



**"Dexter" Shani of
Calabasas, with Aviv**

"Dobie Doings"



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"Percy" Hall of Camarillo

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Humans and dogs alike are happy this cold winter is over! Brrrr... Thanks to everyone who brought blankets and comforters to help keep our dogs warm in their dogloos. They all seemed fairly comfortable, although we're sure they would have preferred to sleep on a dog bed by the fireplace.

In general, adoptions have been quite good for several months, probably due in part to our very interactive Facebook page. Another reason is that we have been placing dogs for so many years that our group of adopters and former adopters keeps growing, and as we all know, dogs don't live long enough...so these people return to us again and again for their next dog.

Paula Cwikly's holiday fundraiser party was once again enjoyable and profitable. We wish more of you would COME! But we are happy to see all of you who do find the time to be there and enjoy the holiday spirit.

As of this writing, Colleen Anderson and Mike Klee have been representing us once a month for four months on Channel 11 Fox News. They get a whole minute or two (!) of free TV time to show off a couple of our deserving dogs. Sometimes this results in inquiries and adoptions. We are always surprised at the number of people we hear back from that saw them at 6:50 a.m. – honest! – on those days they appear.

Last, but certainly not least, a huge thank you to all for the gifts we received during the holiday season, not only the financial ones, but also all of the other thoughtful ones that were sent for the benefit and comfort of our dogs. We

even got a nice truck donated (by former adopter Robin Cara in Florida) for those times that we need to pull our trailer piled high with donated dog food.

Blessings,

Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

We're happy to say that six out of the seven dogs featured in our last Waiting For Homes section have been adopted!

BEEZER

is now called Snowball, and he was adopted by Diane and David LeFlang of Santa Barbara. They were undecided between Snowball and Gracie, the little Cavalier King Charles Spaniel mix that had been returned some weeks earlier due to her behavior toward other dogs when on leash. So they did the sensible thing: they adopted BOTH of them! They live the good life now, going to doggie day care, the park, and as should be evident from the picture to the right, getting play time from their new family.



CINNAMON,

now called Cindy, was adopted by Don Marks of Fillmore. He says that when she's not asleep on the couch, she is in constant motion, keeping his small male dog busy keeping up with her. "She now has 4 new stuffed toys that she loves to make squeak and run around with. She and my other dog, Buddy, are getting along good although he has to

watch for his food and treats. She is a sneak!"

MIMOSA,

now called MiMi, was adopted by LeAnn Morris of Valencia. Her e-mail says it all: "Yes, she is spoiled and LOVED!!!"



SHELDON,

our Dobie boy who was so obsessed with his deflated soccer ball that he forgot to eat, has made his home with Joanne Kulachok of Marina del Rey. His new name is Levi. From Joanne's recent e-mail: "Thank you...for rescuing Levi. If not for Levi, I would still be very unhappy. Levi rescued me.

I have been a supporter of Dobie Rescue since 1993, when I adopted my first Dobie from Ardis. I returned to Dobie Rescue when Jeff and I went through the trauma of putting down our beloved 'Over' in November 2012. I reluctantly went to your ranch in the hopes of finding a new dog. Honestly, I didn't think I was ready, but looked at several wonderful dogs before we chose Levi. Colleen had spent a great deal of time with Levi and told us a lot about him.

I think he is a wonderful dog....Levi never had a problem or an accident in the house. Levi is a very social dog. We walk a lot and he hasn't met a dog he didn't like....He is affectionate, and very much a comic. He makes me laugh; just when I think that I'd seen everything, he does something new....Levi's passed every test and most importantly he has our hearts."



EAVIE,

the big blue Dobie girl whose owner became too old to care for her, now lives on acreage in Sedona, Arizona with Beatrice Wells, four Pekingese, and a whole house full of cats. Beatrice is the feral TNR (trap-neuter-return) person in her area, and is one of five original founders of the first low-cost spay and neuter clinic in the United States in the mid-1980's. Eavie is already friends with the cats and has an electric blanket in her bed, though she prefers Beatrice's bed! Beatrice says: "Eavie is a very special, ultra-sensitive girl that has already come a long way...and my puppy-mill rescue Pekes all consider her one of them, despite her size! I cannot commend Becky and Eric (Eavie's foster parents) enough for the immeasurable work, effort and caring they gave Eavie, and helped me and Eavie adjust to her new life. Fostering is such an important part of rescue...Thank you!"



TIP,

our big bushy Border Collie-Bernese Mountain dog, was just adopted by Larry O'Connor of Saugus. He says: "Although I have only had Tip for 3 days, he is already



proving to be a great dog. He is great on the leash, well housebroken, good with basic commands, and has a good nature. He is all about the love....We are still working on his cat-skills, but I expect Tip will be an outstanding pet and friend."

WAITING FOR HOMES

Javelin

has had at least three homes in his short two years of life. The first home we placed him in returned him because he put three holes in a pillow. The second home returned him because he "marked" furniture in the home, even though the first home said he was housebroken. Both said he is good with kids, cats, and dogs, isn't destructive, and knows commands. And, he's a beautiful red...our favorite!



Cinder

is about 9 months old, and we think she's probably Dobie and either Greyhound or Whippet. She does have the coloring of a Dobie, but her markings are very dark. She's lean and leggy, with a natural, undocked tail. She didn't have proper socialization when she was very young, so she is shy with new people, though never nippy (her animal shelter photo would break your heart); she allows petting but doesn't yet seek it out.



Cinder needs a patient home that is willing to work with her, and having another, more confident dog in the home will help a lot. She is a truly beautiful dog, and in the right home will be a fantastic pet..

Chipper

is about 7 pounds of lovable little dog who is compatible with cats and fine with all other dogs. He's about a year old and currently living in our cattery. On



occasion he becomes stimulated to the point of barking at the cats, but they and Chipper all amble around the floor of the cattery together with no episodes of fear, injury, or aggression to any of them. The only negative we have observed is that he is protective of food items he really relishes!

Chipper is wiggly and lively; we think he'd make a great family dog where he could be around kids old enough to know how to be gentle with him.

Duke the Huge

is a handsome extra-large Dobie boy who was given up by his owners due to lack of space and time for him. He weighs 115 pounds and certainly takes after the Rottweiler side of the Doberman lineage. Duke is 6 years old and was kept mostly outdoors, so he presumably will need help with housebreaking. He lived with small kids and is believed to be completely safe with them, having never shown any signs of aggression towards them. On

walks, however, he was sometimes very agitated and reactive to other dogs he encountered. It isn't known if Duke can live peacefully with another dog or not; perhaps that would depend on the blend of personalities.



Ally

is a large-boned 4-year-old female Dobie with a docked tail and cropped ears (although one doesn't stand). She lost her home because she could not live with the resident cat. She needs a loving home without cats and probably without small dogs. Ally is a quiet and affectionate girl that is housebroken and crate trained. She is also a good watchdog once she gets comfortable in her home. She is good with children and has some obedience training. If you're looking

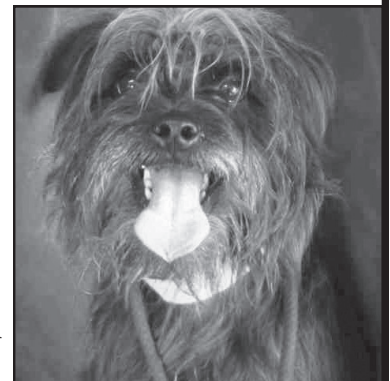


for a big girl with a heart of gold, Ally might just be the girl for you!

Roxy

Little Roxy is new in our program and is what we call a "project dog." She was brought in to an animal shelter, where a microchip was found, but the owner did not claim her. (We actually think it was the owner that brought her in.) Her

experience at the shelter must have been a terrible one, because she is very fearful at this point and will bite if picked up or leashed. We are working with Roxy to regain her trust of humans. She resides in our cattery with two cats and a small male dog. Though we would be



thrilled to find an adoptive home that would give her the time and patience she needs, we'd be just as happy with a foster home that could work with her.



**"G'deaux"
Weinbrenner-
Dart of Santa
Barbara, with
David Dart**



**"Mickey" Warda
of Santa Barbara**



**"Schnitzel"
Jackson-Risse of
Los Angeles**



**"Josie"
Jameson of
Los Angeles,
with "Blink"**

**"Kachina"
Roberts-Ware
of Simi Valley**



**"Daisy"
Thornton of
Los Angeles**



**"Chicklet"
Brady of
Thousand
Oaks**



**"Frankie" and
"Rosie" Mazzarella
of Malibu**

**"Rilee" Wallace
of Camarillo**





**"Pretty"
Rakow of
Encino**



**"Junie
Moon"
Cherbo-Bloch
of Laguna
Niguel**



**"Kona"
Ebadi of
Hermosa
Beach,
with Ava**

**"Gunner"
Allen of
Castaic**



**"Bengie" Fort
of Fillmore**



**"Hoffen" Dole of
Valencia**



HAPPY ADOPTEES

"Matilda" Dill of Somis



**"Shana" Van Etten of
Fullerton, with Sandi**



ANDY

We decided right from the beginning that we would have to be a no-kill rescue organization. Several factors came into play. For one, I (Ardis) had personally volunteered almost every Saturday for twelve years at the Orange County animal shelter when I lived in Manhattan Beach. Every week I educated the public, got to know the dogs that were out of time, and got many of them adopted, often in what would have been their last hour of life. I am still haunted by the faces of some of the dogs I couldn't save.

Years later, with our own rescue facility, I didn't want to have to hire employees that were so hardened to those emotions that they wouldn't be devastated when we needed to "make room" for new dogs. And I knew I would be devastated to have to decide which dogs had to go.

Also, the dogs that are very adoptable usually are the first to be adopted, which means that the less adoptable dogs become more and more known to us. Their affection for us, their providers; their trust in us; their intelligence and willingness to please; as well as their quirks and negative traits like stubbornness, fear-aggression, etc., all make them friends of ours, for better or worse. To give up on them would seem like betrayal. There is also a kind of deep satisfaction in winning over a dog that has serious faults that make him or her not very adoptable to the average home.

Andy is a dog like that. He was named Andy because he was the first dog that Colleen Anderson, whom most of you know by reputation, if not in person, as our volunteer/employee/member of our board, picked up for us at a local animal shelter. That was almost nine years ago.

Early on, Andy was adopted two or three times, but he was always returned because he's not good with other dogs, and he also was overprotective in the home environment. We weren't sure if that was fixable. As he aged, he became less and less adoptable because of these negatives, and also because he is a Doberman Pinscher with a tail, which is a deal-breaker for many adopters who think Dobermans are acceptable with natural ears, but God forbid the dog has a tail. Andy had also developed the habit of "circling" in his 20-foot by 20-foot kennel.

Assuming that Andy was a "lifer," we made his life as enjoyable as possible, more enjoyable than many dogs that are privately-owned and spend their lives in someone's backyard with no stimulation or attention. Andy got a can of dog food with his kibble every day, and he was generally the first dog taken out by our volunteer dog-walkers.

Almost two years ago, Ned Meislin, an adopter of ours going back many years and several dogs, offered to be



the general contractor for the drainage project required for our kennel license renewal. Ned got to know several of the dogs here during that time, and he paid particular attention to Andy, always spending time with him, and

ultimately promising him that when his older Doberman, Toby, passed away, he would come and get Andy.

That day arrived mid-January. I took Andy to the office Ned and KC, his wife, share, and Andy got his first look at a real home...in Manhattan Beach, no less! These lovely people are working hard to socialize Andy and helping to make up for the years he spent without the comforts of a real, "forever" home.

MEDICAL MATTERS

There has been so much press about "healthy diets" for dogs. We were actually believers in much of what was written, and now we're not so sure.

Recent studies were done that seemed to show that carbohydrates in a dog's diet will feed cancer cells, if and when they occur. This may be true for humans as well. And, in fact, the Cancer Diet that we have published twice in Doberman Doings has borne this out. A number of dogs owned by or known to our adopters have had their lives extended dramatically by eliminating carbs from the dogs' diet.

Another trend has been toward "grain-free" diets for dogs. It seems that quite a few dogs have itchy skin that has been linked to grain allergies. My own dog, PJ, is a dog like that; he does much better on fish meal and potato food than the regular dry foods consisting of grain and meat.

But...an article in the January 24, 2013 edition of the Los Angeles Times shed light on another study. This study was examining the differences between dogs



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and wolves as to when dogs began their separate evolution away from wolves, and it involved studying the DNA markers of both to identify the subtle changes that made dogs, dogs. Three important differences were in the area of the dogs' digestive systems. It was found that dogs differed greatly because of their ability to digest starches, which were probably the result of their long association with humans. One researcher remarked that we are doing dogs a huge disservice by eliminating starches (i.e., carbs) from their diets and feeding them raw and high-protein diets, claiming that their digestive systems didn't evolve to handle these foods and that these diets were destroying their internal organs.

Obviously, much more research is needed to determine what sort of diet is ideal for dogs. Our guess is that it varies from one dog to another, just as it does with people. We suggest that you experiment with small changes in your dog's diet, but only if your dog doesn't seem to appear in the peak of health with whatever you are currently feeding. If something else works better, go for it!

Another important matter regarding your dog's health: canine hepatitis has made an alarming comeback in this country. We have even been in contact with people who have recently lost their dogs to hepatitis. This disease had not been seen for so many years that vaccine makers stopped including hepatitis vaccine in canine booster shots.

Our advice is that the next time your dog is due for his or her distemper-parvo booster, check with your

clinic first to make sure there is hepatitis vaccine available. The vaccine should be labeled DHLPP. Let's do our part to stamp out this terrible disease, again.

My owner still loves me.

Would YOU?



**"Apollo" Greene of
Chula Vista**

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEAUTY

by Colleen Anderson

Every Saturday we have open house adoptions and we attract all kinds of Dobie lovers looking for a new companion. Usually people come with a list of things they are looking for in their new friend. We understand that if you have children you'll need a kid-social dog; other dogs, then a



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dog-social dog, etc. The need that kind of baffles me is the need to have a dog that “looks” a certain way. Sometimes adopters are disappointed that we don’t have a kennel full of the classic Dobies they’ve seen in books and movies to choose from. If you need a dog that is just the right color or has the perfectly-cropped ears and docked tail you expect then your selection is fairly limited. My question is: why does it matter?

There is a biological need to be attracted to your mate in order to propagate the species, but that desire shouldn’t be transferred to the need for an attractive pet. They aren’t our mates and they aren’t our accessories. The dogs didn’t make the choice to have their ears cropped, their tails docked, or left natural. Those decisions are made when they are young puppies, and it’s sad that their future may be decided based on those choices. Sometimes females will be with us much longer than usual because they had at least one litter and are now “saggy” underneath. Is it really fair, because someone wanted to make a few bucks off some puppies, that the mother is now unable to find a home? All mothers out there should be outraged by that! Would it be fair if only supermodels and classically attractive people could find love? The rest of average folk doomed to be alone forever? I don’t think so. I think everyone deserves to be loved, even if they aren’t “beauty queens.”

I have now known thousands of dogs over the years, and let me tell you, looks don’t matter. I can understand the ego boost you feel when walking a striking-looking dog down the street with people taking notice. I get it. However, let’s be honest, if that’s the main reason why you’re getting a dog then you probably shouldn’t have one. Imagine the real reason you are looking to own a dog: the entertainment they give you when playing in the yard, the security you get

knowing that a big bark will be heard by a possible intruder, or maybe just the comfort you get from a snuggle or a lick when you’re sad. Are you really incapable of loving them just because their ears look a little funny? Would you love them any less if their tail was long instead of short?

If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, maybe we need to start taking a second look at what is really important. It may sound cliché, but beauty - the real thing - is on the inside! Our hope is that more of our future adopters will let one of the underdogs show off just how beautiful they really are.

PARTING SHOT

“If you don’t own a dog, at least one, there is not necessarily anything wrong with you, but there may be something wrong with your life.”

- Roger Caras



“Atlas” Williams of Fresno