



**"Rex" Gatz of Hemet**

## "Dobie Doings"



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**"Zuzu Blue" Mayorga-Huerta of Santa Paula**

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

The year 2020 is over, and what a year! Once again, we sincerely hope that the pandemic and the fires have not caused catastrophes in any of your lives. Our VIP (yes, she is a Very Important Person to our rescue!), Colleen Anderson, contracted Covid in early January and is still, as of this writing, experiencing significant symptoms.

We have continued doing adoptions during the pandemic but limiting visits to people who have submitted applications that we have dogs available for that fit their needs, and that they are ready to take home the same day if the introduction is successful. As of February 15, our adoptions totaled 390 since March 20, 2020. We expect that number to be over 400 by March 20<sup>th</sup> this year; most of them Dobermans.

Because adoptions have been so phenomenal, we have increased taking a few dogs of other breeds, both large and small, that animal shelters and desperate owners had hoped we could take. We have taken many more dogs from owners during the past year than ever before, something we weren't usually able to do without refusing the dogs about to be euthanized at animal shelters. Overall, 2020 was a truly mixed bag.

We began to hear that some of our adopters weren't able to locate heart medications like Vetmedin for their Dobermans with dilated cardiomyopathy, one of the leading killers of Dobermans. It was generally assumed that drug companies shifted their focus and were busy cranking out human medications during Covid, and that these became priority. This caused

some companies to begin formulating these medications themselves, some with very similar end-products. Though we aren't able to advertise or promote any products in our newsletters, if you or anyone you know would benefit from having this information, please contact us.

Partly due to so many adoptions, we have been flooded with pictures and videos of our adoptees, which we so love and appreciate! It does make it much harder for us to include as many in Dobie Doings as we'd like to, though. Keep in mind that we can only include those texted to the cell number above or to our e-mail address. Images sent to Facebook, Instagram and other social media can't be extracted and saved for us to print.

Thanks to all who continue to help us, financially and every other way, especially with some terribly expensive medical cases and long-distance travel statewide to rescue our deserving dogs.



Sincerely,  
*Ardis Braun*

## ADOPTION UPDATES

Four of the six dogs we featured in our winter newsletter were adopted and are doing well.

**EVANGELINE,**  
the our older sweetie who waited longer than



she should have had to, now lives with Sharron and Tony Adamski of Thousand Oaks. We've had three updates from them, all of them good ones!

Tony's most recent one: "Eva (and we) have adjusted well. Eva benevolently ignores our

other two dogs. She was apparently housebroken because we have had no accidents. The only problem we have is Eva suffers from separation anxiety if we leave her (so) we just take her everywhere. It looks like she has joined our family."

We're particularly happy this adoption is working because Eva is *very* prey-driven, and their other two dogs are small (Beagle and Terrier/Chihuahua). Thankfully she knows they are not prey!

**OSA,**

our gorgeous German Shepherd with a badly-injured, degloved leg when we rescued her, made a complete recovery and was adopted by Jan Levandoski and her family of Ventura. They have two homes, the other one a cabin in snow country.



From Jan's text message: "She is the sweetest girl. For a girl growing up in California, it is so funny how she loves to play in the snow. She loves to play catch with snowballs. She loves to snowshoe with me and just have fun. She loves to run. Everything is new to her and she is very inquisitive. She is a smart girl. She loves to learn new tricks and of course treats are the best. She is so busy playing and hunting the voles under the snow. She dives under the snow to find them. She has never caught any but has fun trying. Thank you for all you did for us...."

**DANTE,**

who got himself in trouble for nipping a stranger he encountered at a park, has made his home

with Pat and Nick Kliebert of Corona. Everyone is happy.

"We decided to rename our pup and since he's



so attached to (Nick), we named him Shadow. It was either that or Velcro! He certainly knows 'no' and stops immediately, like when chewing on a shoe. He has been very energetic and is very sweet and loving. He likes playing fetch and chasing a ball. He is responding better on leash, but is still quite reactive. He had a successful excursion at the dog park today, running around like crazy and he enjoyed playing with the other dogs. Inside the house, he has done very well -- eating, sleeping, playing, it's like he's been with us for years! We are all happy with this match. Our grandkids and their dog sent Shadow a Bark Box Welcome package and as you can see, the toy did not stand up to his chewing. Thanks again for our wonderful gift -- Shadow."

**ROOMBA,**

our little blind, special-needs fearless comedian who really lucked out when we spotted him at his animal shelter, is at home with Emma Heard of Bakersfield. Emma took no time arranging to meet him, as she favors special-needs animals of all kinds and connected with him immediately.

Per Emma: "Roomba is the smartest dog ever! Being completely blind I expected to get a very nervous and nippy dog. Well Roomba is the polar opposite of that! He has learned to come to snapping (voices echo too much to pin down) and has learned to navigate the whole house! He's very



attached to me and does circles whenever he finds me out of excitement. He's a big hugger and loves to play. The other dogs accepted him so quickly it's like we have always had him. Roomba is thriving and that's everything I could have wanted for him."

## WAITING FOR HOMES

### Rocky & Spike

came back to us as a result of their owner's death. She had adopted them a LONG time ago - probably 9-10 years ago - so these brothers are very senior now. Seeing their confusion after so many years in a predictable home with their owner is making our hearts sad for them. Since they have been together so long, we are not considering adopting them out separately, we're only hoping a kind-hearted



soul will give them another real home to live out their lives in. We're not sure Rocky and Spike ever spent time

indoors since their owner isn't available to ask. We suspect that one of the brothers may be hard of hearing, which is another reason we would be loathe to split them up. Spike and Rocky are short and chubby, probably Labrador mixed with one or more other breeds that are smaller.

### Velvet

is about 5 years old with a nice blue coat. She was adopted for a while and loved by her family but she suddenly became extremely aggressive toward the small dogs. Due to her behavior around other dogs, she must be placed as the only dog in the home. Although she has never displayed any aggression toward people, we would feel more comfortable placing Velvet in an adult home, especially considering her energy level and strength when she is excited. Velvet is housebroken, has some obedience training and loves going for walks.



### Happy

is an adult Miniature Pinscher mix who came to us from an animal shelter. He was considered a

medical rescue because he had some hair loss along his back. He's a chunky guy with a very happy personality that wants nothing more than to follow his person around and snuggle. His fur is coming back and a small ulcer on one of his eyes is healing. Happy has been living with other dogs peacefully and he's sweet with people but he does tend to bark when excited.



### Boogie

is a handsome fawn Doberman we received from his owners in November, 2020 at age 7. He would be a good dog for a family in the countryside without a lot



of other dogs around, as he is really reactive to other dogs and may even "redirect" on a person restraining him on leash. In other ways he's such a cool dog: housebroken, good with cats and kids, friendly and affectionate. Boogie is a very alert, active dog and an easy keeper in every other respect than his

interactions with other dogs.

### Zuma

was relinquished to us in March 2019, at age 10 months. There was somewhat of a language barrier with her owner in trying to obtain more information about her behavior and the reasons for not keeping her. Zuma is tall, lean, and



quite beautiful. She also adores people and clearly has had some training. Because Zuma is so sweet and affectionate with people, she has become a volunteer favorite. However, Zuma must be placed as the only dog because she is NOT dog social. We have tried to kennel Zuma with other dogs, and it has never worked out. We think that Zuma will thrive with a strong and active owner who can provide her with the exercise and additional training that she needs, and make sure that she is not around other dogs. Also, Zuma should not be around small children, as she likes to jump on people in her enthusiasm to greet them, and she could easily knock over a small child.

"Enzo" Afshar of Irvine



"Dillon" Dean of Sunland

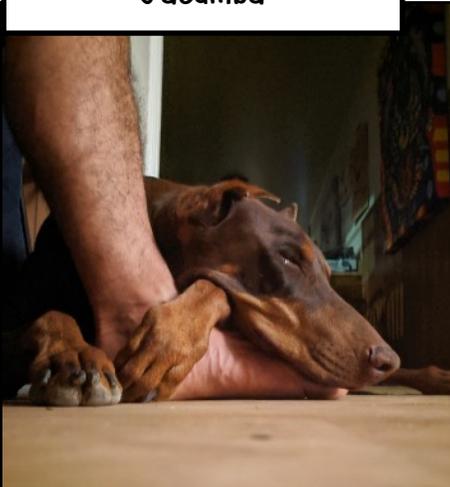


"Hank" Smith-Karimi of Altadena

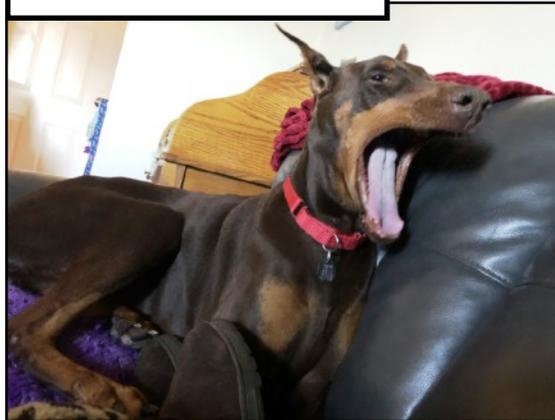
# Happy Adoptees



"Duna" Muheim of Jacumba



"Kaia" Schultz of Acton



"Inara" Moher-Rainen of Altadena



"Olive" and "George" McLean of Pasadena



"Atlas" and "Daphne" Carter-Mullin of Philomath, OR



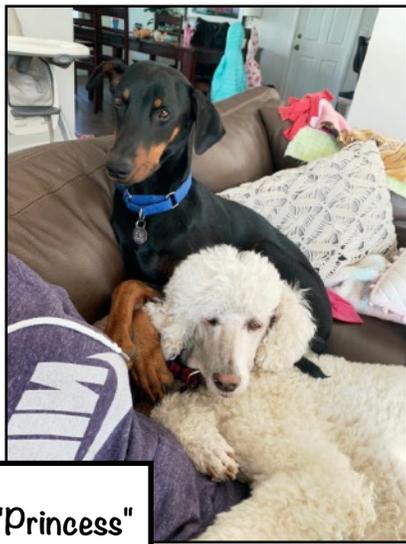
"Ro" Libengood of Redding



"Magic" Tanner  
of Riverside



"Sunny" and "Cali"  
Armesto of San  
Pedro



"Prancer" and "Princess"  
Dunlap of Fullerton



"Daisy" and "Jack Benny"  
Miller-Paolino of Pollock Pines

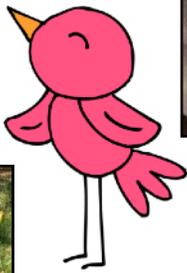
"Bella" Barndollar of  
Lancaster



"Blue" Gosparini of  
Northridge, with Teresa



"Toby" Jensen of  
Westlake Village



"Monty" Stewart of  
Long Beach, with Elaine



"Pepper" Benart-McCrorry  
of Riverside

## Waiting for Homes Continued...

### Mikey

has been bounced around in his approximately 7 years of life, having had at least three homes that we're aware of, and we have no idea why he wasn't able to remain in any of those homes. He's been a mostly quiet, easy keeper here, enjoying his bed, his treats, and whatever attention comes his way. We think Mikey may need to be the only dog in the home, but even this isn't definitely known.



### Fiddle

is a small young adult Terrier mix found by former adopters of ours. They were unable to keep him so they did due diligence trying to locate his owner, unsuccessfully. Fiddle walks well on leash and



spent his nights before coming to us in a crate, never having an accident. He always waited until he was outside to potty, and he's such a mannerly dog that our friends thought he had been someone's house dog that somehow couldn't get back home. He appears to be non-destructive and tolerant of cats.

## TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

By Colleen Anderson

Of all the dogs I care for and foster, medical cases tend to be my favorite. They can be some of the most heartbreaking, but there is something truly magical about helping a sick or injured dog get better and get healthy. Sometimes I'm thrown a curve ball and diagnostics can get tricky, as in the case of Ralph, but I learned a very valuable lesson. Read on.

Ralph was at an animal shelter that was desperately searching for rescue for him because he was in rough shape and it was beyond their scope to diagnose it and help him. He was in a lot of pain, difficult to handle, and he was unable/unwilling to walk or stand up. The shelter had X-rays done from his head to his toes, and the vet couldn't find the source of his

pain. I picked him up from the animal shelter and he was so stressed out that I knew we couldn't just walk into a vet office and have a normal exam done. Instead, I noticed that he was fairly comfortable when we let him rest, so I decided to take him home and observe him for a few days to see if I could gather more information.



Ralph became such a sweetheart and always greeted me with a ferocious tail wag, especially during feeding time. I created a spot for him using an exercise pen and lots of big, comfortable blankets for him to snuggle into. He still wouldn't stand or walk, but he had an otherwise happy disposition and a great appetite. Everything about his movement and behavior suggested a broken pelvis, but there was no way to be sure without consulting with a vet. His X-rays were sent to three different vets but none could see any clear reason for his pain. It was suggested that we see a specialist for further diagnostics. Once there, I explained everything to the specialist, shared videos and waited for news. It was disappointing when the specialist suggested some outlandish diagnoses and recommended two very expensive imaging tests. Ralph is so sweet that we were prepared to go the mile for him financially and medically, but something about the suggested diagnoses didn't feel or sound right.

So, before spending thousands of dollars, I decided to get a second opinion first from one of our regular vet clinics that have several amazing vets working there, often consulting with each other. With new X-rays, one of them spotted an old, healing fracture near the tail end of his pelvis. The vet said that if that was the cause it would be a strange presentation of it, but he decided to indulge the possibility by giving Ralph a steroid shot directly into the pelvic area. Wouldn't you know it, less than two days later Ralph was up and walking around! He was still a little weak and was still dealing with some discomfort, but he was mobile and began getting better each day. It is now several weeks later as of this writing, and Ralph is walking, running, and ready for adoption.

We don't ever want to recommend ignoring the advice of a medical professional and that is not the moral of this story. We just want to encourage everyone to trust their instincts and advocate for your dog as well as yourself. You know what is normal for your pet, and if you don't feel right about something,



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it's absolutely okay to get a second opinion. A good vet will listen to your concerns and can explain why a treatment or diagnostic plan is appropriate. Speak up, do your research, and educate yourself.

## WORTHY NON-DOBERMANS

In the early days of Dobies and Little Paws, going back 34 years, we rescued about half-and-half: Dobermans and little dogs. That was when there were 5 Doberman rescue groups in California, and only a fraction of the number of small dog rescue groups that there are now. As most of the large Dobie rescue groups discontinued their activities, we had to be much more focused on this breed because they are what most people come to us for.

Since the advent of Covid, we and the animal shelters have placed so many more dogs than usual that we have been able to rescue multiple other breeds. In fact, it has been difficult even to locate adoptable small dogs that need our help. So...we've been rescuing an odd assortment of larger pooches. To mention a few:

INARA, a Shepherd mix once known as Luna, rescued from an upstate shelter after owners left her there, absolutely terrified and unwilling to affiliate with any potential adopters. She is pictured in our centerfold, still becoming more secure.

BLUE, a Cattle Dog mix previously known as Dapple, rescued from an upstate shelter where she had been captured in a trap because she was thought to be

feral. She was always running the streets and was fed leftover food from a mini-mart by a homeless man. She's also in our centerfold, and she's not feral.

ZEPHYR, a Shepherd-Husky mix, rescued from an upstate animal shelter, terrified and not easily handled at that time. He's a happy, adorable fur ball.

TUCKER, a black Labrador rescued from a local shelter that was unable to adopt him to the public due to an altercation between him and another dog that attacked him, resulting in a person being nipped. He has a wonderful temperament.

OSA, a beautiful German Shepherd rescued from an upstate shelter with a serious leg wound. She is pictured in our Adoption Updates section.

JACK BENNY, formerly known as Pete, a Boxer-Pitbull mix that I (Ardis) rescued from a Central Valley shelter because he "reached" me on such a deep level. This gentle giant is also shown in our centerfold.

OLIVE and GEORGE, Cattle Dog mixes, previously known as Bristol and Bedford, rescued from an upstate animal shelter. They were very lucky to be on site at the shelter when we had room and were there anyway picking up a different dog. They are also in our centerfold.

PEPPER, the Cattle Dog mix that got us started considering these little heelers. She was unwanted and abandoned at our vet clinic, where they were frantically looking for rescue for this little sweetie. Pepper is also pictured in our centerfold.



Doberman Pinscher Rescue  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

It should be obvious that we love all dogs, and it's difficult to view the pages of "urgent" dogs needing rescue at animal shelters all over the state. We always have to remind ourselves that we can't rescue all of them, but we can make a difference to some of them, and each one is a life that has such value and love to give the right owner. All of those mentioned in this article have found wonderful, loving homes.

## MEDICAL MATTERS

Even after 34 years of dealing with dogs' behavioral and medical conditions, normal and abnormal, we never stop learning new things. Naturally, a lot of this is due to innovations in the medical field, but even some long-standing knowledge has never crossed our paths before. Not even experienced veterinarians know everything, which is why many veterinary hospitals have specialists now. Some vets have even diagnosed hip dysplasia in Dobermans instead of the real culprit, Wobbler's Syndrome. Hip dysplasia is almost unheard-of in Dobermans.

Here's new information we wanted to share in case it can save a life of a loved dog somewhere along the line. It concerns Subungual (Nail Bed) Melanoma, and it's responsible for 15-20% of canine melanomas.

Most people know what skin melanomas look like because they occur in people as well as animals.

Usually they look like dark moles that appear on the skin of outdoorsy types and around the eyes and noses of albino and some other animals. Nail bed melanomas are different.

An acquaintance of ours is currently spending the last few days of her beloved Doberman's life with her before losing her to this serious malignant cancer. The symptoms are swelling of a toe, licking and chewing a toe, and limping. This cancer is so serious that often by the time any of these symptoms show up, the cancer has already spread internally and become inoperable. If you suspect nail bed melanoma in your dog, please speak to your vet about it first to make sure your vet has seen it before, or at least researched it enough to be able to offer a knowledgeable diagnosis.

## PARTING SHOT



"DayZ" Vernon of  
 Porter Ranch



"Did someone say  
 princess?"