



"Jax" Marlborough of Valley Center

"Dobie Doings"



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"Gunner" Allen of Castaic

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This is the season when we always stop to reflect on how lucky and blessed we are to have so many friends, both humans and dogs. And the fact that, due to our human friends, we are still around!

It has been a year that saw a lot of wonderful dogs find new homes, as well as a lot of less-wonderful, less-beautiful, more difficult dogs. We have always believed that there is a good home for almost every dog; it just has to be the right one. Thank you for helping us to support those longer-term ones while they wait for that perfect match.

Our dear friend, Paula Cwikly, is once again having her Deck the Halls with Bones and Balls party for us on Sunday, December 16, at 3:00 p.m. Her beautiful Toluca Lake home has hosted so many of these that we've lost count. All that's needed to attend this party with drinks, finger food and great company is a nice gift for our dogs. It's easier to mention what we DON'T need than what we do: we don't need treats or toys. (We get a lot of them donated.) Please check Facebook or our website prior to the date of the party, just in case it has to change for some reason.

We still have 2019 calendars available, this time featuring twelve of our rescue dogs, many of whom are still available for adoption. To order a calendar, just send a check or PayPal us a \$20 donation and tell us where to send it.

Our Oktoberfest fundraiser was wildly

successful and fun, with over 100 people attending. The raffle prizes were wonderful and made their winners very happy. We are planning a wine-related fundraiser in the spring and hope to have equally delightful raffle prizes to offer.

We're continuing to add to the photo album on our website, where we're posting pictures too numerous to include in our newsletters. You can view them by clicking on the "bone" called Adoptees. Many of you will recognize your own dogs there. And, of course, keep sending pictures to our e-mail address above.

Thank you again for all you do, and have a wonderful holiday season!

Blessings,
Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

Three of the dogs featured in our last newsletter have been adopted. All are doing well; following are updates from their owners.

HUXLEY,

our little Terrier mix who was shy and insecure in the shelter environment, now lives with Sandra Johnson and her family in Santa Barbara. She says "Huxley is already great friends with Lada. We

love him altho' he is still a bit skittish. He is a very speedy boy and loves to get into our recycling bin! Thank you for rescuing him."



HONEY,

a lovable girl who spent longer than she should have had to wait for her new home (probably because of her age and an unfortunate ear crop), lives with the Moyer-Kurupas family of Jamul. From Rosemarie's recent e-mail: "All is going well. My husband Jeff and I decided to rename Honey. Honey is now known as Queenie H.R.H. (Her Royal



Highness.) Queenie was found abandoned on a street corner in Sacramento and your rescue took her in and saved her. She will never know what it is like to be homeless again and she will always be treated as our Queen; hence the name change. Queenie now shares a home with her three Humans, an old

cat and two wiener dogs.

Queenie is a happy, loving dog that loves to play and has a lot of pup in her for a 6- or 7-year-old dog. Queenie is living her happily-ever-after life with the Moyer family. She thanks the Dobie Rescue for finding her forever family and she wants you to know it's good to be the Queen!!! Thank you again, from Queenie's Loyal Servants, The Moyer-Kurupas Family."

MISS PHOENIX,

our near-perfect blue Dobie girl, was adopted by Kris and Doug Johnson of Yorba Linda. Doug called us twice in 24 hours after adopting her to say

how much he loves her. Kris makes sure Phoenix gets enough exercise by riding her scooter around their neighborhood twice a day with pooch in tow. Phoenix waited months for this great home, and we're so happy for her!



WAITING FOR HOMES

Juniper

is about 7 years old and in fairly good shape except for some deficiency in one rear leg, possibly from an old injury. He's quite mobile but wouldn't be a good choice for folks who like to hike or have stairs to climb. Juniper is social with large female dogs, and he's mellow!



Paco

is a new rescue dog who was abandoned on a good Samaritan's property. His breed mix is Chihuahua and something stockier, with a curly tail. He weighs 17 pounds and he's a young adult. Paco is very dog-social and likes people. He's especially affectionate with those he knows and absolutely loves to snuggle.



Serena

is a tall, elegant beauty who is about 3 years old. On arrival her eyes were obviously irritated, and we realized she needed entropion surgery for inverted eyelashes. She has now had the surgery



and feels much better! She is kenneled with a dog-social but hyperactive male Doberman, and they have never had an incident. She loves canned food and anything more exciting than straight kibble, and she'll offer her heart in exchange. We think Serena is a sensitive dog who will appreciate a kind, patient owner.

Neil

was relinquished to an upstate animal shelter



with another male Doberman, possibly his offspring. His age was given as 5 years, and he's a big, solid guy probably weighing around 85 pounds. Neil is quite a mellow dog; our feeling is that he would be a very easy keeper, and he enjoys house privileges.

We have attempted to

learn more about the reason for his relinquishment, but calls to the ex-owner have not been returned.

Creature

is an absolute mystery mix that we found in an animal shelter one day. He has so much charm and is full of love. He's only about 1 year old with the coat of a husky and he is around 55 pounds.

Creature's underbite is the result of a deformity he had to have been born with and despite the severity, his life is completely unhindered by it. He has been well behaved in his foster home, he is dog social, a good watchdog and loves to snuggle.



Bernadette

is a little cutie that came to us from an animal shelter with a scar down her back from, presumably, a chemical burn. She's a young adult, so she is full of energy and would be ideal for an active family. She is incredibly sweet, affectionate, and (once tired) she



loves to cuddle.

Bernadette has proven to be quite dog-social, at least with larger dogs that can keep up with her. We discovered during her pre-spay bloodwork that she has a clotting disorder known as Von Willebrand's Disease. It apparently isn't severe

enough to make a small injury life-threatening, but a new owner should be aware of it if she ever requires surgery in the future.

Rusty

is a big red male who is a favorite of one of our volunteers because he's an easy walker, mellow, and enjoys being close to his human. He endured a terrible case of demodectic mange in late 2015 but has been symptom-free since the spring of 2016. Rusty is about 4 years old now, and other than faint scarring on his head, he's a handsome, rugged boy looking forward to a bright future as the only dog in the home.



WISH LIST

- Dog food, not grain-free
- Martingale collars
- Leashes, any kind
- Used blankets, comforters and fabric dog beds
- Gift cards to home improvement stores
- Kuranda beds with metal frames
- New or used large dogloos
- Tarps, any size
- Spare change!

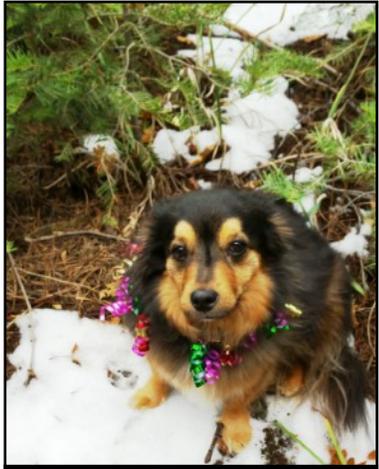
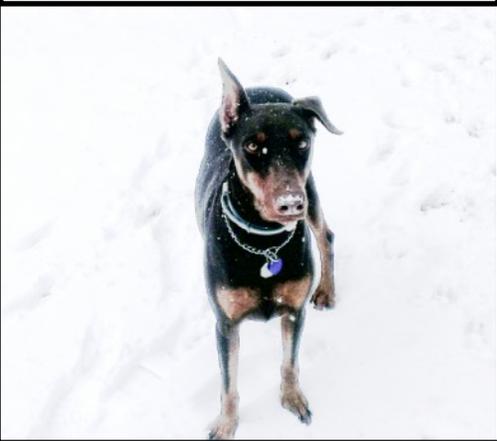


We do NOT need dog treats or toys



"Diesel" Petty of Gardnerville, NV

"Ginger" Peterman of Los Angeles



"Foxy" VanAacken of Santa Barbara



"Fenway" Burke of Torrance, with Paul and Megan



"Cody" Falahati of Granada Hills



"JimBob" and **"Jordan"** Curlee-Dominski of Encinitas, with Candace Curlee



"Heidi" and **"Josie"** Jameson of Los Angeles

"Quincy" and **"Mae"** Lemieux of Tracy, with Walter and Erika





"Jack," "Flaco" and "Miss Mona" Thomas of Temecula



"Beau" Brewer of Simi Valley



"Max" and "Mia" Trim of Las Vegas, NV



"Lexi" Beal-Stanfield of Seal Beach



"Bandito," "Elmer" and "Gracie Mae" Means of Ventura, with Gail and Topher

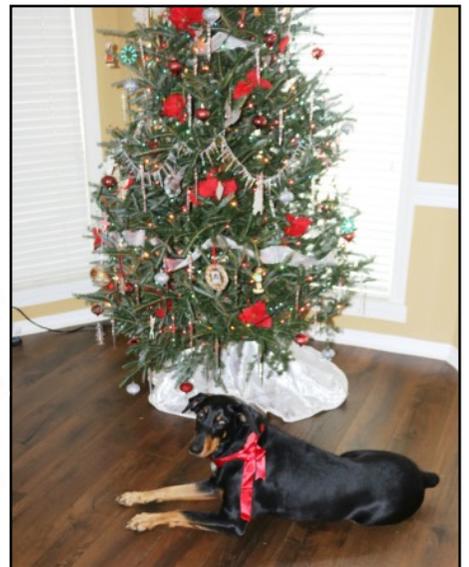


Happy Adoptees



"Ravin" Regan of Rosamond

"Sprocket" Rivera of Moorpark



"Tip" Missett of Tupelo, MS

PUPPYMANIA!

This has been an odd year for us in so many ways, one of them being that although we rarely have puppies for adoption, this year we have been flooded with them! Colleen Anderson is our puppy foster mom, so all of the puppies have ended up with her, partly because her home situation is ideal for them to be safe, warm and medically taken-care-of, but also because she's a great judge of behavior, even with very young pups. Colleen is able to judge, from six weeks up, which puppies probably need to be the only dog in the home because they're already bullies at that age; which puppies are major "cuddlers," requiring owners who just love to cozy up with their dogs; which puppies are super-playful and need a play buddy; which ones are more aloof and/or hard-headed; and which ones are on the shy side and probably would be overwhelmed in a house full of young kids.

So many people assume that if they "start with a puppy" they'll get exactly the dog they want because of the training and socializing they put in. Not necessarily! There is tremendous variation in a single litter, and in our breed in general. Colleen became very fond of mixed-breed puppies as well, finding many of them easier to train and work with than purebreds.

It started in January of this year, and ten months and seven litters and one lone puppy later, we still have some puppies!

One litter was from a home where both parents had been run over by a car and the owners were arrested and unable to care for young puppies. Half the litter suffered from birth defects or injuries.

Another litter was born to a purebred mama (owned by a breeder) while she was at an animal shelter, and the breeder didn't want to pay the heavy fees to reclaim the mama from the shelter.

Another litter was born to a white female Dobie who had been rescued by a good Samaritan from a bad situation and kept separated from her male German Shepherd – neither of them "fixed" – until the Shepherd jumped in with the Dobie when she came into season. Duh.

Another litter was from a mom who had pneumonia and was so sick that half of her babies were stillborn and all but one of the survivors passed away because they had major birth defects and were too ill



to survive. The surviving puppy had to be bottle-fed because his mother stopped producing milk a few days after birth and he battled pneumonia himself.

Another litter was from a mama with a giant

mammary tumor that prevented the puppies from nursing. The puppies had to be removed when they were 3 weeks old so they could get enough nutrition and mama could have the surgery she desperately needed. Colleen raised the litter, of course.

One puppy came because of the caring of a vet clinic where he had been surrendered for euthanasia because he was paralyzed; a typical "swimmer" puppy. Due to Colleen's efforts, he is now able to walk, though he does have one leg that is a little abnormal.

Another litter was born by C-section to a mom with pneumonia, who was too ill to nurse them.

And finally, another litter was born to a Dobie girl while at an animal shelter, owner unknown.

We are always happy and willing when puppies cross our path for one reason or another, but we also know Colleen will be more than happy to have "empty-nest syndrome" again one of these days!



A VERY SPECIAL PUPPY By Colleen Anderson

Not all of the puppies that have come to us this year have been Dobermans. I was at the vet in early March with one of the Dobie mix puppies that was fighting pneumonia. A Shepherd puppy had just been surrendered by her owners with severe injuries. She



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was only 5-6 weeks old and they had accidentally run her over with their car, causing her to have a broken pelvis and two fractured rear legs. The vet staff wanted to save her but she needed rescue and that's where I came in, affectionately naming her Crunchie.

I was at the hospital every day for nearly two weeks with a sick puppy, Chunk, so I also got to see how she was doing. Crunchie required cage rest and the hospital was monitoring her closely for any secondary trauma issues. She was an absolute favorite among the staff and they took care of her like she was their own. Thanks to their care she was walking on her own only a few weeks later. Since she was so young, we had to wait to see how she would grow and heal before the search for a forever home could start. It was pretty amazing that after a few months she was strong, athletic and needed no surgery at all. I worked on some training with her and socialized her with other dogs as well as lots of people. She even tagged along when I went to a dog training seminar!

In late June, a conversation with a dog trainer friend led me to the Lintag family that had just lost their German Shepherd to a horrible genetic defect. They were devastated



March



Today

and looking for another Shepherd to complete their family. One meet-and-greet with Crunchie and they were in love. She continues to do well today and we recently received some new pictures. I don't always know where the next rescue will come from but I'm happy that we were able to give Crunchie and her family a second chance at having a happy home.

MEDICAL MATTERS

So much has been written about what constitutes healthy food and foods to be avoided that it's hard to know the difference, for people and for animals. My (Ardis') mother was a health-food nut, so the fads were numerous, from megadoses of Vitamin C, to vinegar, to enough raw garlic to rival the annual garlic festival in Gilroy. It seemed that just as quickly as the fads came into fashion, they were disputed soon after in favor of some other fad.

With dog food it's not much different. People became rightly terrified of feeding manufactured foods from unknown sources after thousands of pets died because of toxic ingredients manufactured in China that were added to American-produced finished products. The term "Made in U.S.A." became commonplace, but...many foods still contain ingredients that 99% of the population couldn't identify.

Raw food diets have become much more popular, and just from our limited experience talking



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to adopters who have fed their dogs this way, these pets do seem to live longer, healthier lives. It makes sense though, because who knows what all those additives do to the dog's system, which evolved over so many years without them. It's also difficult to know what and how much raw food to feed for optimum health.

Now for the main reason this article is written: Grain-Free dog food. It can probably be called a "fad," because it just came into fashion a few years ago, and though it probably got good press that

appealed to many people – especially those whose dogs have proven to be allergic to wheat, for example – it was still in its infancy as far as long-term effects on the dogs that were fed a grain-free diet.

The bad news is that there is quite a bit of credible research that now links grain-free food to heart disease, especially in breeds that are already at higher-than-average risk of heart disease, including Doberman Pinschers.

We have a copy of some of the research studies available for the asking.

"Marlon"



PARTING SHOTS



"Riley"



One used to guard Santa's reindeer...

and the other used to herd them.

Both are now retired and looking for new homes!



