



“Lazy” Christensen of
Vancouver, WA

“Dobie Doings”



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“Walter-Becker” Young of Santa
Barbara, with “Billie”

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

It's a joy to welcome summer this year after so many cold, wet days we all endured over the spring. We actually dismantled and moved some of our kennels that were impossible to keep dry and comfortable for the dogs, and thanks to a couple of donors, we even received many harder-to-destroy dog houses to make them more comfortable.

The number of dogs needing rescue and not able to be rescued is still heartbreaking. Some shelters have more than nine or ten Dobermans at a time, plus adorable Dobie mixes and other awesome dogs we would happily have taken a dozen of in years past. At this point, it's mostly a matter of a dog being in the right place at the right time, when we have an opening and transport to get the dog here.

The good news is that we are placing dogs; 19 of them in April, 11 in the first half of May! We are very hopeful that the beginning of summer won't affect adoptions too badly as people prepare to take vacations and don't want to adopt a dog until they're back. Obviously this makes sense, but time off from work or school can also be an ideal time to integrate a new dog, with extra time to train and experience adventures that the dog can be part of. Colleen's pack hikes are a great example of this.

With the 4th of July upon us, make sure your dogs are securely contained – maybe even lightly sedated – especially if you have a new dog that hasn't experienced fireworks and gun discharges with you

previously. Animal shelters are filled with new arrivals after the 4th, and they're the lucky ones that survive their frantic escapes.

As always, thank you all for your continued help of every kind. You make it all possible!

Warm wishes,

Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

SPENCER

had been with us a long time, having had an injury that required surgery upon his arrival, and after rehab he was one of so many

competing for that “special” home. In February, he got it! He lives with Patti Lucci at her beautiful home on a large property in Agoura. To sum up a long conversation with her post-adoption, Spencer loves her, his sofa, and his yard; in that order.



DARLA

came to be rescued because of her very unusual brother, Magic, shown in our last newsletter.

Every day there are so many Shepherd mixes in need of rescue that we can't bear to look at them, but Magic captured us so thoroughly that



we had to go back to the shelter to rescue Darla too. Her new name is Pharraah, and here's an update from her happy owners, the Block family of Oceanside:

"Pharraah has stolen our hearts and we already love her so much. She loves playing in her backyard with her mom, dad and human brother, going on walks, and belly rubs. Her favorite toys are her stuffed monkey, her Nylabone, her tennis balls, and she gets so excited with her herding ball. She mastered her doggie puzzle after two tries. She gets to go to doggy day camp and play with other dogs two days a week; the rest of the time she is mama's little shadow. She is the perfect fit for us. We couldn't be happier with her."

LANA

got lucky after waiting two years for her forever home when Julie Giusto and her family drove all the way from Millbrae, specifically for her! When we brought her into our visiting area to meet them, she wiggle-pranced in, picked up a stuffed toy, and presented it to them as they sat on the couch. We haven't received an update from Julie yet, but this picture likely says it all!



JOE,

now called Dominic, is enjoying creature comforts with TerryLynn Whitfield of Upland. She says



"I am so in love with this beautiful young male!! He is now housebroken, loves his daily runs, follows me around like I am his mother...and brings me so much

joy and laughter. How lucky am I??? Dominic – red male Dobie rescue #5 – 17 months. He rescued me!"

RUSTY

Just as we were going to press, little Rusty was adopted by our volunteer, Tom Seckar of Simi Valley. Though it's a bit soon for a full update, Tom texted this picture with the comment "He's home!" (That's Rusty on the right.)



SCRUFFY

was rescued because we got transport for Rusty (see above), a dog we had placed many years ago (who turned up with our microchip in a faraway shelter) and was picked up with another dog, and taking the two of them would have left Scruffy



alone in his kennel during cold and wet weather. We couldn't abide that, so we rescued him too, and he now lives with Diane and Gil Covington of Oxnard. Diane says: "This little guy is so sweet. We are in love! Scruffy and my husband are inseparable. He loves me too, but those two guys are bonded. Thank you for bringing sweet little Scruffy to us."

WAITING FOR HOMES

WOLFIE

is thought to be a Japanese Kai Ken dog, and we initially saw him on posts from a high-kill animal shelter: a first alert, then a second alert, and finally a 72-hour alert. At that point, knowing he had also had a rear leg amputation, we felt obliged to rescue him, feeling



that having lost a leg shouldn't also mean that he would then lose his life. We've found Wolfie to be cute, friendly, sassy, confident, and unafraid of much of anything. He charges ahead on his three legs ready to take on the world, and he has been social with his larger female kennelmate. He's middle-aged (5-6 years old)

and weighs about 35 pounds. He has a short, thick coat like a baby bear.

NIKITA AND MALIBU

were surrendered by the granddaughter of a woman who is hospitalized and then headed to hospice. They've lived together since they were both puppies, so obviously we would love to keep them together. We think Nikita and Malibu would be perfect companions for an older person or couple because they are seniors themselves at



8 years old and very easy to handle. Nikita is a red girl weighing 67 pounds and Malibu weighs about 15 pounds. Both dogs are trained to relieve themselves on potty pads, command trained, not destructive, good with other dogs and kids. Can anyone make room for two?

SANGER

(rhymes with anger) is a lanky 3-year-old Doberman boy who came to be named after the animal shelter he landed in, located in central California. The shelter staff were fond of Sanger, saying he was fun, dog-social, but needed groceries. After his arrival here we continued his weight-gain program, and he's now at a healthy weight and ready for a new home. The best way we can describe this dog is that he has "pizzazz!"



MAXIE

is about 2 years old and she's an affectionate, spirited red Doberman. She has been kenneled with several different male companions since her arrival and has gotten along well. Though Maxie is on the small side at 50-odd pounds, she is a good defender of her kennel should another dog pass by, and we would expect her to behave similarly in a home environment if a stranger passed by. She'll need secure confinement at



home because she always wants to be with "her person," and there will be times when her person isn't at home.

THOR

was kenneled with another male Doberman on arrival, and he was very dog-social but also very amorous! Fortunately, the other male tolerated Thor's advances well since they were clearly not meant as dominant behavior. He enjoys playing with other dogs, but we're recommending no small kids for him, as he did deliver a play bite while playing with a child previously, so he needs to learn a little restraint with mouthy play behavior. Thor is a blue boy about 2 years old and weighs 70+ pounds.



NINA

is was one of three young Doberman girls relinquished to a local animal shelter. The shelter estimated their age as 2 years, though we believe that was overstated since Nina has grown significantly during her two-year stay with us. (She's now about 3 years old.) She's a pretty girl who has spent far too long with us and deserves her forever home while she's still young, preferably with another dog. An adult home or one with older kids would be preferable to bring Nina up to speed with training and recall.



SHEBA

is a little senior cutie who lost her home of many years through no fault of her own. The family has several other dogs, and one of the dogs became aggressive to Sheba, to the point where they worried that they'd come home to her badly injured or worse. She is a combination of breeds, most notably terrier, weighing about 20 pounds. Sheba is good with kids, housebroken (though was kept mainly outside), and not destructive. This little girl is breaking our hearts, as she clearly doesn't understand being taken from her home at age 8 years. Anyone able to make her day?



HAPPY ADOPTEES



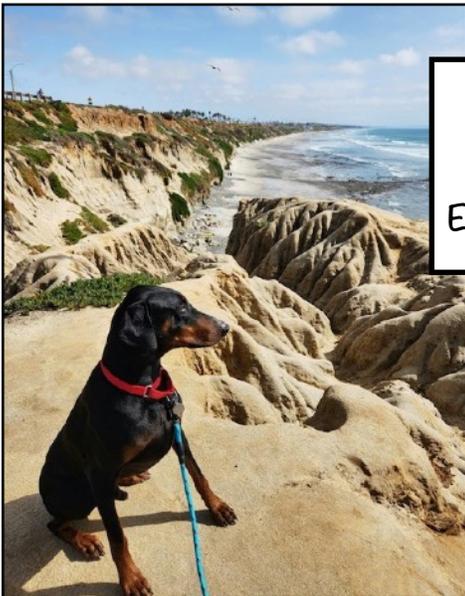
"Leon" Draker of Victoria, BC,
Canada



"Jim Bob" and "Jordan" Curlee-Dominski
of Encinitas, with Debbie Dominski



"Lana" Schwartz of Orange



"Winston" Beach of Tarzana,
with "Ollie"

"Saint"
Shull of
Escondido



"Brok"
Johnstad
of
Manhattan
Beach



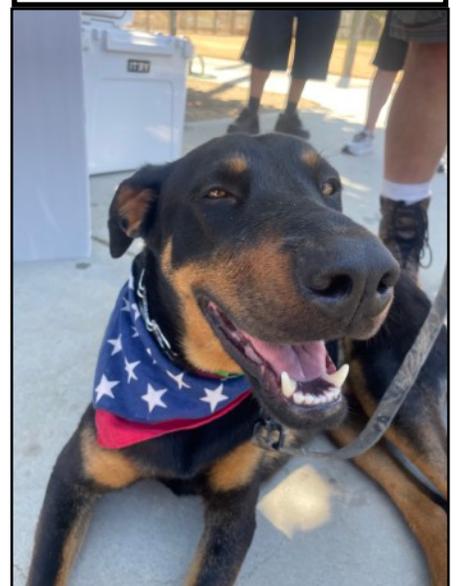
"Beau" van Barneveld of Los
Angeles



"Bullet" Gundlach of Pacific
Palisades, with Barbara



"Bosco" Samuelson of
Fullerton

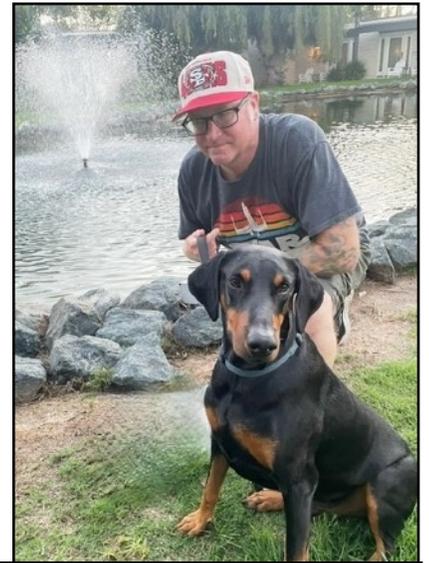




"Maxwell" Duncan of Newbury Park



"Sequoia" Crawford-Fett of Grand Rapids, MI, with Trey Fett



"Diego" Pine of Chino, with Jason

"Koya" DeGuzman of Stockton, with Dorothy and Rodney



"LeeLoo" Fortin of Laguna Beach

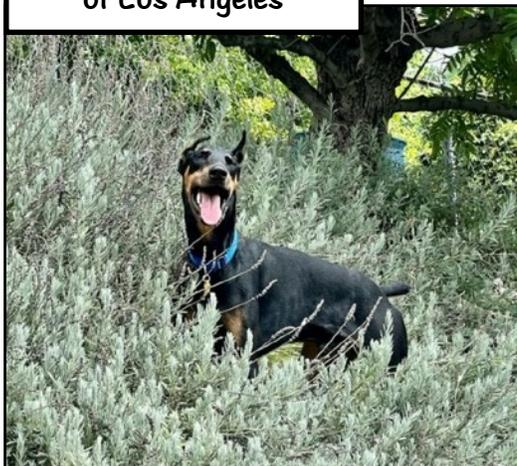


"Persephone" Perrault-Reid of Los Angeles

"Beine" Skeries of Granada Hills, with Shawn



"Chucho" Collins-Rojas of Los Angeles



"Gatsby" Brannon of Stanton, with Jacob

Waiting for homes continued

ARCHIMEDES

(who doesn't seem to know this name) is petite for a male Doberman, weighing under 55 pounds, and with his slender frame, he'll always be smaller than the average male. Unfortunately his pictures don't do justice to capture how handsome he is, but one thing we noticed when taking his pictures was that he couldn't wait to get back to his kennel and his kennelmate. This leads us to believe that Archimedes will be happiest in the company of a companion dog. Though he's currently with a female, he could probably live well with an undominant male also. He's about 2 years old.



CHANCE

is a 3-year-old red Dobie who luckily exited his animal shelter, though with a bad respiratory infection. He can be insecure with new people so he needs patience while he learns to trust but he is devoted to people he knows. He likes to play, go for walks and loves affection. He knows a lot of commands too, including sit, down, shake, and speak! We think Chance would do best in an adult home or maybe with teenage kids, not too many visitors stressing him out, and hopefully another dog to help his confidence.



SMOKEY

is a lucky dog because we were very pressed for space and concerned about his animal shelter's remarks that he was "stressed" in his kennel, but we like this tall, lanky fawn boy, who is 3 years old and weighs just over 70 pounds. Smokey would probably be a good running companion or play buddy for an active home. He loves water and will play endlessly in the sprinklers. He may even love to swim! We do think Smokey would do best as the only dog and he would benefit from some focused obedience training but his high level of intelligence will serve him well in the right home.



A COOL CAT By Colleen Anderson

When looking over applications and matching potential adopters with our dogs, there is one criterion that is the most challenging: the check mark showing they have cats! It is truly one of the toughest things to gauge, but we always hope we have at least one candidate for adopters to meet. Some adopters are so positive that they'll be successful integrating a new dog to their home and cat(s), but we have too often seen that turn out badly, even among some we have high hopes for.

The only way we have found to identify which dogs can possibly live with a cat is to test them, and that's now the job of my cat, Wooderson. We have had many "test cats" over the years that have all passed away naturally, and I remember every one of them. From scrappy Cinderella, who always went on the offensive when meeting new dogs (and scaring quite a few of them), to Tiger, a stray found on the highway as a kitten, who sat calmly for every introduction. Our most recent cat, Smoke, is a former feral cat who moved onto the ranch to have her kittens in the safety of Ardis' front garden area and stuck around for years afterwards. She became more friendly as she got older and decided living out in the wild was no longer fun, so she traded that life for days lounging on the couch. I could see Smoke getting older and I felt bad stressing her out in her senior years doing dog introductions, so I started thinking about finding a new addition.

One day I was at the Apple Valley animal shelter looking at a Doberman they had who was out of time. I asked the rescue coordinator if they ever needed rescue for cats as well, and she enthusiastically nodded her head and took me to the cat area to show me several display rooms with cats and kittens running around. One beautiful exotic-looking youngster eagerly approached the glass, rubbed his head against it, and reached out his paw. I considered it a sign and took him, listening to his meows all the way home.

Wooderson, named after the iconic Matthew McConaughey from *Dazed and Confused*, proved to be curious, outgoing, a terrible hunter and completely unaware of possible danger, so life indoors suited him well. I was pleasantly surprised to see that he wasn't nervous around dogs and voluntarily approached them. His cat tests often became comical, with him rolling



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around, exposing his belly, completely unbothered by the 80-pound Doberman trying to figure out



what to do with him. He never gets nervous when sniffed and the only time he gets truly cross is with puppies. He doesn't enjoy their chaotic energy and smacks them away. His big green eyes capture everyone's attention and I think many adopters would happily adopt him too!

It remains difficult to determine if any of our dogs are truly "bulletproof" with cats because Wooderson isn't like every other cat. Often it's the cats that run who become targets because that triggers the prey drive in a dog. We do our best to get Wooderson moving quickly but it doesn't always work if he's feeling lazy instead.

I never considered myself a "cat person" before meeting Wooderson, but in all honesty I don't think any animal has ever loved me as much as he does. He greets me every morning at my bedroom door and waits for me by the window when I'm outside. He has many years of meeting Dobies ahead of him but thankfully, he seems to actually love his job. He's a very cool cat!

MEDICAL MATTERS

Summer is upon us, and warm weather also means snakes are out and about. For some of us, that can mean rattlesnakes, and of course that always leads to concerns about our pets.

Urgency is very important when treating the victim, and it's not always easy to get a dog or cat to a vet or emergency vet clinic. Even then, most vets will recommend only antivenin treatment, which generally costs upwards of \$800. That's hard for some people.

We are only acquainted with treatment for dogs, but other pets might be candidates too. An old-school vet we know recommended a treatment protocol that is about as effective as antivenin at a tiny fraction of the cost. First, to keep the dog's airway open, take the collar off and force Benadryl down the dog's throat. Large dogs might require two or even three pills; small dogs probably just one. Repeat twice a day until the dog appears fully able to breathe, drink and eat.

Then, to prevent the toxin in the snake's venom from shutting down the dog's circulatory system, give an injectible antibiotic like Gentosyn. It may be available on the internet, as it's used in horses and other animals, but if it's "prescription only," get a small bottle of it from your vet for emergencies, plus a few syringes. Give it for about three days.

We have saved numerous victims this way including a few adoptees, but we can't stress enough how important urgency is!



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ANOTHER HAPPY ENDING

We rarely use foster homes because usually when we need one the most it's for a shelter dog we're trying to save but know absolutely nothing about. Other rescue groups that routinely use fosters all have horror stories to tell. But...we make occasional exceptions for people we know well and have gained our trust over the years.

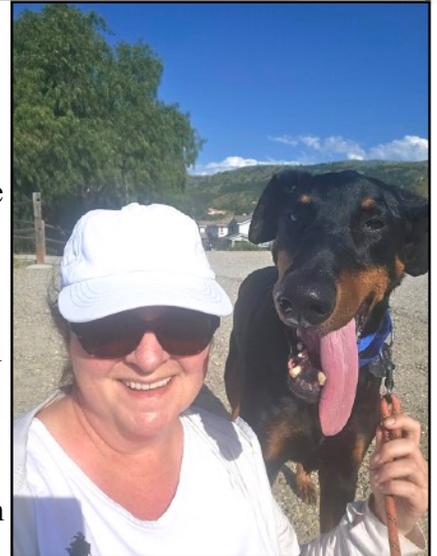
One of these is Janell Beach. She had fostered numerous dogs for us and was local and available, living right here in Fillmore. Then, within the last three years, her life became unbearably tragic. She left the area to work things out and try to put her life back together after losing her sister and husband to cancer, her brother to suicide, and three personal dogs. It would be hard for anyone who hasn't lived through something like this to even imagine it.

So we were thrilled to hear from Janell in late April, saying she had returned to Fillmore and was ready for another dog; a keeper this time, not a foster. Her requirements were easy: a dog who was mellow, easy to walk, social and loving. She came on April 30 to meet Simba, who had spent nearly a year with us, in poor shape when he arrived, offering nothing to anyone emotionally. In the later part of that year, he became a different dog, and he checked all the boxes on Janell's wish list.

The next day we got this text: "I am SO in love with Simba! He's absolutely perfect. Thank you

for facilitating another amazing dog into my life!" Six days later, this update: "Simba is the puzzle piece my life was missing after everything I went through. I finally feel balanced again."

A familiar saying comes to mind, sometimes seen on coffee cups and t-shirts: WHO RESCUED WHO?



PARTING SHOT



"Coda" Anderson
 of San Diego, with
 Kai

Some people will never understand how much someone can love a dog, but that's ok; the dog knows.