



**"Finn" & "Olive" Neel of  
Simi Valley**

## "Dobie Doings"



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**"Minnie" Haefliger-Henderson  
of Somis**

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Our annual holiday party, Deck the Halls With Bones and Balls, hosted by Paula Cwikly for so many years, was as wonderful as it always is. It's good to see many of our adopters every year and get those great big hugs. Keep an eye on our website and/or Facebook and Instagram posts to find out when and where we'll be having our next fundraiser in the next few months, this time to be held at a winery!

A special note to our donors who have items shipped to us from our wish list: these gifts arrive in boxes with just a small gift receipt showing an app designation we can access to see who our donor is so that we can thank them. Unfortunately, my (older) computer doesn't understand apps very well, so most of the gifts coming via Amazon aren't acknowledged. This is also true for some of the matching gifts from employers like Abbott Laboratories and from gifting charities like Benevity, Sage, and others. Please know that we sincerely appreciate our gifts, though you likely won't hear this from us individually.

The horrible fires in Paradise and around the Malibu and other areas were just beginning when our last newsletter was being printed, so there was no mention of them at that time. As always, we hope all of you living in those areas, as well as your pets, are safe and still living in your homes. California has certainly seen its share of natural disasters during the period beginning with December, 2017, when we did our own evacuation.

Don't forget to keep watching the "Adoptees" link on our website for pictures of your adopted dogs. We receive pictures too numerous to print in our quarterly newsletter, but they are no less treasured. All the dog lovers we know enjoy seeing the happily-ever-after shots of these precious pooches. And they're in color!



Blessings,  
*Ardis Braun*

## ADOPTION UPDATES

Four of the seven Waiting For Homes dogs we featured in our last newsletter, plus one of the Parting Shot dogs, were adopted and are doing well.

### RILEY,

our 10-year-old Border Collie featured as a retired herder of Santa's reindeer in our last Parting Shot section, found a great new home with Sarah Gillespie of Pasadena. Unbeknownst to us, Riley had a problem with one eye that was building pressure behind the cornea and causing Riley discomfort. Sarah realized it and did all of



the legwork getting Riley the help and recuperation he needed. So he was lucky in two ways: first, being rescued after his owner passed away, and second, finding love again at Sarah's home.

From her lovely e-mail: "I wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to the Dobie and Little Paws Rescue for bringing Riley into my life. He is truly one of the most special dogs I have ever known. In just a short amount of time, we have become best friends. He is the most loyal companion. He follows me everywhere I go. We love going on walks and adventures, and even just going for rides around town. He is also incredibly smart and learns new tricks astonishingly fast. Riley has the kindest soul. I feel so lucky to have found him. He has enriched my life so much already.

Also, thank you so much to the Dobie and Little Paws Rescue for helping with the surgery to save Riley's eyesight. His eye healed up beautifully and we were able to save his vision."

### **PACO,**

our cute little guy of unknown breeding, was adopted by Laura Seraso of Burbank. He got a name change and is loving his life. From her recent e-mail: "Rupert Pupkin is a wonder! He has been a perfect little man since his arrival, including becoming the best buddy of 14-year-old Bella (who is playing with him like she's just out of puppyhood). He is a 'star' at the dog park, in



part because he thinks he owns the lap of every human he meets. Thank you Dobie Rescue for our new favorite little dude!"

### **SERENA**

was very lucky the day that Stacy Ratliff came to view our dogs, expecting to take someone home with her that day to her cozy mountain home in Sugarloaf. She visited with several dogs and was seriously undecided, finally allowing us to give our vote to Serena, now called Gretchen, who presented to us as being a sensitive (and favorite)



dog needing someone like Stacy to make her life happy again after spending time in an animal shelter and several months here waiting for adoption including surgery on her (entropion) eyelids to make her eyes comfortable again.

From a recent text from Stacy: "When Ardis speaks, listen. I'm so grateful that I did. She is a wealth of knowledge. Brought my girl Gretchen home to Big Bear. Best decision I made!"

### **CREATURE**

was also very lucky in more than one way. First, he was so unusual-looking, with such an adorable personality, that we were moved to rescue him in the first place from his animal shelter. And then, after being fostered by volunteer Natalie Rimmele of Ventura for a few weeks after we rescued him, she realized she would have to be a "foster failure"



and keep him permanently. With a not-always-enjoyable profession, Natalie said Creature always, always made her smile and laugh after a grueling day. In addition, he became a semi-finalist in a competition featured on the Hallmark Channel on television during January. (See story on pages 7-8.)

### **BERNADETTE**

our pretty girl who suffered permanent scarring down her back from – presumably – a chemical burn, got her great new home with Anne and Richard Saint of Ventura.

From Rich's recent e-mail: "Bernadette, now Bindi, does not let her diminutive size stop her from bossing her 90 pound brother around. She loves attention and playing; she is also great at protecting us from birds flying overhead. She is a little sweetheart who loves everyone.

Bindi really helps with the pain of losing our old girl Lilly. I'm looking forward to at least ten years of spoiling naughty little Bindi!"



Rich had said earlier that it's a good thing she's cute, because she was naughty and stole an entire apple pie off the counter a little earlier.

## WAITING FOR HOMES

### Desi

is a new arrival from an animal shelter, and his story is a bit confusing. He had been abandoned at a house when everyone moved out, so a sympathetic person took him in but couldn't keep him. At that point it's unclear why the shelter decided not to place him with a party that



expressed interest in taking him. Perhaps they suspected that the person was part of his abandonment. The shelter requested rescue assistance, and we were pleased to take in this nice older dog. His age was given as 7 years, and he's kenneled with a female Doberman currently, though he charges at her occasionally when he's overstimulated by other dogs. Though Desi was initially motivated to bolt from his kennel, we can't assume he would do the same in a happy home environment, but we hope to ensure that he has a secure yard at his new home.

### Farrah

is a blue Doberman girl who is on the large side for a female, and about 6 years old. She has a so-so coat typical of blue Dobbies, but she's a spry, active girl who gives full body wags when greeting people (at least



those she knows) at the gate. Initially we weren't certain how dog-social she is, as she exhibited some amped-up behavior when seeing other dogs while she was on leash, but she presently shares a large area with a male and two other females, without incident. Farrah does not

appear to be a "dog's dog," meaning she can probably tolerate them but would be just as happy not to be required to. She was a stray dog at her animal shelter, so no previous history is available.

### Moxie

is a little Terrier mix with a number of typical Terrier behaviors, good and less-good. She weighs about 10 pounds and she's 2 years old, housebroken,

non-destructive, and fine with cats. She can also live with some dogs but doesn't mind at all being the one-and-only. Moxie doesn't enjoy small kids but is ok with older ones. Her other challenging behavior is that she can climb 6' fences, so we'd love to place her as a condo dog with no direct outside access, or with folks that have a tall block-walled yard. She's affectionate, but not annoyingly needy.



### Booker

was rescued after being discovered bone-thin, abandoned, tied to a post. He was so starved that he has had to be fed small meals that are soaked with



water to prevent him from bloating. He's a beautiful red male Doberman, 3 years old, with natural ears and docked tail. Booker has a sense of humor. He loves to sit by his person, and then break into a big doggie "smile!" He needs a little work on leash, but he loves to run and would make an excellent running

companion. He may be tolerant of other dogs except where food is concerned, so he would more safely be placed as the only dog.

### Sky

was rescued from an animal shelter where she had been adopted two weeks prior and then returned, apparently because she didn't get along with the other dog. We suspect the other dog was a female, which is a common reason for discord.

Sky is definitely anxious and pulls hard toward other dogs she views when on leash, but she is kenneled with two unfrontational males and there have been no problems. Sky is a blue female with a nice coat, carries good weight, and she's about 2 years old.



"Angie" Dunlap of Fullerton



"Frank" Knecht of Santa Barbara, with Jamie



"Battle" Duron of Chula Vista, with Ilusion & Malina Rose



"Duchess" Chow of Fremont, with Shirley

"Rollo" Bice of Norwalk



"Dobie" Hinman-Loya of Canyon Country



"Pumpkin" Ortega of Beaumont

"Remus," "Faith" & "Tucker" Allred of Newbury Park, with Kim & Zak



"Lido" Lee-Makino of Walnut, with Betty Lee & Nathan Makino





"Cooper" Bradley of La Quinta, with Jack

"Boomer" & "Charlie" Moser of San Juan Capistrano



"Lolly" Emery of Hanford



"Zara" Cox-Jameson of Las Vegas, NV

"Mini" Broze of Sun City, AZ

# HAPPY ADOPTEES

"Prancer" Colachis of Los Angeles, with Nick

"Sasha" Leograndis of El Dorado



"Emma" Frank of Miramonte



"Miles" Weaver of Trabuco Canyon, with Jen, Braeden & Adam

## WAITING FOR HOMES CONT.

### Princess

was surrendered to the animal shelter by her owners. She's about 3 years old, loves people like crazy and wants nothing more than to be by someone's side. Sometimes that becomes a problem because she doesn't handle being alone all that well. She can't seem to jump a 6 ft fence but if she can climb on top of something else that is up against the fence, she'll vault over in search of her person. Princess has been good with many other dogs but we are recommending her for a home with large male dogs only. She is highly intelligent and would be a great dog for someone looking for a constant companion.



### Elsa

is possibly a Whippet-Dobie mix. She was very shy in the shelter but she has started to come out of her shell a bit, to walk on leash, and be affectionate towards people. She needs slow and gentle guidance while she gains confidence. We do believe that Elsa needs another dog that can be not only her buddy but a bit of a leader as well. She gets along well with both genders but larger, confident and social dogs would be ideal.



### Gurlee

is a new girl in our program, and though we were expecting an 8-year-old female to be fairly sedate, that is not the case! She has plenty of energy even though she's overweight. She is good (though bossy) with the large males she has met so far.

Gurlee was given up by owners who could no longer care for her. She's a happy greeter with a butt wag for everyone she sees.



### Stoltz

(named after the famous redhead) came to us from an animal shelter where he was brought in as a stray. He's a young guy, about 2 years old, who is handsome, sweet and affectionate, but he will benefit from training. He's taking to guidance well but further work will be required so he can learn good manners like not jumping on people. Stoltz is fairly dog-social, but he's insecure and can be defensive. He lives with a large female currently and is submissive to her.



## ROSIE'S ROSY FUTURE

As is much too often the case, we get really good dogs in that end up spending a long time here waiting for their forever homes. Sadly, some of them pass away of old age while they wait because we are no-kill. If a dog is elderly and/or has handicaps that make him or her not very adoptable, and if that dog is dog-social enough to live with a multitude of other dogs within the six acres I (Ardis) fenced here at the rescue ranch, the dog can be a "free-roamer" that can enjoy running free with the other ones granted this privilege, with access to my house through a doggie door.

Sometimes a specific dog will rise to the top of our priority list, each volunteer having his or her group of chosen favorites, which often have a serious negative or two that make them more like lifers than adoptees. In those cases the volunteer that loves those dogs makes life extra-special for them, walking them frequently, taking them on Forgotten Dog outings, sitting with them during adoptions to make sure they're noticed, and giving them special treats and comforts.

I got up the morning of December 22nd deciding that a senior female Dobie of ours, Rosie, was much too good a dog to spend the rest of her life waiting for that special home. I made a mental note to get her out more often to be noticed, because she had already spent over a year, waiting. Her age was estimated at 8 years, so I knew she didn't have that many left.

It was a Saturday, our open house adoption



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 We also have PayPal  
 100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals.

day, and we had potential adopters coming to meet various dogs, including one who had expressed interest in adopting a mellow senior dog. I immediately thought of Rosie and brought her out for a meeting when the woman arrived, but she wanted a Dobie on the smaller side. (Rosie is a big 90-pounder.)



BUT! Before I put her back, Karen Haskins of Castaic had appeared to meet dogs that day, and she noticed Rosie right away, asking to meet her. They spent time together in our visiting area, and Rosie was chosen to be the newest Haskins!

In a recent e-mail from Karen, she said "Rosie is the sweetest dog in the whole wide world. Everyone loves her and she loves everyone. She is housetrained and wakes me up at night if she has to go... I would not have it any other way.

Rosie is extremely happy and so am I. She loves to go for rides with me and loves her walks. She walks on the leash pretty good, and does not go crazy when we see other dogs. I still want to take her to the doggie park soon and see if she likes that.

Rosie is the best."

These are the thrills that make us rescue people work so hard, endure disappointments and heartbreaks, and never give up. And we owe it to people like Karen Haskins, who are willing to take a relative unknown into their home on the word of a rescue person who would give an eye tooth to see a special dog they recommend get that special home. Kleenex, please...

## MY ARTICLE

Last year was the first airing of the American Rescue Dog Show on Hallmark Channel, a one-of-a-kind show that took the competition of the Westminster Dog Show and turned it on its ear. In this show, personality is more important than genetics and no one needed a pedigree to compete. They only needed to be from a rescue group or animal shelter. The best part? Not only do rescue dogs get to take center stage and help promote adoption, but the victorious dogs win a donation for the rescue group that saved them.

In 2018 we had our beloved Bandit, a 3-legged Dobie mix (adopted by Topher and Gail Means of Ventura), compete in the Best in Special Needs category. He was absolutely adorable and was one of the top dogs in his group.

This year we had not one, but two dogs in the competition. Creature, who was adopted by our volunteer, Natalie Rimmele (you can read more about them on page 2), was in the Best in Underbite category



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and behind the scenes he was stealing the show, bringing a smile to everyone's face and being the charmer he is. Alas, maybe not all dogs are cut out for show business though. Creature had a tough time with the lights and cameras but the tough part was that the heat from the stage lights made him pant and it was tough then to show his glorious underbite. He didn't win his category but the best part about being in this show is that there were no losers and deserving rescue dogs still walked away with the victory.



ultimately adopted about 5 years ago, by Jan Smith of Laguna Niguel. He was a last-minute addition to the Best in Couch Potato category, but boy are we glad because...HE WON! Perhaps because seeing a tough-looking Dobie snuggled on a couch is a sight many are not used to or maybe the connection between Blue and his mom, Jan, was too heartwarming to deny. Either way, he walked away with the ribbon and he showed just how sweet our breed can be.



A dobie named Blue was fostered, and

We feel so lucky to have been a part of this revolutionary show that celebrates rescue dogs and why we love them.

"Nikki" & "Henry"  
 Moya of Long  
 Beach

**PARTING SHOTS**

.....and some aren't.

"Azure" Johnson  
 of Whittier



Some dogs are built for  
 speed.....





