



**"Gambit" Merriman of El
Sobrante**

"Dobie Doings"



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"Hans" Cota of Oak View

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Another spring has arrived, and we hope all of you survived the flooding, landslides, and triple-whammy viruses over the past few months. The dogs are definitely happier that the cold, wet winter is over.

Animal shelters continue to be overwhelmed with dogs of almost every breed and mixed breed, the large majority of whom aren't being adopted or rescued. It's heartbreaking. Some shelters are not taking any dogs at all, even strays, probably because so many people claim to have "found" a dog that is actually their own. Naturally this is causing people to dump their dogs, which results in starvation, road kill and awful injuries. It's most prevalent in the less affluent areas of LA County, Riverside, Imperial and San Bernardino Counties, and a huge swath of the central valley, where large-scale backyard breeding occurs. A friend who volunteers for one of the Fresno animal shelters mentioned during February that none of the three Fresno shelters are taking in ANY dogs except extreme behavioral and medical cases. So that means that dogs that are dumped and sustain serious injuries after being hit by cars can then go to the shelters for humane euthanasia. Sigh.

On a happier note, we are placing dogs, including some of our long-term residents and medical recoveries, which are always extra-special for us. Remember that we always love hearing their happily-ever-after stories and seeing their pictures. Not everyone is on Facebook or Instagram though, so to

make sure we receive your updates, use the textable number or e-mail address you can find on the header of each newsletter.

Thank you once again to everyone who has donated wish-list items, financial help, volunteer help and every other kind of assistance, year after year. We couldn't do this without you.

Gratefully,

Ardis Braun



ADOPTION UPDATES

Seven dogs that appeared in our winter newsletter have been adopted, five of them from among the Doberman mixes we featured to hopefully get them noticed. So happy for all of them!

WILLOW

was adopted by Lexi Kelleher and Jacob Anderson of Thousand Oaks. Lexi had this to say: "Willow... She is smart, stubborn, sassy and sweet. Our dogs sleep in a gated-off area of our living room. It has a bed and blanket...however, she decided she would just take a quick hop over the gate and help herself to one of our recliners. Undecided on whether or not she wins that battle.

She's a big fan of whatever toy her 'brother'



has and will do anything to catch him off guard and snatch it. Whether he wants to admit it or not he is happy to have her around.

Our chickens might

not agree...she may have taken out a couple of our chicken friends. Needless to say we are working on training with her."

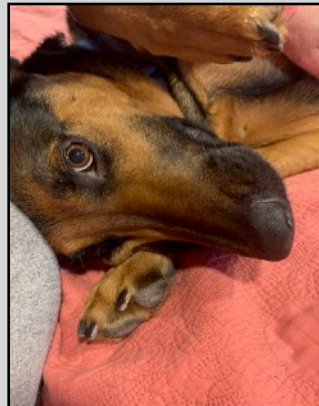
EMILY

was adopted by Justin Morgan of West Hollywood. "She goes by 'Sol' now, and is such a happy dog who loves to play with other pups and run as fast as she possibly can at the dog park! She's become a bit of a princess and barks at house guests but is otherwise well adjusted and happy!"



BEAU,

one of our favorite dogs because of his incredible sweetness, was adopted by Talia Wunder and Mikiel Kingsley of Santa Paula. Their report: "We can't even begin to tell you how delightful Beau is. He just wants to be with us and snuggle or get scratched all the time! We don't believe he's ever lived in a house before because he didn't understand gravity vs. beds and slid off a few times before he figured it out. We are enjoying spoiling him with the good life and we are so happy to have him!"

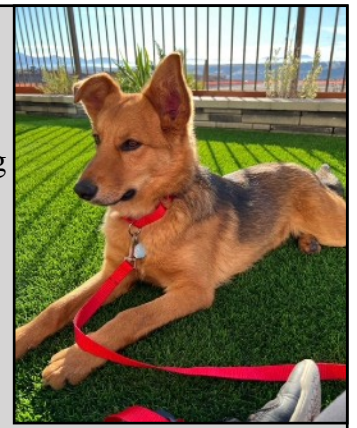


BAMBI,

the terrified young fox-faced puppy abandoned at a shelter by his owner, is now called Reese and has made his home with Michelle and Antonio Redd of Chula Vista. They patiently watched him gain confidence and grow into his adorable almost-adult personality.

A month later: "Reese has been nothing short

of a dream companion and family addition. He's been such a good boy and a quick learner. Reese loves his long walks where he stays by our side the whole time. In the short time he's been home, he really has come out of his shell and...he is such a sweet and gentle soul and has been such a gift!"



REMO,

(now called Rio), another untrusting dog who was rescued with bullet fragments in his leg, is now having the time of his life running in the mountain foothills of Benton with Lauren and Dennis Funaiole and their other Cattle Dog mixes. "Rio is settling in and becoming much less fearful. He loves running on 40 acres and being part of a pack of five dogs. He especially adores his big brother, Hawkeye."



MIMI

was adopted by a reluctant Carla Diego of Camarillo. She was still grieving for two dogs



recently lost and wasn't sure she was ready to welcome a new dog into her home, but with a little encouragement to possibly foster Mimi, she agreed, and we knew she wouldn't be back.

In her words: "After losing two dogs in six months, one from old age, the other from cancer, our hearts were broken!!! I decided to go to the Doberman Rescue after 10 years once again to fill a very large hole. I read lots of bios and had five names written down – Mimi was on my list as #1. 'I was just going to look' but I was at the last area when Ardis pointed out Mimi, and when I saw her and heard her story, she touched my heart! I met with her and knew right then 'we were her people.' Mimi has adjusted

very well; in fact she is now the owner of our KING size bed! Not only do we love her, we promise her a home where she will be well taken care of and full of love for her the rest of her life!”

MERCI

was adopted by Leo Kirkham, Olivia Anderson and Samantha Yasueda of Van Nuys. Her new name is Sunny (and many nicknames); “she is such a special part of our family, fitting in easily with the humans and our older dog.

She was perfect from day one, but the day we let her up on the couch was the day she really showed us her true personality: she is a cuddlebug. She loves to be next to her people, showing them love...Sunny is also a huge fan of socks, belly rubs, and full body wiggles when she’s excited. We love her soft, floppy ears and her happy tail...she is exactly 50/50 Doberman Rottweiler! She’s about a year old and we are so happy and blessed to give her a long, happy life with our family.”



she has been social with male kennelmates. Lana is almost 5 now, and she's big; probably 80+ pounds.

RUSTY

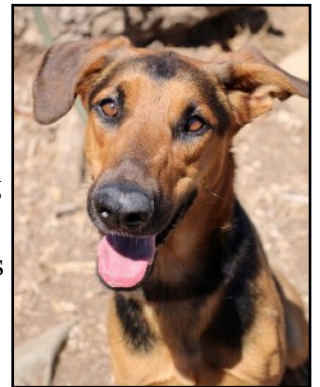
is a darling senior boy who was impounded with another senior, Nino, and was unclaimed two weeks later! So...we arranged with Pilots n Paws to fly Rusty and Nino to us

for adoption. They're in good condition (even their teeth!), and we estimate that they're about 9 years old, and under 15 pounds. They're both some combination of Chihuahua, Terrier and/or Miniature Pinscher.



CHEVY

is really cute, she just needs a little understanding of her insecurities up front, like being a bit guardy when meeting new people and dogs. She is crate trained and strongly prefers this to being strictly outdoors alone. Chevy's only bad habit is liking to give full-body hugs, which is endearing but often unwelcome. She's 4 years old now, having been with us 2 years, and she is likely a Doberman-German Shepherd mix.



WAITING FOR HOMES

SPENCER

is one of our favorites! He had hip surgery in early 2022 for a luxating hip, and he has been here ever since. He's easy to contain (even in an x-pen!), quiet and well-behaved. Spencer is about 5 years old now, and he's a beautiful large male weighing 75-80 pounds.



LANA

has been with us almost 2 years and she doesn't seem happy any more. We want to see her carrying her toy around again, displaying her butt wag, eager to enjoy her day. She's an easy walker, attentive, and



JOE

is a small red youngster that has already been with us for 6 months. Early on we discovered he's not good with other dogs, which makes him harder to place, but he's great with people! We'd like to see Joe adopted before his entire youth is spent here. He's now about 18 months and weighs just over 50 pounds.

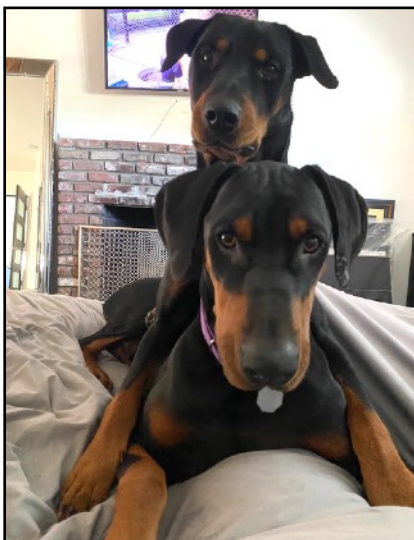


BENNI

We picked Benni up from an animal shelter, where she had been turned in as a stray dog by her actual owner. She was deemed "morbidly obese" by



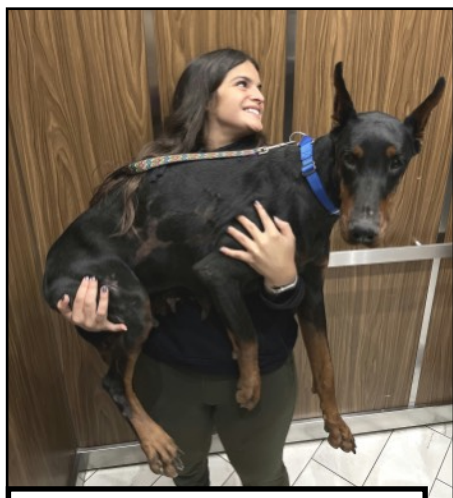
"Poppy" Hamlin of Meridian, Idaho



"Hank" and "Betty Lou"
Hancock of North Hills



"Zara" and "Twyla" Medoff-
Tillman of Simi Valley



"Ivy" Pagan of Woodland
Hills, with Elizabeth



"Tinker Bella" Norton of Santa
Barbara, with "Wiski"



"Dory" Miller of Rocklin

"Sasha" Gotta of Camarillo,
with Cooper, Declan and Millie



"Bronson" and "Ollie"
Thiem-Waterworth of Signal Hill



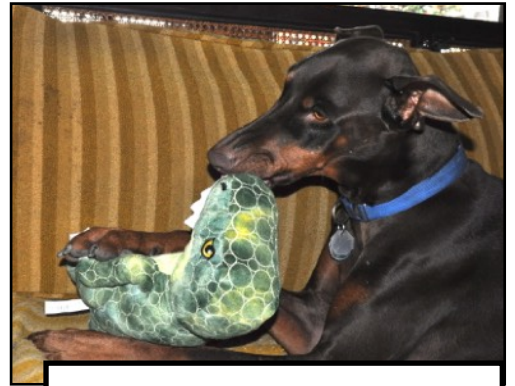
"Rezz" and "Pippa" Garduno of
Oceanside



"Finney" Esau-Varenchik of Santa Barbara, with Ron Varenchik and Amy Esau



"Lilly" Baron of Los Angeles



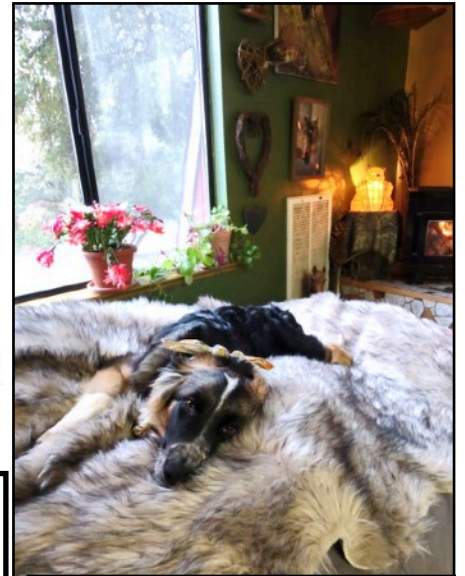
"Ruthven" Blum of El Cerrito



"Summer" Reeve of Murrieta



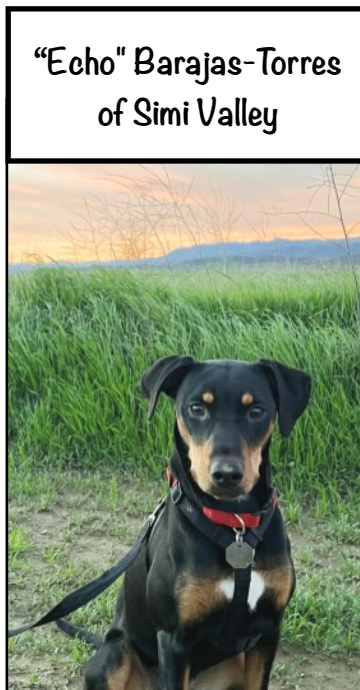
"Lasso" Maimone of Altadena



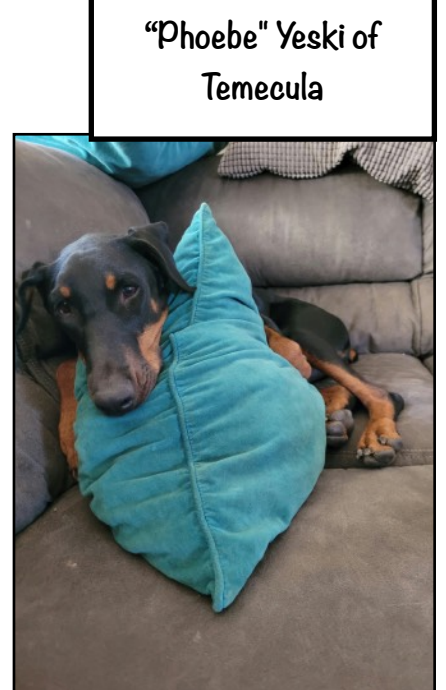
"Magic" Wendland of Grass Valley



"Brandi" and "Max" Christensen-Morris of Newbury Park, with Heidi Christensen and Ed Morris



"Echo" Barajas-Torres of Simi Valley



"Phoebe" Yeski of Temecula

HAPPY ADOPTEES

Waiting for homes continued

the shelter staff, and she was. Despite her obesity she was still able to jump into our rescue van, undoubtedly thrilled to have a life again. Now Benni has slimmed down to a healthier weight. She's 6 years old, housebroken, non-destructive, and compatible with various large male dogs she has met. Please consider her; she's an easy keeper.



BENJI

is a well-liked senior (almost 7), probably Dobie-Rottweiler, who is polite and appreciative in his interactions with people. He's quiet and undemanding, gets along with most female dogs, though not males. Interested in a big snuggle-buddy?



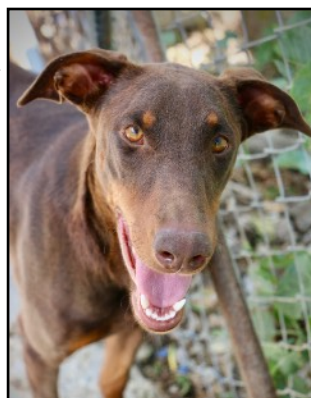
SCRUFFY

is about 5 years old, 12 pounds and absolutely adorable. He even smiles! He originally landed in a shelter with wounds from being attacked by another dog, but he made a full recovery. He's a calm guy that enjoys slow walks and a comfy lap or soft bed. He gets along with other dogs and completely ignores cats.



SASSY

is a cute little red girl weighing about 50 pounds. She's bouncy, social with her kennelmates, and not a complainer. During the entire time we've had Sassy, she has occasionally displayed nasal discharge from one nostril, which apparently is normal for her. Medications and vet opinions have shown nothing to the contrary. She's about 3.



DARLA

As of mid-February, Darla is 7 months old, and we would love to have her spend her late puppyhood in a real home! She is the favorite of our dog-walker snugglers, great with other dogs, and small at about 40 pounds; very small for a Shepherd mix.



MORE HAPPY ENDINGS, ALWAYS

We're always a little conflicted writing about specific dogs' heartwarming happy ending stories, because we know that most of our adoptees have happy stories that could be told about them, but we can't tell them all. So we hope our adopters will understand and enjoy reading about a few of the dogs that were especially lucky despite their circumstances, and that they miraculously turned the corner from despair into joy and fulfillment.

In mid-December we received a call from Brandon Schuleshko, a Riverside resident who happened to see a red Dobie run over by a truck. He was afraid to look at what would remain of her after he couldn't get the driver to stop as he saw the truck barreling toward her, so he couldn't believe his eyes when she got up and limped over to him, asking to be petted.

Since he was unable to take her home, Brandon called the animal control department and she was picked up and taken to an emergency hospital. He kept tabs on her, naming her Penny, and was thrilled to learn she had no broken bones and no internal injuries, just a lot of swelling and wounds. He began to call rescues and everyone he knew, explaining that she was the sweetest dog he had ever known and that he was desperate to get her safely into a good home when her stray hold would expire. He said no one would talk to him.

Obviously we had to take Penny in. She was badly injured, for sure, but nothing that wouldn't heal. One rear leg was lacerated and filled with blood and fluid, about three times its normal size. A month later she had made a near-complete recovery and was ready for adoption.

Cathleen Dunifer and her daughter Abby Gustafson of Ventura came to visit on January 18. They wanted to spend a little time viewing the dogs and maybe visit with a few of them, but they weren't ready to adopt that day. The challenge was going to be their cat and



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their two Chihuahuas, so that limited which candidates we could feel confident suggesting for them. We do cat-test some dogs we suspect might be cat-social, but there is no way to know for sure how these relationships will turn out. We showed them Penny, as well as a male we had received two days earlier and neutered the following day, Wade. He had come from an animal shelter where he had been taken in fairly beaten up and underweight, but both dogs were so sweet and gentle that it didn't take long for the women to decide that they wanted *both of them!!!*

Their new names are Pearl and Bruce, and they were deemed *perfect* by the family since the day they arrived.



Also in December, an upstate animal shelter volunteer was advocating for a Doberman mix named Mark, whom she had special feelings for, and who was facing a euthanasia deadline about two days later. We have been limiting our intake of mixed breed dogs since they're usually so much harder to place, and Mark was said to be somewhat reactive to other dogs and experiencing heightened anxiety in the animal shelter. He sounded like he'd be a difficult dog to place.

Then it occurred to us that a former adopter, Lisa Bermudez, had recently lost both of her very senior

white Dobermans adopted from us many years ago, and since she wasn't yet ready to make the commitment to actually adopt a new dog, she was open to fostering. Lisa lives in Stockton, not far from where Mark was about to lose his life. We connected the volunteer who cared so deeply about Mark to Lisa, and we authorized him to be taken from the shelter under our rescue name.



The problem was getting him neutered before leaving the shelter. By this time he was to be put down about 36 hours later, and the neuter vet had the next day off. The following day Lisa had to work and wouldn't be home to receive him.

Through persuasion and the cooperation of everyone involved, Mark was neutered the day before he was to be euthanized and promptly on his way to Lisa with a volunteer transporter. Lisa was a bit nervous about willingly accepting a dog into her home that was a complete unknown to her with a few questionable behaviors, but she took him on faith. And the foster home she was prepared to give Mark, now called Miles, turned out to be his forever home! He is her protector, her companion, and her friend.

Finally, the "it took a village" ending for Raider and Blanca, a senior Doberman and a little white terrier respectively, who were abandoned on a property near



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Modesto. We received a call from a woman named Sue Reynolds, who was preparing the property for sale, and the two dogs were living there with no fencing and no one feeding or watering them. The family that had lived there had moved away.

Sue couldn't let them starve, so she began feeding them while trying to get animal control to pick them up. The problem was that animal control didn't consider them abandoned since they were being fed. Fortunately, we have good friends in two top positions at Stanislaus County Animal Control, Chandra Looney and Connie Hooker, so we requested their help getting the animals to the shelter so that we could then get legal ownership of them after their stray hold. Chandra dispatched an officer to the location, but he couldn't find it because it didn't have an address. Finally, with coordination between the Good Samaritan (Sue), and the officer, the dogs were picked up, processed, and flown south by our good friend and pilot, Mike Gennis.

Little Blanca, now called Tessa, spent a few weeks being pampered in a local foster home and then made her forever home with Martine Mills, her husband Dean, and their little terrier Daisy, of Thousand Oaks. Daisy was adopted from us a few



years ago, and it took Martine a full six months to gain her confidence and feel loved. Thankfully, it took Tessa only about a day!

If he isn't adopted by someone enjoying senior Dobermans as we do, Raider will make his life with us here at the ranch after having a complicated neuter surgery and significant dental work, evidence of his previous owner's lack of care that ultimately resulted in abandonment. He is obedient, fits in well, and enjoys comforts he probably never experienced before during his long life.



PARTING SHOT

"Kona" and
"Rocky"
Pancratz of
Thousand
Oaks



This is what happens when we talk politics!

