



"Ginger" Dawson of Corona

"Dobie Doings"



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"Romeo" Munro of Simi Valley

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

Thanks to our wish list on Amazon.com, many of our holiday wishes came true. We got cases of ground canned dog food, rolls of wire to fix kennels, a bolt cutter, a couple of large new dog crates, a tool kit, and thanks to the outreach efforts of volunteer Carol Dailey, we received dozens of new Kuranda beds...so many, in fact, that every dog received a new bed and we have plenty of spare hammocks to replace damaged ones when they become unusable. Volunteer Mitzi Roberts put them all together on her days off.

Adoptions continue to be good, and we have a few new volunteers who help transport dogs to within our reach, enabling us to save more dogs from such far-away places as Stockton, Modesto, San Jose, Monterey, and Sacramento. Jim Hill of Stockton, California, and Mary and Bert Debusschere of Tracy, California, do these transports as far as Fresno for us routinely.

Though our focus is mainly on Dobermans since our small-dog adopters have become such a minority, we had an idea to offer our small-dog fans: if you're seeking a certain type of small dog that isn't currently available at our rescue, let us know what your requirements are, and we'll try to find a dog to fit your needs. The less specific, the better; for example, we don't often find Maltese or Yorkie puppies that need rescuing! Also, it can be difficult to know which dogs are definitely housebroken, since most of our rescues start as animal shelter strays. But within certain parameters, like "female, 2-5 years old,

15 pounds, short-haired, and sweet," we can probably locate a good dog that meets those requirements.

Thank you all who responded with new pictures of your adoptees! We have way too many to put in a single newsletter, but we'll print as many as we can in each issue. Keep them coming, please. Even if they never make it into print, we treasure each and every one of them.

Your donations of every kind helped to get us through another season of rescuing dogs. Thank you, thank you.

Sincerely,

Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

Good news: three of the seven dogs featured in our last newsletter were adopted, and another is now living the good life in a foster home that we truly hope will want to keep him!

AUGUSTA,

our near-perfect little Pomeranian, was adopted by Brooke and Lew Parker of West Covina. They also adopted an extra-large Dobie boy the same day. Lew wanted a Dobie and Brooke wanted a little dog, so we had to match a 10-pound dog with one weighing at least 90 pounds and get it right the first time (for Augusta's safety!). We recently received an e-mail from the Doberman: "I'm a lovable,

handsome Dobie and my beautiful, playful sister is a Pomeranian. We are now known as Shogun and Daphne Louise Parker (nicknamed Daffy Lou) and living the good life in retirement. We travel in style in the family's Airstream motor home

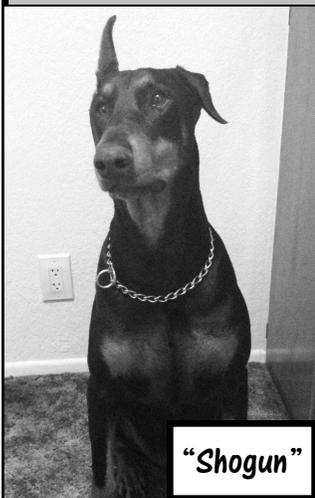


"Daffy Lou"

on trips to Gualala (Google it) to run on the beaches and visit Hazard (a yellow Lab), Chichi and Javier (Chihuahuas, naturally) and the Parkers' grandson and his parents. The

rest of our time is spent sleeping in the master bedroom, minding the backyard squirrels, going on occasional walks and accompanying our parents to watch them take obedience classes at the local PetSmart. They're well trained, with the occasional lapse, but can be very funny. Life is good. Squirrel!?"

Oh, and Lew said that Shogun chewed up his credit cards, which he said was probably a good thing.



"Shogun"

PRESTON,

our funny, scruffy little Terrier mix, was adopted by Velia and Mike Bowers of Chalfant Valley. His new name is Ricochet, and he endeared himself to everyone instantly except the cat, Miss Kitty, who took a few days to decide.

From Velia's recent e-mail: "Words cannot express how he fits into our family. He is loved by all and he loves all of us. I went out of town for 2 days and when I returned he almost went inside out he was so excited to see me."



"Ricochet" (the black terrier) and his new friends

HARDY,

who spent over a year waiting for the home he so truly deserved, was adopted by Shana and Aaron Schwehr of

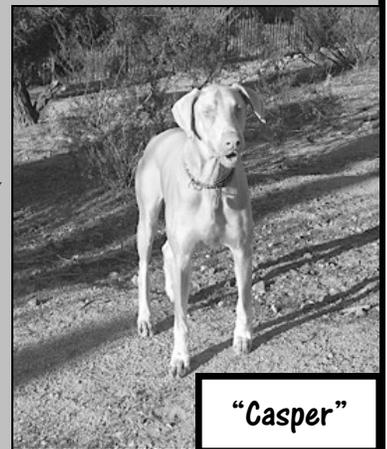


"Harvey"

Lancaster, CA. They decided from the minute they saw his picture on Facebook that he was the dog they wanted to adopt. In fact, when they came to pick him up, he was the only one they wished to see. Not that this is uncommon, it's just that Hardy was never going to be a beauty contest winner, except in terms of his beautiful soul. Shana says "Harvey (his new name) was very easy to houstrain and he loves the kids."

CASPER

waited quite a few months to live in a home environment, and technically he is still available, but he has been fostered since January 15 by Missy Atkins of Carefree, AZ. She had earlier lost a loved albino Doberman, so she has a fondness for them and understands their needs. We hope this may become a "failed foster!"



"Casper"

WE HAVE FUN ON SATURDAYS



WAITING FOR HOMES

SERENITY

is a recent rescue from a distant shelter where the local rescue groups passed on her, partially because she exhibited what may have been two seizures during the time she was impounded as a stray dog. The shelter spayed her for us, as she had clearly been used for breeding, but she still has a decent figure, so it doesn't appear she had been overbred. During her stay with us the past few weeks, we have watched her carefully for signs of additional seizures or disorientation, and we haven't seen anything at all, so her earlier episodes may have been a reaction to the vaccinations given at the shelter or some other, non-permanent cause. Serenity is about 4 years old and is solidly-built. She's bossy with her food but has been able to live with an unaggressive large male dog if fed separately.

J.R.

is a large red male Dobie who is about 4 years old. Though he's been with us only a few months, we hope to find him a new home soon because we think he will make a great pet for the right home. He's not vocal, very mellow, appreciates attention, and in our experience, can be walked by other dogs without being very reactive. It isn't known whether he can live with another dog; it probably depends on that dog's personality. We did place him briefly with a dog he did not like and he was promptly returned. All things considered, J. R. will probably do best as the only dog in a home that will appreciate what an easy dog he is.

PATTY

Patty is a Miniature Pinscher we recently rescued from an animal shelter when owner died and left her an orphan. The shelter notes indicated that she was a sweet dog but very overweight. This turned out to be true; she weighed about double, at 27 pounds, what her bone structure should reasonably support. We think she is about 7 years old. Patty is presently in a temporary foster home where she can be fed separately and receive enough exercise to allow her to shed the extra weight. It appears

she's housebroken and tolerant of other dogs and kids.

JODIE

is a small terrier mix that just came in from an animal shelter. We aren't sure exactly what breeds she's made of but we just couldn't resist that fuzzy face. She's only about 1 year old, 10 pounds, good with other dogs, and sweet with people. Jodie just loves being held and giving kisses.



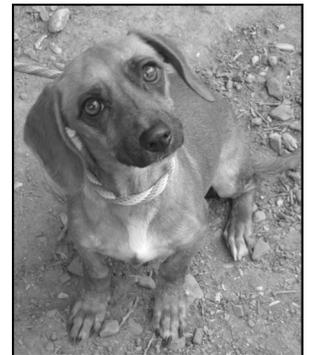
TAZ

is a 4-year-old pedigreed Dobie we received from the owners when they had to move and couldn't take him. He always attracts attention here because he's rarely seen without a blanket or toy hanging out of his mouth. He's tolerant of some dogs and is good with kids, according to his ex-owner, and he knows basic commands. Though Taz was always an outside dog where he lived, he's affectionate and will enjoy being with his people, indoors and outdoors. At this time (March, 2014) he's been with us five months.



SCALLOP

is a darling young female Dachshund mix who had been at an animal shelter as a stray. She was very thin but is gaining weight nicely. Scallop is thought to be about a year old, weighs under ten pounds, and is very dog social. Though she has not been kenneled in direct contact with cats, Scallop and two other little females are housed in our cattery and appear to be reasonably social with cats also.



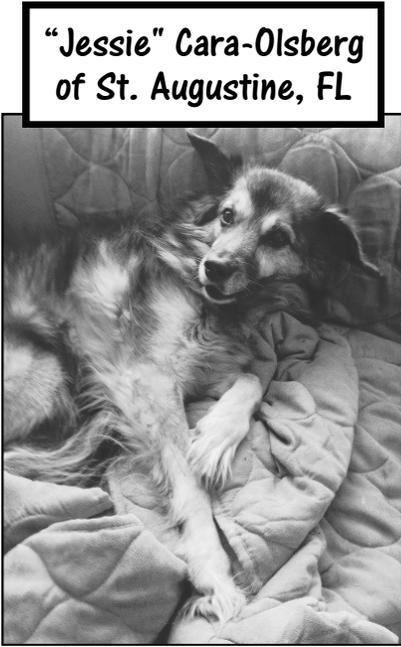
BOO

was just returned to us several years after her adoption because she attacked the other (male) Doberman in the home on several occasions. In other respects, she's a good dog who has never shown any aggression to people, including kids. She is now about 4 years old, housebroken, knows her commands, and isn't destructive. Boo is believed to have lupus, and the medication she takes is called niacinamide, an inexpensive vitamin.



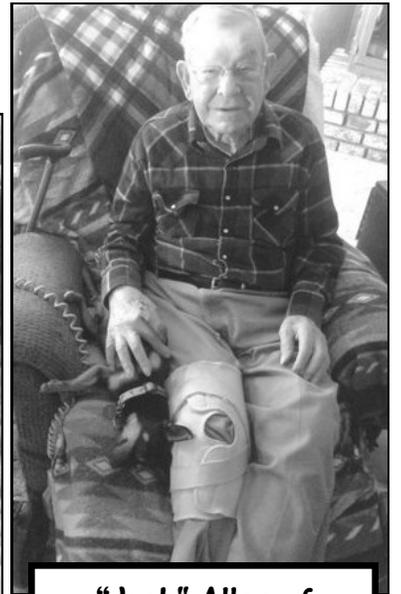


"Chanel" Grdanc of Newhall, with "Stella"



"Buttons" Hasler of Oceanside

"Jessie" Cara-Olsberg of St. Augustine, FL



"Jack" Allen of Castaic, with Kenneth



"Kachina" Roberts-Ware of Simi Valley



"Phoebe" Schore of Los Angeles

HAPPY ADOPTEES!!



"Canelo" Berdeja of Paso Robles



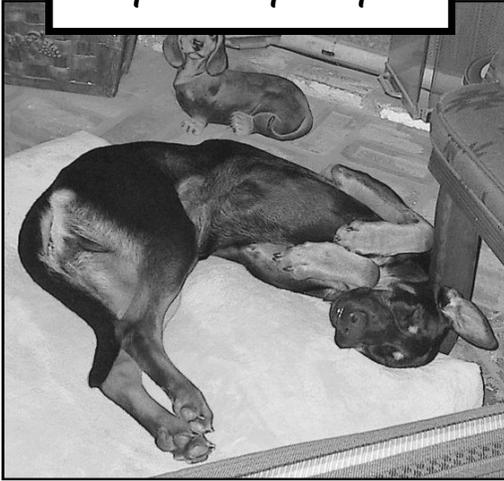
"Sir Barks Alot" Budroe of Ventura, with Max



"Ralph" Berglund of Huntington Beach



"Cody" Woolley of Sylmar



"Vegas" DeGroof of La Crescenta



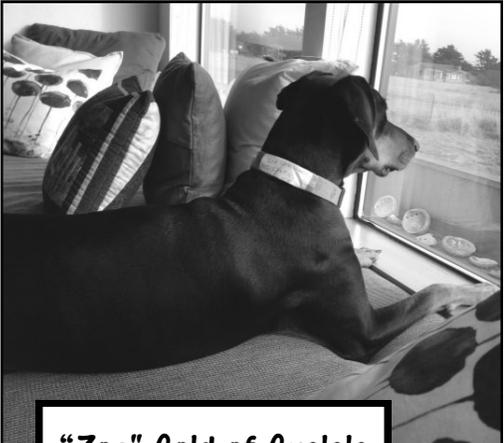
"Raider" Hale of Menifee, with Anthony



"Layla" Taylor-Smith of Redondo Beach



"Zoe" Gold of Gualala



"Houdini" Bernard of Sylmar



"Coal" and "Olaf" Rice of North Hollywood



"Boris" Black of Ramona



TALE OF TWO HAPPY DOGS

We're complimented frequently on our newsletter, which we appreciate, because we enjoy writing it and sharing the love that is such a part of doing rescue. At times I've asked people what they enjoy most about our newsletters, and usually they say "the centerfold," "Colleen's articles," and "the happy endings." So happens we really enjoy the happy endings too, so here are a couple more of them to give you your smile for the day.

BOSCH has had a number of names, but this is the name he ended up with, named after a detective in a series of Michael Connelly novels. He was impounded at an animal shelter with a badly-smashed rear leg, and he had stayed by his Rottweiler friend when a car hit them both, killing the Rottweiler. His picture appeared on our message board, and we committed to him immediately because we knew he'd need urgent care. Fractures, if not treated promptly, are difficult or impossible to repair because, among other things, the nerves leading to the injured area cease to function. This leaves the dog with a sort of "yardstick" appendage.

The day we were legally able to rescue Bosch, he was taken immediately to our surgical vet, who tried for 3 1/2 hours to save the leg. It wasn't possible. The bone fragments and nerve damage were too severe.

Then we needed a foster home for Bosch for a couple of weeks where he could be comfortable and dry



while the amputation site healed. I called our wonderful volunteers, Mitzi Roberts and Tanya Ware of Simi Valley - who were all set to foster a different dog - asking them if they could foster Bosch instead, short-term. We can't recall that these ladies have ever turned us down for anything, and they readily agreed.

We didn't know if Bosch would have any upper

respiratory infection or other disease, having come directly from a shelter where this is prevalent, but Mitzi and Tanya didn't keep Bosch separate from their other dogs for more than a day. They couldn't bear for him to be isolated. By the third day he was part of the family, getting along with all the other dogs and not appearing to be having any trouble rehabilitating. During this time we kept checking with them to make sure Bosch was still available for adoption and not a "keeper." We were assured he was available.

Finally, on a Saturday open-house adoption day, Angela and Christopher Stead of Moorpark, adopters of a lovely girl Doberman named Mia a few months earlier, came to visit to choose a companion for Mia. They decided to adopt Bosch. When we delivered the news to Tanya, she looked shocked and far less than thrilled. There was some back-and-forth conversation, quite a few tears, and ultimately Mitzi and Tanya concluded they couldn't give up their foster boy; they had loved him too long...and Angela and Christopher

chose another special-needs dog, Rex, who has neurological impairment in his hind quarters but is otherwise



about as perfect as a dog can be. As is Bosch; both wonderful dogs!

KISMET is the name Colleen gave to another dog that lucked out recently. Colleen was on her way to Fresno to pick up dogs delivered there from upstate shelters by volunteer driver Jim Hill, when she desperately needed something to drink and exited the freeway at a rest stop to buy a cup of coffee. As she pulled into the parking lot, she observed a small dog running around and originally assumed he belonged to one of the many customers. She ran into the mini-mart, and the cashier said the dog was left there a week ago and concerned people had been providing him with food and water but no one could get close to him.

Colleen followed him around for about 30 minutes trying to get close enough to catch him until he tried to hide in a corner by the door of the mini-mart. Thankfully, the cashier opened the door, which trapped him, and Colleen was able to slip a leash over his head.



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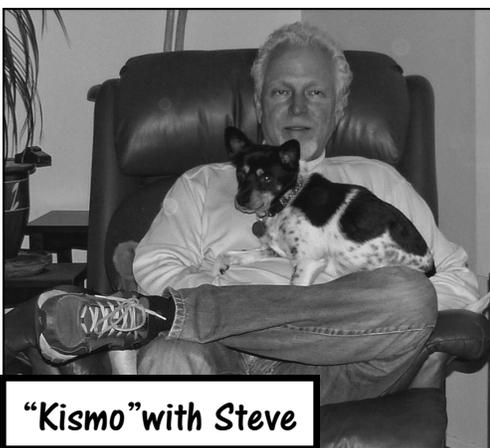
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100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals.

Though the little guy was terrified and did offer to bite, he finally realized that no harm was intended and that he was about to experience the luckiest day of his life.

Kismet turned out to be a fairly young, placid, Rat Terrier mix who was very dog-social and easy to own. While Colleen sheltered him, he was well-fed, got vaccinated and neutered, and traveled to the rescue ranch every Saturday for viewing, resting comfortably on the front seat of her truck while waiting his turn for a home of his own. He totally looked like he belonged there and deserved to be there!

Karl Kraves of Woodland Hills, a several-time adopter of our Dobermans, knew that his brother Steve was about to be in the market for a dog, though he required a smaller dog because of his living situation. Just before Christmas, he called to say he'd like to buy his



"Kismo" with Steve

brother a gift certificate for a small dog of his choice at our rescue, and of course we were only too happy to comply!
Steve came three times to look at our little guys before deciding that Kismet would be the right choice for his home in Santa Monica. He was concerned because on occasion he needed to be away from home for 8 or 9

hours, but we assured him that no one is home 24/7, and that Kismet would be absolutely fine and happy to see him when he returned.

We received a recent e-mail from Karl, who said: "My brother is madly in-love with the newest member of his family (he changed the name to 'Kismo')"...but is "treating Kismo like a piece of priceless china. I think after a week or so Kismo and Steve will be enthralled with one another and will be inseparable."

The picture pretty much tells it all.

We call these chance outcomes "kismet" or "serendipity," but there are probably lots of names for it; it's about a great dog being in the right place at the right time, and ending up with a well-deserved place to land in luxury... loved, wanted, and - maybe a little - spoiled.

THE POWER OF SILENCE

by Colleen Anderson

It will come as no surprise to those who know me and those of you that regularly read our newsletter that I love "special needs" dogs. I would choose an old, deaf, blind, 3-legged pooch with a bad coat over a perfect beauty any day, and I think most people in rescue feel the same. I started being drawn to these dogs mainly because I felt sorry for them, since they are usually overlooked and left behind. However, I've recently realized that I love them for entirely different reasons. Yes, they can be challenging at times, but they are also far more interesting, and oftentimes, more fun. With every new case I learn something new, and my most recent lesson



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came from some very special deaf dogs.

When working with dogs, people usually have verbal commands for everything. We tell our dogs to sit, heel, stay, down, and come. We also feel the need to constantly give our dogs verbal praise when they're good and tell them "no" (or something far worse!) when they're bad. So what happens when you can't use words to communicate with your dog? Well, that's what living with a deaf dog teaches you.

I have had an almost 2-year experience with my deaf and mostly-blind Australian Shepherd mix, Petunia, but she is such an easy girl and didn't give me a lot of trouble. It wasn't until I started fostering a young deaf Dobie girl named Brisa that I really learned the power of silence.

In the beginning, I caught myself still giving her verbal corrections just like any other dog, forgetting for a moment that she couldn't hear me. However, when I said "no" to her, it was usually accompanied by a finger point and a stern stare that I like to call "the stink eye." After feeling silly one too many times saying "no" to a deaf dog, I dropped the word and just did the point and stare. Bingo! It worked like a charm. I got my point across with absolutely no sound, and the surprising thing was the effect that dropping the word had on ME. Working with Brisa in complete silence had such a calming effect. Taking words out of the equation made the connection I had with her stronger. I became more aware of my moods and my body language. I actually felt more in control, less stressed, and far less frustrated. There is a freedom in working with dogs in complete silence

because you end up relying on your instincts and communicating with them more like they do with each other. Brisa knows whether I'm happy with her or upset with her in a heartbeat, and no words are ever necessary.



"Brisa"

I really believe that most of the sounds we use with our dogs are more for our benefit than theirs. Even though Brisa and Petunia have never heard me tell them that I love them, they absolutely know. It's said that silence is golden, and with the help of Brisa and deaf dogs like her, I'm starting to know why.

***"Every step you take, every move you make,
 I'll be watching you."***



"Zorro" Goodman of El Segundo