



“Oscar” and “Emmy” Kim-Loiko of Granada Hills

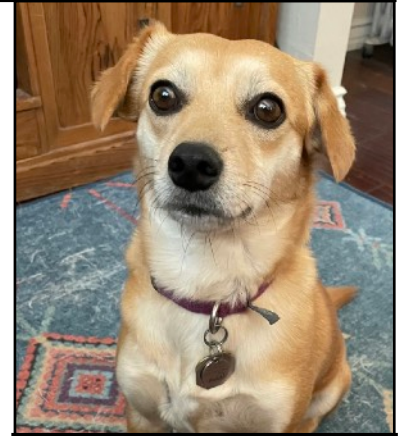
“Dobie Doings”



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“Phoebe” Hoffman of Ventura

Ardis Braun - President Colleen Anderson - Vice President of Operations Dennis Bolton Enterprises - Printer

The start of 2025 was quite a challenge! This year - so far - we were spared having to evacuate for the fires in Ventura County and the Castaic fire that blew frighteningly in our direction during January, but we had power shutoffs due to the wind for most of two weeks. We’re not complaining! Though none of our adopters have communicated with us about losing their homes, it’s likely that some were lost during January. We hope not...

The good news about January is that we placed a record number of dogs! Between January 1 and February 8 (39 days) we placed 43 dogs, and thus far not a single return. With only one or two exceptions, every one of them was rescued from an animal shelter just prior to euthanasia, and all of them have proven themselves to be good, worthy dogs.

Once again we send our gratitude to all of you who have helped us in so many ways. We couldn’t continue without you!

Sincerely,



Ardis Braun

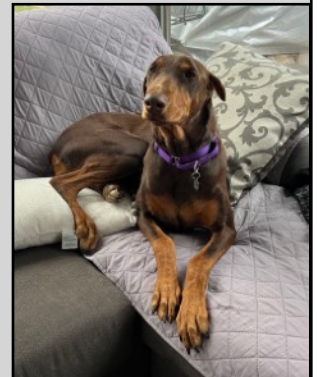
ADOPTION UPDATES

A surprising five dogs out of the nine in our Waiting for Homes pages in the last newsletter have been adopted. We have no small dogs waiting for

homes at the moment though we had five on the first of the year, but they have all been adopted! Keep an eye on our website and social media for new arrivals.

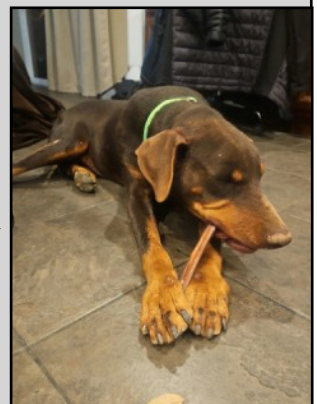
DELILAH,

who had spent 11 months with us waiting for her forever home, was the perfect fit for her new owners, Lulu Guzman and Eric Serrano of Gilroy. Unfortunately Delilah had either the beginning or tail end of a cough, and these good folks went the mile for her to keep her and make her healthy. A few weeks later, Eric said “we already love her so much. She is the sweetest Doberman I have ever met.” And “...she seems to be happy with us, she is eating and drinking very well, and she loves to be spoiled.”



RICO,

a lovable early senior who won our hearts, was adopted by Jessica Stafford of Visalia with a little nudge from us. She says “Rico is now ‘Rip;’ Ripley for long, lol! Thoroughly enjoying being loved and spoiled!”



DAISY,

an Anatolian Shepherd-Great Pyrenees mix who was too adorable not to be rescued, is now living with Lesley Parks of Simi Valley after Lesley had to say goodbye to a previous Shepherd adopted from us.

An early update: “She’s doing beautifully.

Daisy had a full day coming out to the horse barn, going to lunch, choosing some dog toys, and happily riding in the car between all these stops.”

She was professionally groomed and now looks like a star!



LOKI,

who was returned by his adopter because he “wasn’t a good fit” for that owner, is a perfect fit for his new owner, Marie Ning of Murrieta, and her dog, Blu. (See story on page 3.)

SANTI,

who was adopted as a puppy and returned at 5 months because he was not trained, was adopted by Nicole and Jonathan Watson of Moorpark.

From Nicole: “We are very happy to report that Santi is happy and healthy! We have renamed him Titan. Titan has been a wonderful addition to our family. Our kids and his new playmate Midas love his sweet and playful energy.”

This is Titan with Parker. They are besties!



Two summers ago I saw a sweet Great Pyrenees in danger at a rural animal shelter, and having been drawn to these big white fur balls for years, I had to save her. I named her Cheddar and quickly realized I could never give her up. I guess I have a “type,” and she is it (other than Dobermans, of course).

Ardis also has a “type,” or several: Fuzzy-haired terrier mixes and Border Collies, Dobermans (naturally), and more recently, variations of Great Pyrenees and Anatolian Shepherds. Several months ago she got a call from a neighbor saying there were two dogs running loose in our neighborhood. We responded immediately, fearful that they would be hit by a car and planning to send them promptly to the animal shelter, but...though we don’t normally take in strays, these two were so sweet that we couldn’t bear to not know their lives would have happy endings.

Clover (see page 7) is probably a Shar Pei-Husky mix, and her confidence and sense of humor are impossible not to love. Her companion was a heartbreakingly thin Anatolian-Pyrenees mix we named Goliath because of his massive size. It took a few months to get him to a healthy 115-pound weight, and now he’s a snuggly powerhouse ready to find his own home, probably as the only dog in the home.



“Goliath”

Our most recent dogs of this “type,” Daisy (above) and Buford (see page 7), are yet two more darling Anatolian mixes. Buford hasn’t been adopted as of this writing, and like all of the others, we are enamored with his gentle and affectionate demeanor. Though we’ll continue to be committed to our primary breed, the Dobies, don’t be surprised if you regularly see a fuzzy or furry face pop up at the rescue when space permits!

FAVORITE NON-DOBERMANS

By Colleen Anderson

When I first joined Dobies and Little Paws in 2004, I had no particular attachment to Dobermans. My first two dogs adopted from the rescue were Basset Hound mixes! Since then I have had many favorite dogs including Dobermans – which of course I’m attached to now!

SAME-SEX CANINE COMPANIONS

It’s a fact that many same-sex dogs get along fine, even admirably, in a home environment. Much of this depends on the individual dogs and their hardwired dominance levels, some of it developing as early as the days the dogs spend socializing with their littermates. Much of it also depends on the owners, as far as what is permitted in the home environment by

way of dogs challenging each other.

A lot of our adopters want *only* one sex or the other. They famously say “I’ve always had females (or males) and they have always gotten along!” The same is also often said by people with cats, but that’s another story.

For those adopters who will adopt only a same-sex companion for their resident dog(s), we usually oblige, with the understanding that we nearly always take our dogs back if things go awry. The exception is when the adopter is far away, because then it can be very difficult to get the dog back. But we strongly encourage adopters to not have females with other females if they can be flexible about gender preference. We have found this combination to be the most risky, not only immediately, but extending far into the future before it becomes disaster.

A few examples come to mind: a 6-year-old female surrendered to us who had lived with her 8-year-old mother all her life until they finally tried to kill each other every day; two 5 ½-month-old sisters we had together in December, 2024 who had spent all those months together until they too wanted to kill each other; young females named Aspen and Brownie whom we reluctantly placed together in December, 2023, that were both returned to us one year later because they fought bitterly. (They are both still with us as of this writing.)

Males, conversely, will usually declare their intentions early on, and often males that like each other will be better friends than a male and female will.

Recent examples include Blu and Logan Ning of Murrieta. Marie Ning came to adopt a companion for her earlier adoptee, Blu, and we introduced him to a half dozen females, none of whom interacted with him. Then we brought in Loki, now called Logan, and the boys played nonstop and continue to be inseparable at Marie’s home.

Likewise with Elena Vasquez of Costa Mesa, who specifically came to meet Comet as a companion



for her XL Pitbull, Louie. We were concerned when we met Louie, a 125-pound dog with a head like a bowling ball. Elena assured us that Louie is a chicken and totally unaggressive, so now Luca (Comet) and Louie are best

friends, and she can’t believe someone would have let such a handsome, trained, social dog go.

Naturally dogs can run the entire gamut, with some dogs loving *all* other dogs, and some dogs not liking *any* other dogs. Our job is to do our best to identify which combinations will work best for our adopters. Then it’s the adopter’s job to set boundaries and make it clear to the dogs what is and isn’t allowed from Day One. By Day 14 there should be a good result.



SURPRISING ADOPTIONS

Admittedly, it’s often a conflicted decision we make when we rescue dogs that have serious physical negatives that are necessarily disclosed in the descriptive writeups posted on our website and social media. We always hope that despite the negatives, these dogs will “reach” people the way they reach us. It’s always a big unknown, though; some of these dogs can be with us for years, or forever.

One lucky dog we rescued from the Inland Empire area east of Los Angeles at the age of 3 months. Both of his eyes were badly damaged and were removed by the animal shelter’s veterinary group. Though he remained dauntless, we try to place blind dogs with people that have a “seeing eye dog” companion so that the blind one can follow the other dog’s leadership.

It took virtually no time for Mr. Wonder, now called Squirt, to be adopted by Michelle Tenney and her family of Chandler, Arizona.





"Sunny" Baffuto of Los Angeles, with Angeli



"Ringo" McPadden of Simi Valley



"Valentina" Dunlap of Fullerton



"Shasta" and "Tahoe" Altmann of San Diego



"Artemis" Jakubowski of El Dorado Hills



"Morgan" Serrano of San Leandro



"Henry" Kingston of Billings, Montana, with Gayle



"Jake" Wilmsen of Glendora

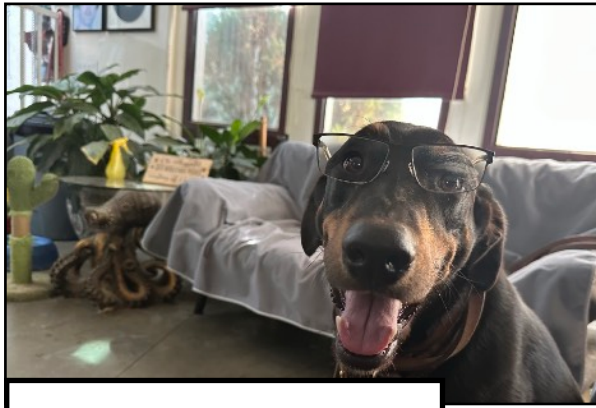


"Bella" Lee of Las Vegas, with John





"Pablo" Potgeter-Reinhart of Ramona



"Dobby" Kay of Beverly Hills



"Cabo" Blatt-McDonald of Thousand Oaks, with Rob McDonald



"Ocean" Elkabets of Oak Park, with Abigail



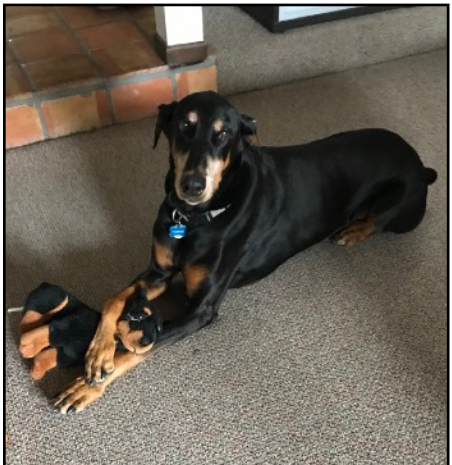
"KC" Boivin of Milton, Florida



"Bailey" Factor of Marina del Ray

Happy Adoptees

"Charlee" Bishop of Thousand Oaks



"Simon" Iacono of Huntington Beach

"Izzy" Wallace of Ventura, with Mason



Continued from Page 3

Michelle already had a dog with one eye, and the two dogs are a perfect match behaviorally!

She says: “We all love Squirt very much. He’s a very curious boy and loves everyone he meets. He gets around great. Dusti really enjoys playing with him.”

Then there is Blitz. He was owner-surrendered to another Inland Valley animal shelter at the beginning of 2020 at the senior age of 7 years. We love senior dogs so of course he came to the ranch, but then he spent the next three years kenneled, waiting to be adopted. We finally decided that since he’s pretty social with other dogs he could be a “free-roamer” on six fenced acres with comforts and spend his last years un-kenneled. During the past two years free roaming he became more stiff-legged, looking a bit robotic and not apparently painful, but we still feared we were facing the final call on Blitz.

And then Frank Aguado-Sovich, one of our favorite volunteers and a many-time adopter, asked to take little Blitz home with him. Frank has two homes: one in Fillmore and one with fenced acreage in Pinon Pines. Frank put Blitz on several alternative medications and has taken him on numerous short hikes with his other three dogs, though usually carrying him up stairs, and Blitz at age 12 has finally been adopted, is doing well, and loving life!



And Muggles: though a young dog when we rescued him in 2023, he looked aesthetically disturbing, other than his handsome face and social behavioral notes. His two rear legs are abnormally bowed and



knock-kneed. X-rays revealed nothing believed to be painful or harmful, and he waited until early 2025 for Sharon Dean, a many-time adopter and rescue foster living in Sunland, to visit in search of a companion for her female Dobie who had recently lost her male companion dog. Sharon wanted a very calm middle-aged Dobie that her female would accept and like, since she was grieving the loss of her companion.

Muggles, now called Mugsy, has had a lot to learn about being a good house dog and properly-trained pet, but a few weeks later Sharon said she really liked him and “He has brought energy and smiles to the house.”

And all of these happy endings bring smiles to our houses too!

WAITING FOR HOMES

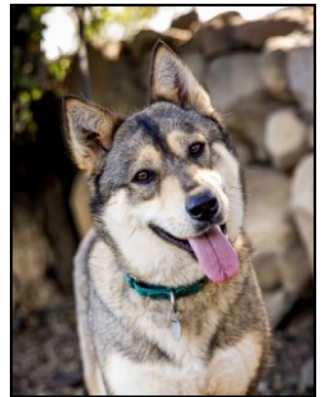
TRUCKER

is a handsome, beefy Euro-bred Dobie with a good pedigree that we inherited from a breeder who couldn’t keep him any more (not his fault). He’s a kind dog who is learning how to walk on leash, which is important because of his size. We are not recommending him for homes with male dogs or cats at this time, but he has been living peacefully with a playful female Dobie. Trucker weighs 90 pounds and is 8 years old, and we would love to have him join a family that will appreciate him. We have discovered that Trucker LOVES to play fetch! With a big yard and a tennis ball you can keep Trucker busy for hours.



CRICKET

is a sweet fluff ball we came across, abandoned at a gas station in the high desert. No owner ever came forward to claim her so we decided to help her find a new home. She’s an approximately 2 year old husky mix of some kind with the happiest, sweetest personality. She’s good with other dogs and ready for adventure with a new family!



HAVOC

is a friendly guy who appeals to everyone he greets at his kennel gate with his happy face and butt wags. He was a bit of a challenge because he affectionately jumped all over people when he came in but that habit has gotten significantly better. He may still be a little too





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active for really young kids and additional training will help him be his best. Havoc has shared a kennel with male and female Dobies since his arrival (though he did jump out of one kennel) and he has done quite well with playful companions. His ideal companion would be a non-confrontational, playful large dog. Havoc also loves to play fetch and it would be a great way to drain his energy.

she clearly loves us and being here with us, so we want her to be guaranteed a loving home that *will* know who she is! From appearances she's probably Shar Pei and Husky, and she's very social - though the alpha - with the two male dogs she's kenneled with. She's about 18 months old as of December, 2024, and she weighs 56 pounds.

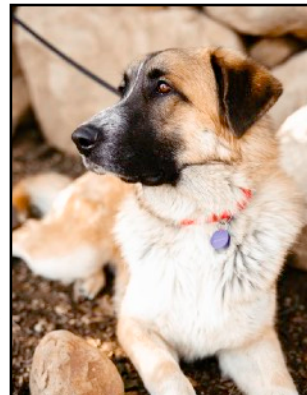
HILDA'S

animal shelter picture was deceptive! She appeared to be a Dobie girl with cropped ears, and she was red-listed (urgent) at her high-volume shelter. So...she is a dark blue Dobie MIX with cropped ears, and she's gorgeous, but mixed with a beefy breed that gives her body mass. Hilda has been a favorite dog of many, and she is compatible with tolerant males. She's just under 2 years old and weighs about 72 pounds.



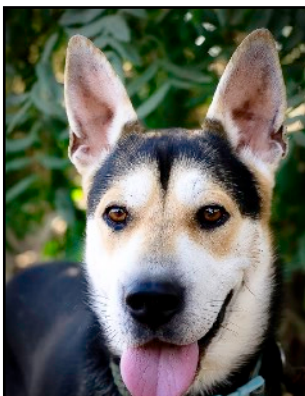
BUFORD

We were predisposed to love Buford after our very positive experience with other Anatolian Shepherd mixes like Daisy, who was recently adopted and looks enough like him to be his sister. The staff at his animal shelter expressed similar feelings for him, and he is, in fact, a gentle boy weighing about 65 pounds. Buford is calm and social, and he's a young adult who is currently kenneled happily with a 5 1/2-month female puppy.



CLOVER

was found in our neighborhood with a huge male dog, both of them skinny. She has a microchip that traced back to someone that said they didn't know who she was. We kept Clover here long enough to realize we couldn't send her to the animal shelter because



GIA

was flown from upstate California for us with six one-week-old puppies, and she was a wonderful mother. She is a pretty red Dobie weighing about 60 pounds, and she's dog-social, very sweet and undemanding. Though she is a little shy initially, she just needs to





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believe someone actually cares about her. We believe then she'll enjoy being cuddled and make a great pet for people of all ages.

HOWIE

is one of our favorites, and he has been with us almost two years! The main reason is that he will crawl under or push through fencing or barriers to be able to go where he decides to go. We don't think he's a high-jumper though, so a block-walled yard should adequately keep him in. Howie is mellow and social with female dogs (males unknown), and he always greets us with a happy face and butt wag. He's now about 6 years old and just under 70 pounds.



RUFUS

is a gangly youngster who is quite a character whether he understands that or not. He's dog-social and about 18 months old. For an owner that is more interested in his unique charm than aesthetics, he's a winner. To understand why, come and meet him!



BUNNY

is a sweet, mellow dog that is social with other dogs and so quiet that we often have to look inside her dogloo to make sure she is there. She has been kenneled with males and females alike, and to our knowledge has never argued with any of them. We think Bunny is about 4 years old, and she's a pretty, "all natural" girl weighing about 70 pounds.



PARTING SHOT



"Barney" Lecher
 of Venice

