



"Sasha" Soares of Oxnard

"Dobie Doings"



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"Beau" Brewer of Simi Valley

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

Doesn't it seem as though the holidays visit us faster and faster each year? Especially so since retail stores have started showing Christmas items before Halloween. Right now, we're all just happy we got some RAIN in Southern California.

As this is written, our adoptions have been disappointing lately after several months of very good adoptions. Four weekends during September and October were practically flat, with either no adoptions, or a couple of adoptions matched by the same number of returns because of adopters moving, having a baby, etc. Fingers crossed that this is not a trend!

Paula Cwikly will be hosting her annual Deck the Halls With Bones and Balls holiday party for us on Sunday, December 14, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. In case that date has to change for any reason, please check our website or Facebook page closer to the date. You may RSVP Paula at pcwikly1@earthlink.net, or call her at 818-985-5698, and she can provide location and directions. There is no admission fee, just a request that attendees bring a nice gift for our dogs, either monetary or something from our wish list.

We have again posted a wish list on Amazon.com, but our most urgent wish is for financial donations to continue operation and help to pay off our \$6,000 vet bill at Camino Animal Hospital in Thousand Oaks. These wonderful folks have been patient with us, allowing us to pay \$200 a month toward our bill, but it's still years away from being paid off...

Though we aren't able to receive vehicle donations any longer, one of our adopters did extensive

research to locate the organization that gives the most back to the charity of choice for vehicle donations. If you have a vehicle you're planning to donate, please contact us for information on that organization.

For some reason there is again an imbalance in the number of holiday pictures of little dogs versus Dobermans. We know that small dog adopters celebrate the holidays with their pooches also, so how about sending us their pictures? If you send them to our Facebook page, try to remember to also send them to our e-mail address above so they can be saved for the next holiday newsletter. Or, of course, they can always be mailed to us as well.

Thanks to everyone who has helped us to help the dogs. We are grateful for your assistance of every kind, and we wish you and your loved ones (including your dogs!) a very healthy and happy holiday season.

Blessings,



Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

Only two of our eight Waiting for Homes dogs from the last issue were adopted, but we're very happy for those two, especially since they are what we call "plain brown wrapper" dogs that are so often overlooked.

BUBBA,

one of our little paws of unknown breed, was adopted by the Terry family of Atascadero. We knew the minute Annette called and said they were looking for a



smallish dog that would Velcro himself to her daughter, that Bubba's name was written all over it. From her recent e-mail:

"Bubba, now Ace (on left), is working out very

well. As you can see, he has two best friends; they spend most of their time together unless Denielle is in school. He has learned a lot. He's learned that cockatoos bite if you harass them. Chickens fight back when you're smaller than them and horses are big mean animals when you bark at them, and goats, they have horns, so you'd better run really fast and hide behind the other dogs if they get loose....Living on a farm is a real culture shock for him, but he's adjusted well and has learned to stick close and not get himself into trouble when he goes out for a run with the other dogs."

CASSIE,

the last of the little family found in a drainpipe, was adopted by the O'Kelley family of Canyon Country. She absolutely needed to be adopted by a home with at least one other dog (to give her confidence), and she got it. From Shannon O'Kelley's recent e-mail:

"Callie has become my second shadow! She is very affectionate and loyal to her person. She is still shy of strangers but has become better around them every day. Her favorite animal companion among all my dogs is my cat Nemo! Callie and Nemo will play with each other whenever they get the chance. When Callie is in my room Nemo will sometimes sit outside and meow until I let Callie out to play! I get to be a part of Callie's life and I am excited to share my life experiences with her! Thank you!"



WAITING FOR HOMES

Rory

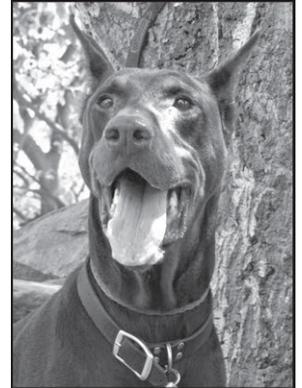
is a 6-pound Chihuahua mix that is full of character. He is wonderful with other dogs and great with people of all ages, as we observed at the Orange County pet



expo. Rory is a tiny guy so he needs a secure fence and also to be kept safe from hawks and owls.

Dino

is a beautiful red cropped Doberman boy who was given up by his owners because of a divorce. He's a very muscular and healthy 8-year-old who is housebroken and good with family members including children, but he has no tolerance for other dogs. Dino is a no-nonsense dog who takes his job of home security very seriously. Though he's pretty strong on leash, he is generally an obedient dog who will be a treasure in the right home.



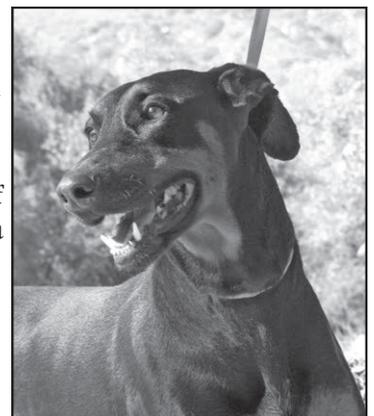
Skip

is a cute little dude who was just returned 8 years after being adopted by his now-elderly owner. Of course, Skip is himself elderly now (11 years), though his teeth and physical condition are amazing. He's tolerant of some dogs and kids, but he apparently wasn't enjoying his home because he tried to escape every chance he got by climbing things that were up against the fence, allowing him to get out. He's a Jack Russell Terrier mix weighing about 10 pounds, and we'd like to find him the home he'll not want to escape from so he can enjoy the rest of his life.



Gina

is a lovely older dog that was unwanted and left at an animal shelter by her owner. She is AKC pedigreed with a birthday of 8-12-07, and she received a Canine Education Certificate of Completion from Petco in January, 2008. Gina is new here but by our initial impression is that she's a very gentle dog who is having trouble understanding why she is suddenly homeless. She is kenneled with a large male dog and has no aggressive tendencies that we've seen so far.



Truffle

We named him Truffle because one of his ears bears a small Teddy-Bear-like rim of white fur, possibly the result



of having a good portion of it removed by another dog. He was impounded with a dog that's clearly his brother, who also has damage to his cropped ears. The shelter aged Truffle at 1 year; we think he's 1 1/2-2 years, a very tall and handsome red boy. On arrival, Truffle was very insecure, and he had gotten sick at his shelter. He

eats well now, has good body weight, and has become - if not an exuberant dog - at least one that enjoys gentle handling and affection. He can probably live with most non-confrontational large female dogs.

Princess

is about 2 years old and came from a faraway animal shelter, where she was a favorite of one of the shelter's volunteers. He had taken her home for a night to prepare her for an adoption event the next day, and she wasn't adopted, so he regretfully had to return her to her shelter. Princess spent over a month at the shelter, far too long for such a sweet little lady. She's a short-haired Chihuahua mix weighing about 10 pounds, and her only negative behavior is toward kids; she doesn't care for them, probably a result of mistreatment in her past.



Mork

is a charming 4 year old red sweetheart. He originally came in with an older red male who we assume is his father, but an altercation happened when their environment changed and they no longer get along. Mork can have a bit of an attitude with other dogs



in confined spaces but with enough room and a proper introduction, he has proven that he can at least be around several other dogs of both genders without issue. He is wonderful with people, greeting people he knows with a big smile and a wagging tail. He desperately wants to belong to someone again

and with some training and a little TLC, he would make someone a truly loving companion.

Rugby

is a newly-rescued terrier mix who fortunately never had to endure the stress of an animal shelter. He's 3-4 years old, about 10 pounds, and very dog-social. He appears to be so tolerant that he'd probably make a good family pet. We learned that he had been doing pet therapy work, so he had to be pretty "bulletproof!"



Cookie

came to us from another rescue, and at first she wanted nothing to do with us. All she wanted was to wind up and



bark as other dogs ran by her kennel. So she really surprised us when, a couple of months later, she realized that she could be acknowledged and loved by humans. She's now an affectionate, petite reddish-blue Dobie girl, 6 years old, who is getting along well with large male dogs.

DOBIE CALENDARS

A few years ago we made calendars, one with adopted Dobie pictures selected by judges as photo contest winners; the other with non-Dobermans. We had to commit to a specific number of calendars to order them, and we ordered too many and probably lost money on them, which we can ill afford to do.

This year, Natalie Rimmel, our every-weekend volunteer and owner of Pippi, a Dobie girl she adopted over a year ago (see article on pp. 6-7), decided to make a calendar for 2015 of Pippi pictures, with each month themed accordingly (St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, back to school, etc.). The pictures are adorable and can be viewed on our web site.

If you're interested in ordering a unique 2015 Pippi calendar, please let us know by December 15 and send \$20 to us by check, PayPal, or call over a credit card number, and we'll pay Natalie for her expenses and cover postage to you as well. If you don't do this by check, be sure to let us know what your donation is for: You can e-mail dobierescue@earthlink.net or call and leave a message on 805-524-5102.



"Obediah" Bayze and friends, of Prescott Valley, AZ

"Quigley" & **"Raleigh"** Greene of Crescent City



"Junie Moon" Cherbo-Bloch of Laguna Niguel



"Bonsai" Linnehan of Ventura, with Gabou

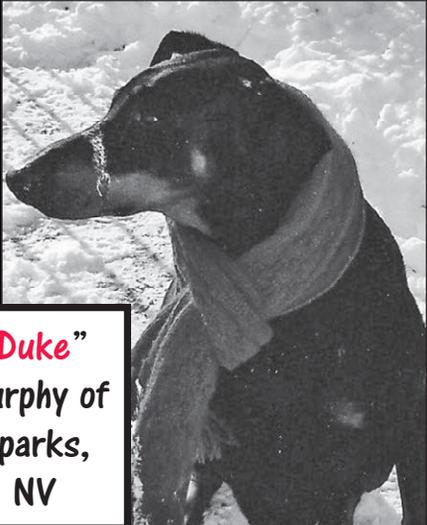


"Sprocket" Rivera of Moorpark

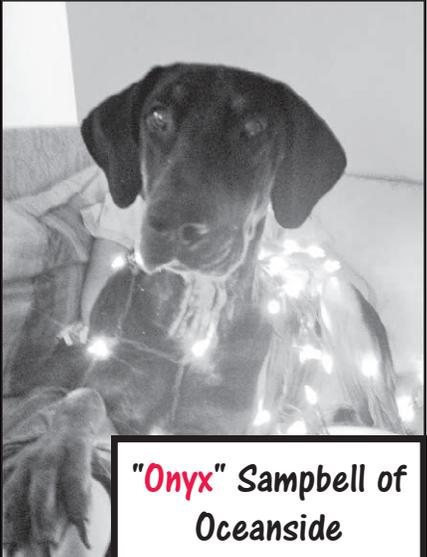


"Kitty," "Morgan," "Bullet," "Jake" & **"Brooklyn"** Pugliese of Horseshoe Bay, TX

"Pippi" Rimmele of Ventura



"Duke" Murphy of Sparks, NV



"Onyx" Sampbell of Oceanside

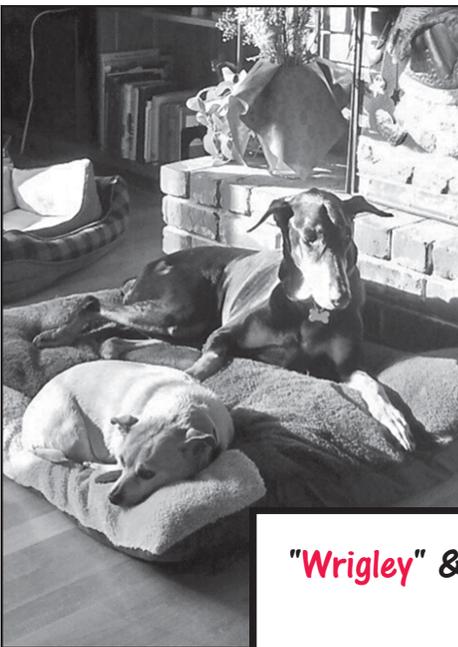


"Rudi" Golda of Vacaville

"Dino" Vill of Anaheim with Debio, Marc, Brittany, Connor & Megan

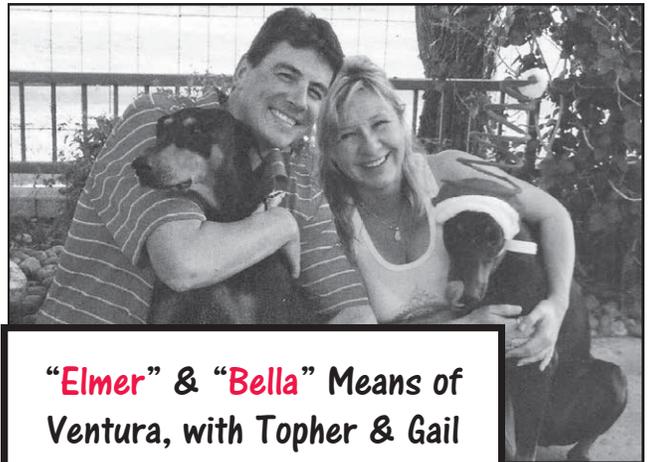


"Edward" Carteng of Camarillo



"Wrigley" & **"Carmel"** Doyle of Visalia

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR ADOPTEES



"Elmer" & **"Bella"** Means of Ventura, with Topher & Gail



"Ginger" Zimmerman of Simi Valley

"Roxy" Hernandez of Whittier, with Kingston, Madison & Penny



"Holly" Ashby of Sylmar

GOING THE MILE

As rescue volunteers, we are thrilled when an adoption turns out wonderfully. Usually there are a few bumps in the road after what we call “the honeymoon period” of about two weeks, after the new dog has settled in and figured out what he or she can get away with. But if everything progresses more or less as expected and the adopter is crazy about the new dog, we file it away with our bliss and happiness memories. Those are resurrected when we get updates and pictures of “our” dogs enjoying their great lives.

Sometimes, though, the challenges start on Day 1 and continue through many weeks or months. Sometimes they’re real nightmares, like extreme separation anxiety, dominance or fear aggression toward other animals and humans, barking and destructive issues, etc. At times the issues aren’t resolvable in the adoptive home environment, so we always accept our dogs back, no matter what. More often we fault the adopter for not putting in the time and training involved to solve the problems, as so many have done. How is the dog supposed to learn what is not acceptable if he/she is dumped every time an unwanted behavior occurs?

This article is dedicated to a couple of adopters who have “gone the mile.”

From Lori Shupp of Stockton:

“The beginning of August I adopted Erin who I have since named Rhea. She is a 4-5 year old mild energy Doberman. She has such a sweet face and loving disposition. She instantly bonded with my male Apollo and my 13 year old daughter. It was very clear early on that she was ‘her dog.’ What I didn’t bargain for was that Rhea had never lived indoors. This meant she was not conditioned to household noises such as doors closing, dishes clanking, things dropping on the floor. Any loud noise would cause her to panic and fall on her side or run into her crate. She marked my whole house and was never housetrained. I thought I was in over my head and simply did not have the time or resources to turn her around. Then I thought I would try baby steps. Over time, she learned how to walk on a leash. She now loves jogging with my daughter. She is fully housebroken. The other day she chewed up part of my couch and I thought here we go again! I learned I cannot leave her in my house unattended. The takeaway to this story is that there are many obstacles to overcome. It is frustrating. My advice is give it some time and revisit the decision in a few days. Dogs are going to make mistakes just like us. If you can possess an attitude that this too shall pass, there are work arounds to every



situation. Rhea hates the water bottle, so try something simple like this. So many people have given up on these dogs and never taught them the basics which leads to destructive behavior. They need leadership, consistency, a schedule (if possible) and just patience. In just a short few months Rhea is a completely transformed dog. I’m sure there will be more

learning experiences. I can’t expect her to be perfect 100% of the time. It is important that you go into adoption with realistic expectations. Often times these dogs turn out to be the best dogs you will ever own. They appreciate every little thing you do for them. The dog who was once noted to look sad and would cower, now prances with a grin on her face from ear to ear.”

From Natalie Rimmel of Ventura :

“About a year after my best friend passed over the rainbow bridge, I drove to Dobies and Little Paws to see if I could handle adopting again. I wanted the perfect dog...someone not a puppy, that got along with all creatures, not a barker, not destructive, potty trained and someone that could go on all my adventures with me into the mountains and on the road and be my protector. That should be easy to find, right? HA! I drove away with my Pippi. I quickly learned that she was almost none of these things. She was a year old, reactive on leash, a barker, and she nipped my leg immediately after I signed the adoption papers. I had named her Pippi because she was a red orphan girl with crooked ears, and I wanted her to have the spunk and feistiness of the real Pippi Longstocking. Well, I got what I wanted; she is stubborn! After a few trainers, I called Ardis at the end of my rope. She suggested I come by with Pippi and work with their trainer Tanya. Pippi actually improved and I saw that she was capable of behaving. She actually graduated from Basic K9 training. But, she still was not the





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Please return this form with your contribution
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We also have PayPal
100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals.

dog I had expected. After a few months of trying to make her into who I wanted, she nipped at an old Lab in the park and I was done. I called Ardis in tears and told her I was thinking of returning her. That next week when we went to training, I realized how hard it would be to leave her at the rescue. I decided to try one last thing...a behaviorist. She was put on Prozac, which I initially laughed at. Who puts their dog on Prozac? But it worked. Her anxiety calmed down enough for her to focus and learn. I was saved from returning her. We still return to Dobies and Little Paws each open house and they have become our family. Pippi never became the dog I had expected, but I'm glad she didn't. I learned to accept her for who she is and I LOVE her. She has expanded my world in ways I did not expect and has made me evolve into a better person. Isn't that what we all want? Besides, who wouldn't love those ears?"



FINALLY HOME

by Colleen Anderson

To tell you the truth, I struggled with a bit of writer's block when sitting down to work on this quarter's newsletter. There were a few topics that came to mind but the words just never materialized. Then I looked over at the dog sleeping at my feet and realized I had a story to tell right there. I want to tell you all about the little blue Dobie girl that kept coming back to us until we realized that she somehow belonged with me all along. Monkey was found running the streets with her two sisters in northern California. They were a mere 26 lbs each at 6 months old and covered in wounds that seemed

to be from fencing or barbed wire. Luckily, they were all quite sweet and all three found loving homes pretty quickly.

One day we got a call from Monkey's owner who complained that she was escaping on a daily basis and although she always came back, he felt that she just wasn't happy. We thought that she was probably bored without another dog to play with so we picked her up and brought her to the OC Pet Expo that we were attending the following weekend. She was a massive hit and we had several interested parties after she spent 3 days charming the crowds. She ended up being adopted by a lovely couple with two other dogs so we thought that she had found her happily ever after. Things went well for a while with Monkey getting all the love she desired and the training she needed. Unfortunately, she was plagued with some very mysterious health issues that no one could understand. She developed an abscess on the side of her face that couldn't be explained and after several vet visits, several months, and multiple surgeries, the owners were at a loss. They loved her but feared for her wellbeing so she came back to us and they adopted a special needs Dobie that is doing wonderfully. We placed Monkey one more time with a

friend of one of our volunteers; another wonderful, loving home that we hoped would be her forever home, but we learned quickly that wasn't working out. We got a frantic phone call from her owner who was



Monkey and Dwight snuggling



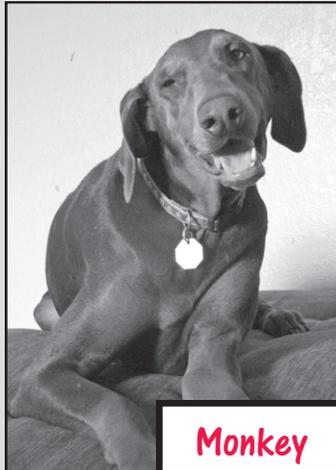
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completely at a loss. Despite seeming happy, sleeping in bed with her owners, and getting all the love she could handle, Monkey's health was rapidly declining. She refused to eat other than a very small amount of hand-fed canned food and she was vomiting on a daily basis. They had her checked out by their local vet but he could find no obvious signs of illness so she was given some antibiotics and sent home. She continued to decline so we offered to take her back and get her to our vet for a thorough check-up. When I picked her up, I took her straight to the vet for blood work and an exam. The trouble was, everything turned up completely normal. I got her home and offered her a bowl of kibble with a little canned food and she immediately devoured it. I realized right then and there that Monkey was already home. She had made up her mind. We try to make it a rule not to ever keep a dog as our own that is adoptable because we always feel like they could have an amazing home all their own. Plus, there are always dogs in need at the animal shelters, and every dog we keep takes a spot away from them. However, Monkey made it clear that she felt at home with me and didn't mind

sharing her home with the endless parade of fosters that come and go each week. I'm not sure I will ever understand why she couldn't make it work in those three wonderful homes but I am certainly glad that I could give her the refuge and peace she was searching for. She spends her days playing tug-o-war with her doggie friends and her nights snuggled up with me.



Monkey

WISH LIST

- old blankets, towels, & comforters**
- 8 or 10 quart metal buckets**
- hoses**
- choke chains and leashes**
- large dog crates**
- monetary donations**
- plastic dog houses and dogloos**

Celebrate!!



**"Cami" Wennes
 of San Diego**