

"Quigley" Greerie of Carlsbad with Cass and Marty

"Dobie Doings"



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Fillmore, California 93015
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"Mister" Magdaleno of Santa Paula

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

This holiday season certainly is not one of the happiest in memory. Foreclosures are still rampant, and nearly everyone has been affected, one way or another, by the economic downturn. This has impacted our adoptions profoundly, placing them at the lowest level since before we had a web site. We hope all of you are still safe in your homes and that you're not to be a casualty of this horrible economic situation. Always remember that, if you are unable to keep your adopted pets for any reason, we want them back!

We're still housing a full contingent of rescue dogs, primarily Dobermans and little dogs, and providing them with the best care available, including high-quality dog food - though it has increased in price four times during the past six months to a staggering \$1,200 a week! There are predictions for a particularly cold winter this year, so donations of second-hand blankets are also high on our wish list.

As of this writing, we don't yet have the date for Paula Cwikly's "Deck The Halls With Bones and Balls" holiday party that she has every year for us. Keep an eye on our web site for the date and RSVP information. You're invited; just bring a gift for our dogs!

As always, our holiday centerfold is of pictures you've provided to us of holidays you've shared with your dogs. We treasure them all! If any are missing from the last holiday season, we apolo-

gize. The computer went in for repairs in March, and when it was returned, some of our photos had been lost.

Give your pets an extra-big hug from us and remind them how lucky they are that they still have their good homes! We wish you peace and happiness this holiday season and throughout the new year.

Sincerely,

Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

TRIPOLI

The adoption of Tripoli is one of our happiest success stories. He's the big red boy Dobie that had belonged to a homeless woman who was away one day when Tripoli got loose and was running around a park. Animal control and the police were summoned; they cornered him in the ladies' room and Tasered him, which made him react aggressively. Then it took a couple of very caring ladies who knew him, and a court order, to get him released to us.

It was quite a few months before he trusted us and began to enjoy being around us, finally wagging his butt and



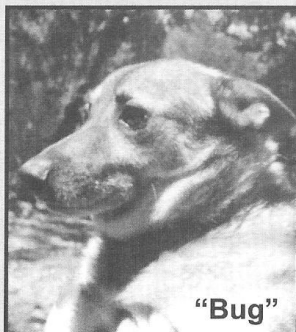
"Tripoli" (on right) with Dejavu

actually doing a head-butt to OUR butts when he wanted to play. Finally he allowed us to walk him on leash, vaccinate and neuter him, and then find a real home for him. That happened in September! Lauri Giering and Cecilia Tracy drove down from Dallas, Oregon – initially to see Argos – but fell in love with Tripoli instead.

We had tears in our eyes when we read their recent e-mail: "Tripoli is doing great! We have had a hard time getting him to slow down long enough to get some pictures....as you can see, he and Deja are getting along really well. His passions are going for walks, riding in the car, getting his ears rubbed, whipped cream, and chasing little dogs. Oh and he is a sucker for a big fluffy bed, but then again, aren't we all? Trip just loves to play and he isn't particular about who he plays with, big dogs, little dogs, people. His size can be a bit overwhelming...but he is a gentle giant. We are very grateful to you and the women who rescued him. He is a very sweet guy, a Doberman and a gentleman....Tripoli will be a well-loved member of our family for years to come, thank you!"

BUG

our little Norwegian Elkhound mix, was reclaimed by his owners, Tracie and Leroy McAfee of Oxnard, after they were able to shore up their fencing. Bug is now reunited with his buddy, Rocky,



"Bug"

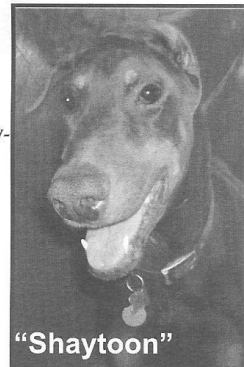
a large Terrier boy - without fear that he would dig under the fence and go exploring, as he is known to do.

WAITING FOR HOMES

SHAYTOON

is an 8-year-old red Dobie boy who hasn't been with us long, but he's so deserving that we're including him anyway. According to a friend of his ex-owner, he got into an altercation with another dog, and someone tried to break it up – and was unintentionally bitten.

After that, the owner decided not to reclaim Shaytoon following his quarantine period at the animal shelter. According to the friend, he's housebroken, good with kids, good with most other dogs, and very loving. He's a large boy, probably around 90 pounds.



"Shaytoon"

TERRIE

was found by a woman who wasn't allowed to keep dogs in her rental unit.

She said Terrie took up residence in her garage and wouldn't leave. We posted signs all over, but no one responded. Terrie appears to love children, and she's tolerant of other dogs, though we think she would be just as happy as the only dog. She weighs about 15

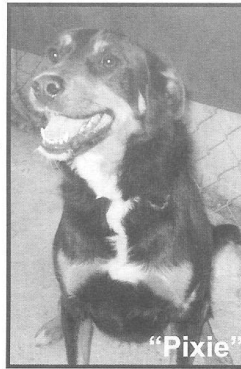
pounds, and she's 7 years old. She's probably some combination of Border Terrier, Silky Terrier, and Affenpinscher. Oh, and she doesn't work with cats.



"Terrie"

PIXIE

is a Doberman-Australian Shepherd mix girl who is 3 1/2 years old. She's house-broken, tolerant of her kennel mate (a large Dobie mix boy), fine with cats, and a little smaller and furrer than a purebred female Dobie. She was adopted from us at age 2, and returned because the family was relocating. They also mentioned that she's unfriendly toward boys (she has never bitten anyone). She would make a good watchdog and companion for a woman.



"Pixie"

DUFFY

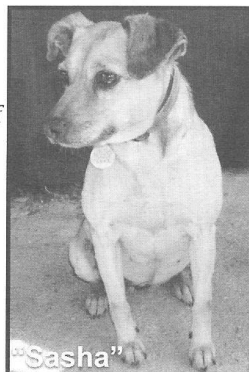
was adopted from an animal shelter and received his microchip there, but when he returned there as a stray some time later, he was not reclaimed. He's 4 years old, another 15-pounder, and he's almost all Wire-haired Fox Terrier. Duffy bunks with two other male dogs and gets along well with them, though his method of getting acquainted with a new dog involves plenty of growling. He's not the most handsome dog we have, but he's very endearing.



"Duffy"

SASHA

has spent about half of her life at our facility, and she's about 7 years old. She's a smart, loving dog who is very well housebroken and good with most other dogs. Sasha has had two



"Sasha"

owners since we rescued her at age 2. The first owner returned her because she had biting problems with men. The second owner reported no problems at all with men; she returned Sasha because she is a "door-darter," meaning she ran out open doors and wouldn't come when called. The ideal home for her would be with a woman who has a fenced front yard, and/or one who enters and exits her home via a door not leading to open territory or the street.

TRIBUTE TO LAPD'S FINEST

Some of you may recognize the lady in the photo below, as her lovely face graced the media for weeks after the horrible Metrolink crash on September 12 that killed 25 people and injured several times that number.

She was Spree DeSha (pronounced de-SHAY), the 35-year-old LAPD officer who perished in that wreck: a bright, respected, well-liked officer, a woman who apparently always knew what she wanted her life's calling to be. She was also one of our adopters. Her Dobie, Jett, was featured in our June newsletter, jumping a hurdle. Agility was one of the many fun things Spree liked to do with her dog, and he was crazy about her.

After hearing of her death, I was committed to expressing deepest condolences to her loved ones and, of course, to find out what would become of Jett. I visited Simi Valley twice, finally leaving copies of the newsletter with Jett in it, and a note expressing our sympathy and our concern for Jett.

A week later, a note and photograph arrived from Spree's life partner, Laura Gerritsen, also an LAPD officer. She said she loved Jett very

Continued page 6



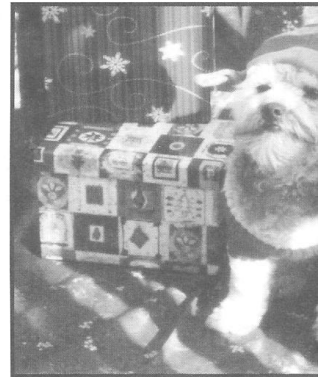
Spree with "Jett"



"Clancy" Young of Santa Barbara,
with Gail



"Brinkley" Mead
of Denair



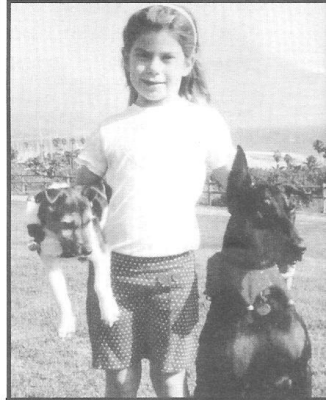
"Max" and **"Bella"** Tice



"Bumbles" Gapen of
Los Osos, with Santa



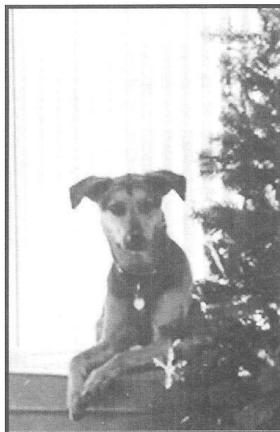
From our adoptees



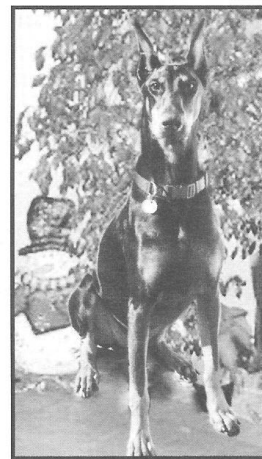
"Willow" and **"Eleke"**
Blamire of Santa Barbara,
with Lindsay



"Osa" and **"Larry"** Booth
of OakView, with Linda



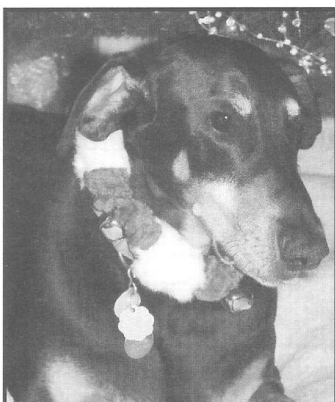
"Sadie" Fish of Acton



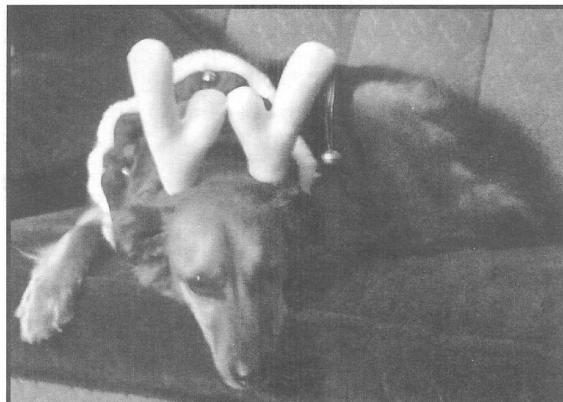
"Jack" O'Corrigan
of Westlake Village



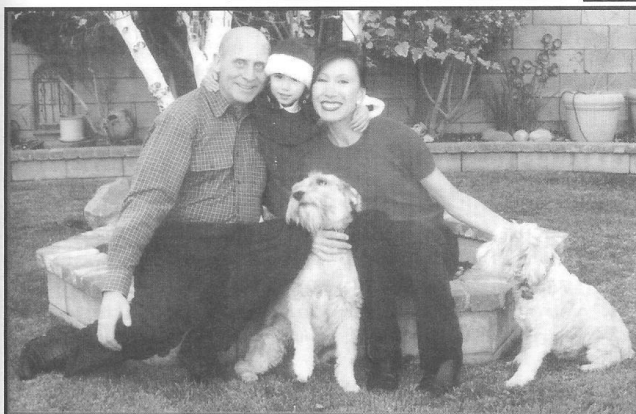
f Santa Barbara



"Tucker" Cheney
of Tucson, AZ



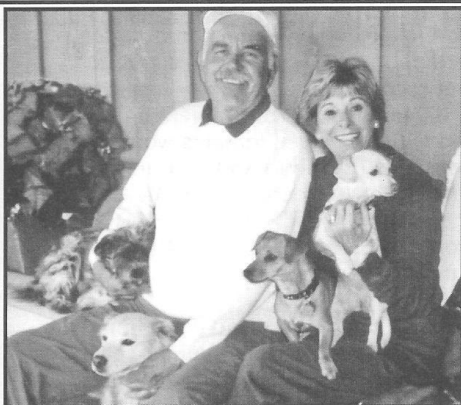
"Amber" Harter of Tujunga



"Friday" and **"Maxwell"** Miller of Quartz Hill with
Mark, Hattie and Catherine



"Kylie" and **"Rudy"** Mandigo of Bonita
with Cindy (holding dogs) and friend



**"Callie," "Lollie," "Tucker2" and
"Me too"** Caldwell of Santa Ynez,
with Eric and Carleen



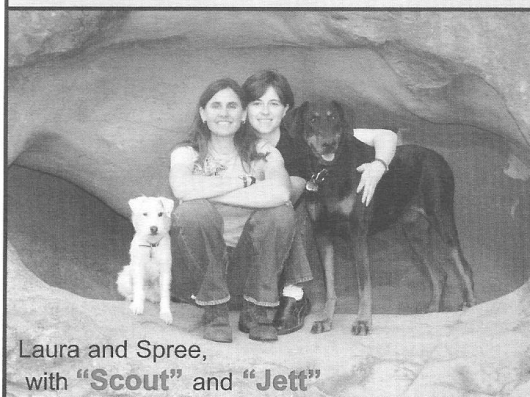
"Maxibell" Scholar of Sherman Oaks,
with Holly and Art

much and that he would remain with her at the house in Simi Valley where they lived, that they had fixed up together. They had agreed that, if anything should happen to one of them, the other would stay in the home that they had shared so many memories in.

We have spoken and e-mailed several times since then, and Laura is trying to cope with her terrible loss. She and Spree had six wonderful years together, but she wanted more, so much more. She refers to Spree as "an angel." In our first conversation, Laura was on her way to her sister's horse ranch with Jett, who enjoys the horses because "they are about his size." She said that Jett seems to be sad and depressed since Spree has been gone, but she promised to give Jett "the best years of his life," and we hope that he will help to comfort her also. As of now, a month later, she fluctuates between "bad days" and "worse days."

Laura shared a few special remembrances of her life with Spree, which all happened to include Jett:

"Spree was a pretty heavy sleeper and could fall asleep almost anywhere. One time I came home from work and found her sleeping in the dog bed with Jett. She must have been snuggling and fallen asleep. It was the cutest thing....Whenever Jett would ride in the car with us, he would sit in the back seat. He had a way of knowing how to be cute to get attention and she fell for it every time. He would lean forward, put his head on her shoulder and look at her, eye to eye. She would lean her head over and they would give each other head hugs. It was so cute, and he would only do that with her."



Laura and Spree,
with "Scout" and "Jett"

We are so very glad that Jett has Laura, as well as the other way around!

Danger is something that police officers, firefighters, and other public servants confront every day to keep the rest of us safe. Spree and Laura are both heroes to us for choosing their vital life's work, and we wish Laura the courage to continue to pursue her career. We admire her greatly, and pray for her continued strength to cope with the terrible pain the recent tragedy has caused her.

MEDICAL MATTERS

It has been a major source of concern to us for a long time that so many large-breed female dogs (we'll call them "dogs," even though "bitches" is the correct term) eventually become incontinent after spaying. We went so far as to suggest to a vet friend of ours that we thought tubal ligation might be a better option. The dog couldn't be bred – one of the reasons we spay and neuter in the first place – but she would still keep all of her parts. The leakage occurs because of hormonal changes after the ovaries are removed. This used to be compensated for by prescribing D. E. S. (diethyl stilbestrol), which is a hormonal medication. The problem is that D. E. S. very often causes cancer.

A newer medication called Proin (phenylpropanolamine) is commonly prescribed for incontinence, and it has few side effects and does control leakage in a fairly high percentage of dogs. Not in every case, however, and the medication has to be given for the duration of the dog's life.

Our vet recommended strongly against tubal ligation. He said that all of the health problems associated with unspayed females would still be present, such as pyometra and mammary cancers - major killers – in contrast to the "relatively minor" problem of incontinence. (NOT a minor problem, though, for those who have a wonderful house pet that suddenly can't live indoors any more!)

Adopters of ours, Stacy and Jim Simmons, shared their experience with a surgery called vulvoplasty on a dog they owned, which improved her leakage by 95%. If you would like to hear more about the costs, the providers, or any other information concerning this surgery, please let us know.



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 or MasterCard!

Card # _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

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

A RESCUE DOG'S HOLIDAY POEM

'Tis the night before Christmas and all through the town
Every shelter is full – we are lost, but not found,
Our numbers are hung on our kennels so bare,
We hope every minute that someone will care,
They'll come to adopt us and give us the call:
"Come here, Max and Sparkie, come fetch your new ball!"
But now we just sit here and think of the days
We were treated so fondly, we had cute, baby ways.
Once we were little, and then grew and grew,
Now we're no longer young and we're no longer new,
So out the back door we were thrown like the trash.
They reacted so quickly; why were they so rash?
We "jump on the children," "don't come when they call,"
We "bark when they leave us," "climb over the wall."
We should have been neutered, we should have been
spayed,
Now we suffer the consequence of errors they made.
If only they'd trained us, if only we knew,
We'd have done what they asked us and worshipped them
too.
We were left in the backyard, or worse: left to roam,
Now we're tired and lonely and out of a home.
They dropped us off here and they kissed us goodbye...
"Maybe someone else will give you a try."
So now here we are, all confused and alone
In a shelter with others who long for a home.
The workers come through with a meal and a pat;
With so many to care for they can't stay to chat.
They move to the next cage, giving each of us cheer;
We know that they wonder how long we'll be here.
We lay down to sleep and sweet dreams fill our heads
Of a home filled with love and our own cozy beds.
Then we wake to see sad eyes, brimming with tears:
Our friends filled with emptiness, worry and fear.

If you can't adopt us and there's no room at the Inn,
Could you help with the bills and fill our food bin?
We count on your kindness each day of the year.
Can you give more than hope to help everyone here?
Please make a donation to pay for the heat
And help us to get something special to eat.
The shelter that cares for us wants us to live,
And more of us will, if more people will give.

-- Author unknown

A BIG THANK-YOU!

A couple of issues ago we printed a paragraph taken directly from one of Dean Koontz's books, *The Darkest Evening of the Year*, about dogs' lives being too short. Mr. Koontz graciously gave his hand-written permission to use that paragraph, and in a subsequent note, offered to donate several special, collectable books that we could offer for a fund-raiser. Of course we gratefully accepted his offer!

A few days later, the most beautiful books we've ever seen arrived by messenger. There are five of them, and they are beautifully linen-bound, with matching sleeves, so they stand by themselves. They were limited edition to begin with, and four of them were sold out at the original asking price of \$250 each, so these books are definitely collectors' items.

We're mentioning this as appreciation

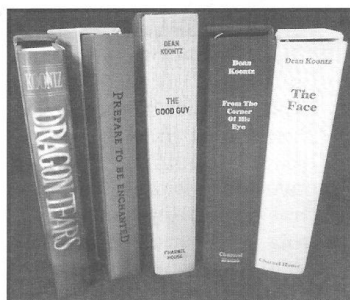


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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

to Mr. Koontz for his beneficence and support of dog welfare causes, as well as to put the word out that these beautiful volumes are available. Dean Koontz and his wife, Gerda, are major sponsors of the CCI foundation in Orange County, which trains and cares for service dogs for the blind. They recently adopted a two-year-old Golden Retriever through CCI, whom they call Anna, after she failed to remain in the program due to her tendency to be distracted by squirrels, cats, bunnies, etc. They had lost their beloved Golden, Trixie, the year before, after enjoying almost nine glorious years with her. She had been with the CCI people as well, until a surgery disqualified her for service.



THE PERFECT GIFT

For your animal-loving friends and relatives:

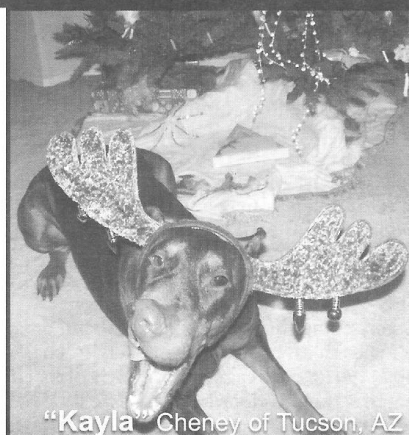
Check out www.goodkarmaclothing.net. Our volunteer, Colleen Anderson, has been busy cre-

ating new designs for the clothing and other items available through the manufacturer that she's been working with for a couple of years. And Dobies and Little Paws gets \$5 for every item purchased!

For us:

Dogloos, 8- to 12-gallon rust-proof metal buckets, 18" nylon or leather collars, used blankets and comforters, Advantix flea-tick medication, flea-tick shampoo, and spare change.

PARTING SHOTS



"Kayla" Cheney of Tucson, AZ

"Happy New Year to all,
And to all a good night!"