FL



"Lilly" Schore of Los Angeles



"Bosco" Volpe of Santa Rosa Valley



"Bolt," "Gunner," Rusty" and "Paige" Allen of Castaic



"Mookie" Foschia of Altadena



"Rio" Turner of Chula Vista, with Miranda



"Kozi" Leidelmeijer of La Canada Flintridge

"Czar" and "Kya" Kennedy of Foster City



"Captain" Schmidt of Cathedral City



Waiting For Homes continued

Osa



is a beautiful, small German Shepherd whose injuries made her animal shelter ask for a rescue group for her. She's very dog-social, and our impression is that she needs an engaging home for her sweet nature to flourish, preferably with another dog. Osa's leg injury was severe but not permanently debilitating. We're not sure what caused the injury, but one rear leg was shredded nearly to the bone. She uses all

four legs comfortably now and her wound continues to close and grow new, healthy skin.

Missy

is an almost 10-year-old Doberman Pinscher girl that was surrendered by a breeder that could no longer use her for breeding. She produced AKC puppies while living in a dirt kennel and never saw a veterinarian. She never went on a walk, rode in the car or got to know what it was like to be a house dog. Missy was adopted briefly by a lovely family who felt bad for her the way we did but ultimately, it wasn't a good match. She needs a very quiet home with limited visitors. Because of this, small children wouldn't be recommended either. She is dog-social with slow introductions, though sometimes confrontational around food, and a great watch dog!



Tobasco

is a guy that has been here at the rescue ranch for a while. He's a red adult, tall and lean dog. He has not been able to share his kennel with another dog and he is fiercely protective of his territory when other dogs are passing by. We are not sure what, if any, training Tobasco has had but he seems like a smart and eager learner. Folks often ask about him because he is so happy to greet them.



MORE HAPPY ENDINGS

We get such great feedback from our readers when we share the happily-ever-after stories that are so much a part of our everyday life in rescue. Especially poignant are the ones with dogs that come in broken and defeated, or those that stay unadopted so much longer than they should have to. We were told that the blind dog and blind man stories in our last issue had people running for their Kleenex boxes, out of joy.

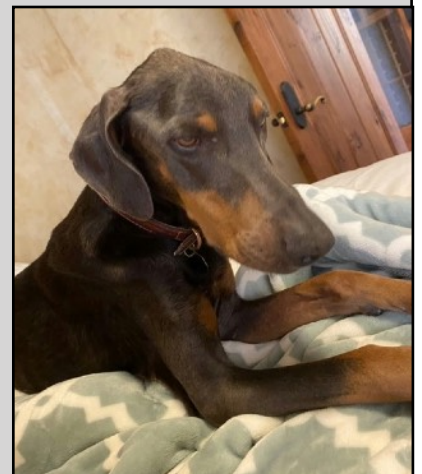
So...we wanted to share a couple more stories that will gladden your hearts during the holidays. In many ways, it has been such a depressing year that it seems like a good idea right now.

First, Violet's story: on Thursday, September 17, I (Ardis) took a call from a young woman who was present at a vet clinic when a man brought in his female Doberman Pinscher, Violet, because she had stopped eating. This in addition to being mostly blind, older, diabetic and incontinent. He signed her off for euthanasia, telling the vet "I DON'T WANT HER!" and walking out.

The woman was, of course, horrified. (Thank goodness for people like this!) She took Violet home as a very temporary foster to try to find a way to save this sweet dog. Because of her living situation, keeping her was not an option. When she called, it was with a noticeable plea in her voice, as though she fully expected to be turned down. Without offering false hope I told her I had four "possibles" for Violet and that I'd call her back shortly.

Four text messages were sent out following this conversation, and one of them bore fruit! I had texted Carol Dailey, a several-time adopter of ours, knowing her dear friend, Liz Huszarik, also a many-time adopter, is as much a champion of the special-needs dogs as we are. Carol texted back within the hour: "Liz wants her!"

Because of the strange work environment created by the pandemic, Liz had been working from her hideaway home in the Santa Ynez valley since March, instead of at her usual compound in





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Sherman Oaks. This has enabled her to spend more time with her various special dogs, including recently-adopted Perdita, our little mostly-blind female Dobie, whose owner had passed away.

Colleen picked Violet up that Thursday, and Saturday morning at 8 a.m. Violet was on her way to meet Liz at her new home. Two days later she was on her way to the vet for an exam and tests to make sure her insulin levels and protocol were correct, and as this is written, seven weeks later, Violet has gained 15 pounds and had her insulin greatly reduced. She is a happy, loved dog now, having the life she deserves with an owner who DOES WANT HER.

* * * * *

Another happy ending happened for Hoss, a middle-aged big blue Dobie with a long tail, who for many months was one of our shelter favorites. We kept presenting him to potential adopters, over and over, month after month. He even appeared on the Hallmark Channel, sharing a couch with the hostess and being the affectionate, lovable dog he is. Still no adopter!

Enter Del Pinho, a Santa Barbara resident with a love of Dobermans, who began appearing every Saturday at our open house adoptions to walk and spend time with our dogs. He had Dobies many years earlier and has great fondness for them. At some point Hoss caught his eye, and eventually he asked to foster Hoss to get him more visibility on walks, at dog parks, etc.

I think Del assessed potential adopters he met the way a dad would assess possible mates for his children: with a critical eye and stern



judgment....because finally, many weeks later, Del delivered the news that he couldn't find anyone that deserved Hoss, so he intended to keep him! So now Hoss gets to lounge on the couch instead of in his kennel on a Kuranda bed, and he doesn't mind at all....

* * * * *

We can't fail to mention also a worthy small dog who struck the jackpot, so...

In early August, I went to the Bakersfield city animal shelter to pick up a Dobie that needed rescue due to injury. We had pretty much depleted our group of adoptable small dogs, as the pandemic had made them easy to place or foster out by their animal shelters. But that day, as I chatted with the shelter's wonderful rescue liaison, Marsha Gebhart, I asked if there were any small dogs who needed rescue; dogs with pleasant temperaments that could be reasonably adoptable with some type of help.

"Well," she said, "we have a Miniature Pinscher, but I doubt you'll want him. He has a terrible skin condition." I asked to meet him. Sure enough, his entire chest and abdomen were covered

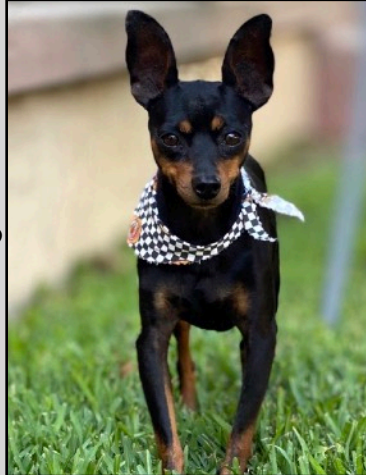


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with thick, gray, hairless skin that resembled what you'd expect to see on an elephant. But he was sweet, small and still fairly young, so he came home to the ranch for rehab. We named him Busby.



The vet didn't know why he looked the way he did, but we treated him proactively, and 2 1/2 months later - thanks to Colleen's diligent efforts with antibiotics, anti-inflammatory medication, medicated

baths, and a clean environment - Busby was 80% better. We got him neutered and offered him for adoption. It took hardly any time at all! Jessica Castellanos and Jason Perez of Glendale came to meet him with their other Min Pin, and Busby - now called Binx - was whisked off to his new life where he continues to get healthier and happier by the day!

Just before we went to press, Jessica drove from Glendale to Visalia for us to pick up another little Min Pin, a female, who had apparently been hit by a car and has no feeling in her hindquarters. We hope that with rest her nerve damage will regenerate, and then we'll have another happy ending tale to share.

* * * * *

2021 CALENDARS

PARTING SHOT

We are happy to announce that our 2021 calendar is ready to order! It is a labor of love every year to put this together and we couldn't do it without the tireless efforts of board member Natalie Rimmele.



Please go to our website and click on the cover shot (pictured above) to find order details. We hope you enjoy another year of looking at our adorable dogs!



"If you could just turn your back for 5 minutes...."

"Ripley" Saxton
 of Riverside

