



“Zamora” Hubble of Tacoma, WA, with Emily

# “Dobie Doings”



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“Joey” and “Tommy” Shirley of Madera

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The past quarter has been a mixture of good news and bad news, most of it related to the pandemic in one way or another. We all were so buoyed by the lack of Dobermans and small dogs needing rescue for over a year that when that totally reversed course earlier this year, it was heartbreaking. So many beautiful dogs, purebreds and sweet mutts alike, were not rescued from their shelters as shelters had to make tough decisions due to the influx of new animals.

For our part, we squeezed in as many Dobermans, smalls, and a few other miscellaneous canines as we could. Many of them were in dreadful shape, probably due to owners’ being impacted financially and being unable to help them, plus the usual supply of owners that really don’t care enough to bother.

Some of these unfortunates make remarkable recoveries when they get the treatment and vetting they need, and it’s so gratifying to help them land in homes where they can thrive! As you all know, we feel that as rescuers our mission is exactly that: to help those that need it most. In that sense this quarter has made our hearts full!

As always, I want to thank everyone who has helped us. So many kinds of help have been offered that we truly could not have accomplished so much without it. We hope this holiday season will be a healthy and happy one for you and your pets! We love and appreciate your updates; they keep our morale up during the days that are challenging.

Please keep those pictures and happy stories coming!



Happy holidays!

*Ardis Braun*

## ADOPTION UPDATES

As is indicative of the slower adoptions over the last quarter, only one dog out of the seven featured in our last newsletter was adopted: lucky Scooter, our darling furball of many different breeds combined into one good dog!

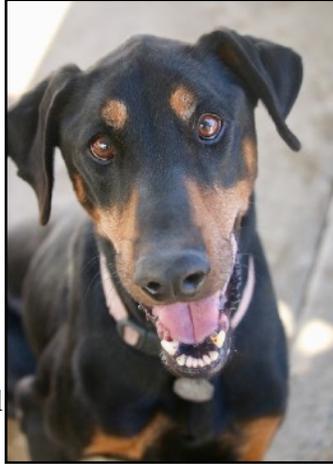
A couple of weeks after he went home with Patty and Petros Vasiliou of Westlake Village, we received the following lovely e-mail: “We are so happy with our new member of our family, Scooter. Surprised to find out how smart and easily trained our dear boy Scooter is. He has fit right in. Walking on a leash, housebreaking and his play nipping when getting excited, have all been successfully managed with 100 percent success. Thank you so much for saving this little love bug. Wishing you continued success in the wonderful farm you have built. It was so wonderful to meet you and your colleagues. Warm regards, Patty and Petros.”



## WAITING FOR HOMES

### Mack

We might have never known about Mack if it hadn't been for the weather. One afternoon we got a call from the animal shelter supervisor at a very far south California animal shelter, just a stone's throw from the Mexican border. He asked if we could possibly rescue Mack from their shelter because they have no air conditioning and the temperature the next day was predicted to be 126 degrees. The shelter staff loved this senior gentleman and had even made him Pet of the Week in their paper, but 9-year-old dogs are hard to place no matter how sweet they are. Mack is thin at about 60 pounds, is now neutered, and bunks easily with a female Doberman. We hope he can move into a real home to spend the rest of his senior years!



needs an experienced adult owner who understands behaviors exhibited by dogs who may aggressively defend themselves against perceived challenges by other dogs or humans. If Grizz were to "defend" a high-value item, for example, it would be important to redirect his attention from his coveted item by slipping a lead over

his head and removing him from the item being defended. Gaining Grizz's trust and respect will reward that owner with his proud good looks and obedience.

### Payton

In the short time we've known Payton, we think she's a love. She has tolerated the male Doberman she's kenneled with, and she has been easy with us. Payton is an average-sized female, 5 years old, with (unfortunately) just one ear. We always worry that dogs with missing pieces may have been "bait" dogs but we're glad we don't know. Sweet Payton needs the home that will find her beautiful, just as she is.



### Betsy

was on a final plea list from a southern CA animal shelter when we picked her up. The shelter had been seeking rescue for her for quite some time with no response, primarily due to her behavior. Betsy isn't very accepting of new people and a new owner will need to give her plenty of time to bond without making demands on her. In our opinion, she's more of a working dog than a family pet. In other words, she's a serious dog, not a cuddler. She will make a good protector of her domain, and she will likely be accepting of the folks she comes to know and trust. At 2 years old, Betsy is full-grown and she's solid, at 43 pounds. We love her!



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### Khyber

We placed Khyber and a companion Dobie, Evie, with an adopter quite a few years ago, and due to the adopter's ill health, they have just come back to us. The adopter always took them on hikes up into the hills, off leash, and periodically we'd get a call about someone having found Khyber, identified by his i.d. tag number. So, clearly, Khyber is a bit of a free spirit! He's a charming guy who is housebroken, good with dogs, cats and kids, according to his ex-owner's information sheet. He's also not destructive. We always enjoyed this big goofy guy during his earlier stay with



### Grizz

has been with us for almost a year. He's a very handsome 3-year-old German Shepherd who is playful, loves water, knows some obedience commands, and is believed to be housebroken. He

us and we hope we can see him happy in another great home. Khyber is now a 7 year old fawn boy and we won't quote his weight at present because he came back to us significantly overweight!

**Evie**

We placed Evie and a companion Dobie, Khyber (shown above), with an adopter quite a few years ago, and due to the adopter's ill health, they have just come back to us. Evie is now 6 years old and was allowed to gain too much weight so she's presently dieting. She is good with other dogs (large males at least) but her behavior with kids isn't known. She is quite protective of her home and owner, so she's likely not a dog that can participate in a lot of social activity with her owner. She's housebroken and not destructive in the home.



**Racer**

is a newly-rescued Queensland Heeler (Cattle Dog) who came in with a female Heeler, so we paired them in our kennel. Racer seemed to become so overstimulated in our kennel environment that he bullied the female, so we placed her separately. He was then kenneled with a female Doberman, and that didn't go well either. Racer may be able to live with another dog in a home environment that is less stressful, but he might also do better as the only dog. He's just a year old, and he's small, at 29 pounds. The folks at the vet clinic where we had him neutered said he was calm and well-behaved!



**Sassy**

happened to be in need of rescue on a day we were visiting a particular animal shelter, so she came along to the ranch that day. She is a little sparkplug; fearless, active, able to live with a passive little male dog like the one she is



kenneled with, but seriously bossy with him! Sassy weighed in at 14 pounds, and she's about 3 years old.

**Blitz**

is a smallish red senior Doberman of 8 years who was adopted by his owners from an animal shelter in February, 2020 and relinquished to us in November, 2020 due to the owners moving to no-pet housing. They were reluctant to return him to the shelter



because they feared that due to his age, he might not be adopted. During his stay with us, Blitz has presented as very excitable and reactive to other dogs, though his owners' relinquishment form indicated that he's good with other dogs, so his issues are likely just "barrier" reactivity, such as when he's behind a fence or being restrained on leash. He's also housebroken, not destructive, and has no bad habits, according to them.

We have dozens of dogs that aren't suitable for the "average" home for behavioral or medical reasons, or just old age. If we can even get one or two of these adopted so they can have a nice comfortable home for the holidays and the rest of their days, that's our most wished-for thing on our wish list....

**The 2022 Dobie Rescue Calendars are here!**

\$20 per calendar and every dollar goes to the dogs  
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"Bandi" Angulo of Riverside



"Sienna" O'Donnell of Shingletown



"Wilson" Kadohata of Long Beach



"Scarlett" Chinchoy of Palos Verdes Estates



*Happy Holidays*



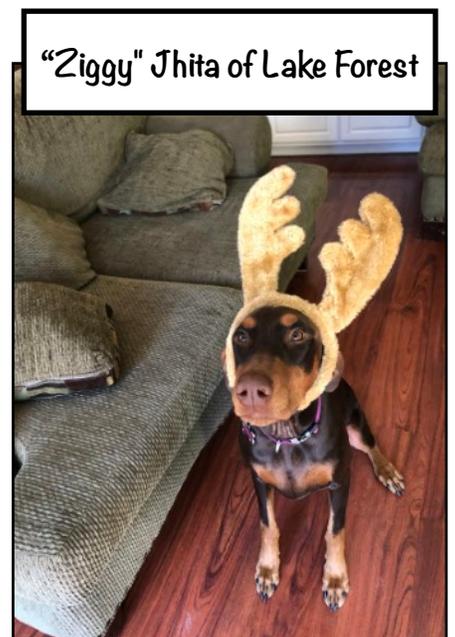
"Pippi" Dussert of Santa Barbara, with Ruth Ann, Audrey and Andra



"Ripley" Saxton of Riverside



"Greta" Castillo of Aptos Hills, with Raul



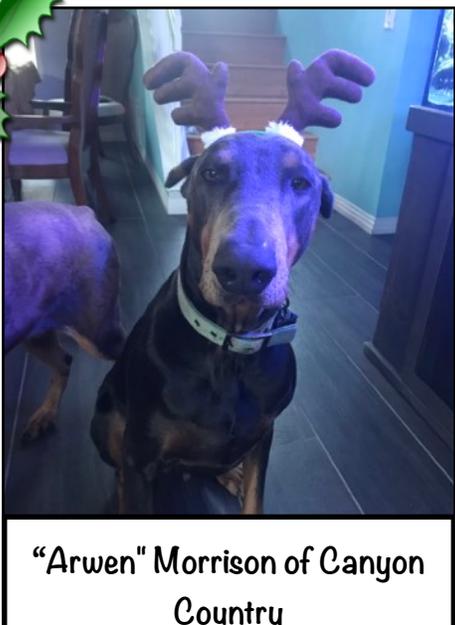
"Ziggy" Jhita of Lake Forest



**"Athena" Chang of Clovis**



**"Shadow" Colachis of Los Angeles**



**"Arwen" Morrison of Canyon Country**

**"Inara" Moher-Rainen of Altadena**



**"Riley" and "Stevie" Simmons of Creston, with George**



**"Weezy" and "George Jefferson" Scott of Huntington Beach**

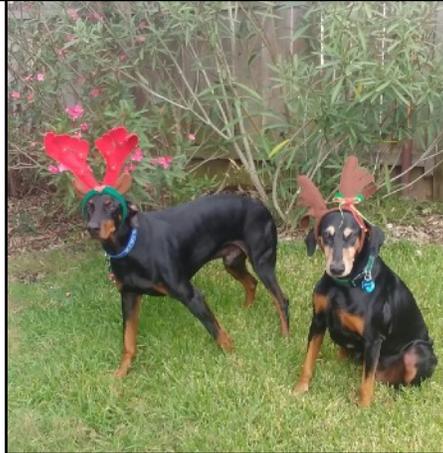


**"Jake" Allen-Ferro of Studio City, with Ty Ferro**



**"Lexi" Byer of Huntington Beach**

**"Jim Bob" and "Jordan" Curlee-Dominski of Encinitas**



## MEDICAL MATTERS

At some point during 2020 there was a small outbreak of Canine Influenza that was mentioned in a couple of remote places in California. Then nothing more was said until mid-October this year. Suddenly it was much more widespread and local. The Los Angeles city shelter in Chatsworth (West Valley) and the West L. A. shelter both closed for a time to contain the virus, and we heard from an adopter of ours who lives on Lookout Mountain Avenue in Los Angeles, that five or six people in his general neighborhood had their dogs die because the flu wasn't diagnosed early enough to be treatable. His own dog also contracted it but survived.

We have seen a number of cases of what we presumed to be really bad kennel cough that we suspect was also Canine Influenza. There are two strains of flu vaccine available for dogs, so if your vet offers these vaccines, it might be wise to get it for your dog(s) as soon as you can.

We have also heard that Leptospirosis is making a comeback. Years ago the distemper-parvo vaccines typically contained Lepto vaccine; they were called DHLPP, with the "L" signifying Leptospirosis. These aren't seen much now, but again, it may be wise to find out if your vet offers this vaccine and get it for your dog(s) during your next visit. Lepto is an awful neurological disease that can be transmitted to humans.

## TWO SPECIAL PLEAS

In our summer newsletter I wrote a special plea for a dog named Lasso that was becoming a desperate attempt of mine to place this great dog, despite his health issues, in a worthy home. As a result of that plea, two readers came forward, and the first one, Lillian Maimone of Altadena, adopted him and has given him the home we all hoped for.

So, in that vein, there are two more that deserve a special plea on behalf of myself (Ardis) and several others.

First, by popular vote, Mandy is a special plea dog because she is loved by so many and has spent years with us due to her unique behavior. Our video

volunteers, Dylan Mealey and his mother, Debbie Pitts, have made many videos of Mandy, and every time they come to video various new dogs, they conclude by taking Mandy for a long run or walk, and they spend quality time with her, always. If they didn't have dogs at home who would be incompatible with her, that's where she would be.



Mandy is also much loved by past and present kennel employees of ours: Hilda Izarraraz and her husband, Angel Tejada, and their three little kids; also Hilda's sister, Elena Izarraraz. All of these folks regularly walk Mandy on their days off because she's such a favorite.

Now for the reason for Mandy's long stay: she requires that everyone in her adoptive family stay at home all the time, otherwise she vaults walls and fences to look for them. We have placed her twice, and initially it seemed that she simply didn't want to be left home alone, but in the second home people were at home with her when she left to find the missing family member.

Ideally, in my opinion, Mandy should be placed with one adult or an adult couple that, when needing to leave, could put her in a backyard covered kennel that she would be securely confined in until their return. Perhaps over time she might come to realize that everyone in her family would be coming back so they wouldn't need her to search for them.

Mandy is 4 years old now, and she's Dobie mixed with another large breed, perhaps Greyhound.

\* \* \* \* \*

The second plea is for a senior fawn Dobie girl named Ruby. Her original owner couldn't keep her so an older man in an apartment took her in to try to find a good home for her so she wouldn't go "to the pound." He intended to keep her until that home was found, but unfortunately, with no yard, he was obligated to walk Ruby numerous times daily to



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relieve herself, and the man was disabled. He simply could not do it.

Most of the dogs here at the rescue ranch are quite happy. They are visually stimulated, get walks and exercise, have a companion or several if they're dog-social, and are well cared for. Ruby is sad. She must have loved both of the men who kept her before arriving here, and she spends her days waiting. Sometimes her mournful howl brings tears to my eyes.

Ruby is social enough to live with a large male dog but she would clearly love to be the love of someone's life again; her own person, and hers alone.



affectionate a dog can be after clearly being neglected for so long. She was still a puppy and her life had started like this.

Once arriving home, three things immediately happened. First, she got a Bravecto, an oral treatment for fleas and ticks that is also known to kill mites. Second, she got a much needed bath. I used a CBD lavender shampoo to scrub off the oil, dirt and grime that crusted on her skin and what small amount of hair she did have. She felt so much better after the bath I had to walk her just to get her "zoomies" out. Third, she needed a name. I could tell she was a blue and the song "Ocean Eyes" by Billie Eilish came to my mind. Her name would be Billie. Her recovery happened quite quickly because in a matter of weeks she had grown back a ton of hair and gained that weight she needed.

One afternoon, we had an appointment with Abigail and J.P. Gouin, a couple from Northern California who were ready to adopt a Dobie. They needed a dog that was affectionate, relatively social and able to go for walks in a busy city environment. After meeting several of our dogs, none of them quite hit the mark. I thought about Billie, probably the perfect match for them temperament-wise, but her physical condition still needed improvement. They agreed to meet her anyway and it was love at first sight. We all knew she was their dog in the first few minutes. Billie was scheduled to be spayed the following week so they agreed to make the road trip back down to Southern California to pick her up after surgery. Enjoy this little update from Abigail:

**BEAUTIFUL BILLIE**  
 By Colleen Anderson

We have had numerous mange cases over the years so they're not unusual but we still get shocked seeing the dogs in such horrible condition. I drove to the Tulare County Animal Shelter one afternoon to pick up two Dobermans, one known to have demodectic mange, a non-contagious mite. A completely bald, emaciated female Dobie bounced over to me with cracked, bloody feet and smelling like dirty socks. It will never cease to amaze me how sweet and



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

“We brought Billie home on July 11, 2021 (one of the hottest days of the year!) with hopeful hearts and a whole lot of love to give, but not much knowledge of Billie’s background or what we were in for. We immediately knew she was the one the minute she crawled into our laps and licked our faces (see the fall centerfold picture). Her first weeks with us were not always easy; she didn’t know us and we didn’t know her. She did not want to eat and she would growl if we got too close to her sometimes. Meal by meal, kiss by kiss, hike by hike, this love bug of a pup learned to let us in and love us.

Since coming home, Billie has blossomed into such a playful pup. She has gained 24.5 lbs and her coat shines more and more every day! We have our daily routine; we go on a hike each morning, we do training and dog puzzles in the afternoon, and in the evening we have a playdate with a pup friend. We quickly learned that Billie thrives on having a job and

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. So far she has been a quick learner! She has nailed her basic obedience training and we are now practicing her public access training, and again, quick learner! She has already learned one of her simpler tasks, which is deep pressure therapy (DPT). When we are in a situation where she senses my anxiety, or in a situation in which I myself know I am obsessing and wanting to react aka do a compulsion, I can ask for ‘lap’ and she puts her paws and body weight on my lap to ground me. We hope to tackle medication reminders next, although that one will be a doozie. I’m sure Billie will surprise me though :)”

p.s. I’m grateful to be just a small part in Billie’s journey, happy she is now living her best life.



loves to be trained, so after speaking with my psychiatrist, we thought Billie would be a great candidate to be my psychiatric service dog to help with my lifelong struggle of

**PARTING SHOT**

All I want for Christmas...

“Jax”  
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 Center



...is you