



DOBERMAN *DISPATCH*



DOBERMAN PINSCHER RESCUE OF PA, INC

Winter 2021

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Oxford, PA 19363
A non-profit organization
www.dprpa.org

A Year with Kirby

From Rags to Riches-By Jessica Delahanty

"Whatever Jess, do what you want." That was the answer I received, when I asked my husband if we could please, please, please foster this red 8 month old Doberman puppy that just came into the rescue. We had only fostered one other dog, as we already have two of our own, and our one Doberman, Misty, is dog reactive, so we needed to be selective on which dogs we think will work well with our family dynamic.

I was able to review some history on the Doberman, who the rescue renamed Kirby, before picking him up. My husband and I read about his torturous situation and the heroes who eventually helped him escape. We were a bit nervous as we were sure he would come with some emotional baggage, I mean, who would not after enduring months of endless suffering.

I was scheduled to pick Kirby up the day after Christmas. My son and I spent Christmas night, taking down the tree, while my husband put up the large cage Kirby would be using to decompress. December 26th evening, I made the drive into Pennsylvania to get him. My first thought when seeing him was he looked like an extremely malnourished deer. You could tell he had been through hell and back, but his personality! He was jumping and running around, he came right up to me, little nub wagging, ready to tackle his next adventure.

We arrived home pretty late, my son had already gone to bed, our two dogs put away and my husband was waiting in the kitchen. I walked Kirby in the backyard, allowing him to get his bearings, before bringing him inside. Immediately upon seeing my husband he began shaking, cowering, and trying to hide in the nearest corner. This poor puppy with his ribs sticking out and neurotic demeanor was a mess. A fosters job is not only to

give the dog a temporary home, but to assess their personality and work with them on any issues they may have.

Over the next couple of weeks, my husband spent all his free time gaining Kirby's trust. You must understand, Chris is not what most people would consider a "dog person." Slowly but surely, you could see a bond forming between the two of them. Eventually, I knew it would be time to get Kirby posted as available for adoption. My husband refused, he specifically said, and I will never forget this "I'll be so mad at you if you take this dog away from me." So, it was settled, Kirby was here to stay! We knew we had a long road ahead of us, as Kirby had no training, manners, or confidence.

January 10th, 2021 was one year since we told DPRPA we would like to adopt Kirby and I am happy to report, he is now a happy, goofy and self-reliant Doberman. He has had basic training, knows all his commands and is no longer extremely fearful of men. Kirby has visited the beach, played in the ocean, has hiked many, many miles and climbed multiple mountains with us. He gained one Corgi brother, one Doberman sister and one human brother, Lucas. Kirby's future is filled with love, adventure and a family who adores him. Foster failing is one of the best decisions we ever made.



Saving Dobermans Since 1989

UPDATES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone and welcome to 2021!

- Kisha Reinmiller

It's been a busy and exciting few months for our organization. We have found ourselves going through loss, change, and growth. From the outside, it may seem like everything is going "business as usual" but I'm here to give you a quick snapshot of some of the things going on behind the scenes.

I'll start with the loss. Sadly, after many years with the DPRPA family, Laraine Moncenigo made the difficult choice to end her volunteering with us. Laraine has been an integral part of our growth over the years and has worn many hats during her time with us! Many of you have gotten to know Laraine through her amazing volunteer support and recruitment. Wherever Laraine chooses to send that passion is in for an exciting addition!

Now for the change and the growth! After receiving the news of Laraine's imminent

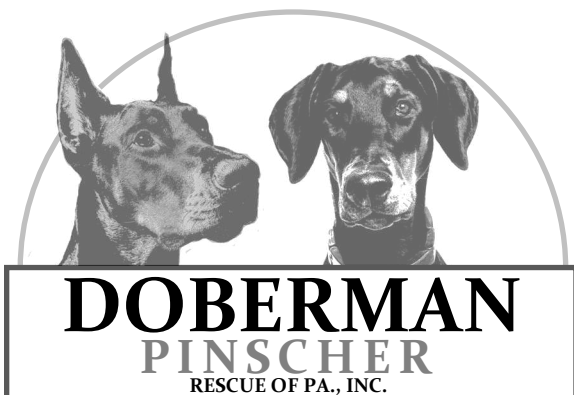
departure, the DPRPA board of directors worked hard to ensure that business continued as usual. We've accomplished that by adding several new roles to the organization!

After a short sabbatical, Trish LaBelle has graciously rejoined the DPRPA Board as our Director of Communications. For the past several years, Trish has designed and created our yearly calendar, she applies for the various monetary grants we have received for our more severe rescues, is our webmaster and has assisted on our social media pages, Pet Finder and Adopt-A-Pet. Trish is also the new editor for this very newsletter. You'll get to know her even better as she continues to help us with our mission to save more dokes!

In addition to our new board member, Carolyn Giambra is our new Volunteer Coordi-

nator! Carolyn will be helping Lois keep our volunteer lists updated as well as being our go-to person for all new volunteer contact. If you're interested in walking dogs, fostering, transporting or even have something else in mind, she's the lady to talk to. You can reach Carolyn at giambra.carolyn@gmail.com. Carolyn currently has two DPRPA Alumni, Fitz and Pippa, who will be helping her with her duties.

And last, you'll notice this newsletter has a new look! That is because we have a new addition to the newsletter team, Barbara Bater. Barb will be helping to put all the articles gathered by our editor, Trish, into this format! We hope you're enjoying the new look and the new faces that have joined our merry band of volunteers! Thank you for your continued support!



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Behavior, Training Tips: Pam Coath, CPDT-KA, pam-rose777@verizon.net

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Doberman Health Concerns: contacts@dprpa.org

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Website: www.dprpa.org

Webmaster: Trish LaBelle, trish.labelle@comcast.net

Holter Monitor Rental: Linda Dulak, dulak@gmail.com, 410-810-4032

My Special Someone

By Laraine Mocenigo

You're sound asleep on your bed next to my desk. I get up to look out the window and you're immediately awake. I leave the room and you are up and following me. Whenever I come home, you greet me at the front door with your entire body wriggling in excitement. You lay at my feet while I eat my meals. I sit on the sofa and you're right next to me. And when I go to sleep, you spoon with me. My shadow and my comfort. I miss you, Chopper.

We all know the void and the sadness of losing our BFFF (Best Furry Friend Forever). Sadly, on November 25, the day before Thanksgiving, I lost my BFFF, Chopper. Although he was about to turn 13 years old on December 11, he did not appear to have any impending ailments that would take him suddenly on that day. Chopper passed away in the car as we rushed him to the emergency vet waiting for him at Penn Vet. I knew something

was terribly wrong when he was up most of the previous night coughing. At first, I thought it may be due to his allergies or his age. He had just been to his regular vet a few months prior and his dermatologist a month before; and neither detected issues with his heart. As the rescue mourned the loss of so many dogs who died of DCM, I felt I was fortunate that Chopper would not be impacted by this horrible disease.

Chopper was surrendered when he almost 6 years old because his allergies, thyroid, and behavioral issues were taking a toll on the family. They hoped that somebody with more time would be able to resolve these ongoing problems. I had just retired in 2013 and welcomed the challenge; and what a challenge it was. After almost 7 years working with multiple vets, dermatologists, vet behaviorists, neurologists, acupuncturists, we had a lifestyle and routine down to manage his allergies, obsessive compulsive behavior, and anxieties (including minor separation anxiety).

Not surprisingly, I loved Chopper with all my heart, aside from all his innocent flaws. Ultimately what Chopper possessed was the sweetest, most gentle

temperament and devotion, all packaged into the most handsome red boy I've ever had the privilege of knowing. I visit the bathroom alone now. And I move from room to room without worrying about disturbing Chopper from his deep slumber to follow me. These thoughts bring tears to my eyes. While it's hard to find words to describe the emotions, I know everyone reading this has also lost that special someone, like Chopper, and words are not needed.



Gino is a 1-year old boy that comes from



working lines. Like most of our working dogs, Gino is looking for a structured home that is going to work on his obedience training and leash skills.

Gino is a sweet boy that loves to give the "Dober-lean." He is active and would love a dog friend to play with! Ideally, he's looking for a female companion of a similar energy level. Gino's fosters say he is a social butterfly and enjoys attention from all the volunteers he meets. Gino is house broken and crate trained. He is a high energy boy and will only be placed with a home with older or no children and due to his high prey drive, we'd recommend no cats or small dogs and we would prefer a fenced in yard.

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Apply at :

www.dprpa.org/applicationform



Indy is an all-natural ladies' man. He needs a loving, female leader who will encourage and work with him to learn to trust men. Due to his past, he is very uncertain of men and slow introductions are a must! Indy is treat-motivated and knows some basic commands but walking on a leash still needs some work. A fenced in yard would be a benefit. Indy will play ball as long as you want. But, when he gets the chance to snuggle in his bed, he will run inside. He has started going hiking and is starting to understand what fun, love, and trust is. Indy is hoping someone will understand and work with him.



What's That Cough?

By Dr. Denise Larochelle Pumphrey, DVM

Is your dog suddenly coughing? Dogs can cough for a number of reasons but unfortunately one of them may be heart disease. With February being national heart month, let's look at some of the cardiovascular diseases that plague our canine companions and what they have in common. If your dog starts to have some of the following symptoms, you will want to have a veterinarian evaluate your dog to see if heart disease could be the culprit.

The most common symptoms of heart disease are:

- Coughing
- Fainting or collapse
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue, lethargy, or exercise intolerance
- Behavior changes
- Reduced appetite and/or weight loss
- Abdominal swelling

Heart diseases are grouped into 2 main categories: acquired or congenital. The **congenital abnormalities** are patent ductus arteriosus, aortic stenosis, pulmonary stenosis, ventricular or atrial septal defect, persistent right aortic arch or dysplasia.

A patent ductus arteriosus (PDA occurs when the connecting blood vessel between the aorta and the pulmonary artery does not close properly at birth.)

Aortic stenosis is most common in large breed dogs and is a narrow or partially blocked aorta.

A ventricular septal defect is a hole in the heart wall between the right and left ventricles and an atrial septal defect is a hole between the left and right atria.

A persistent right aortic arch is where the aortic arch doesn't deteriorate after birth and can become wrapped around the esophagus.

Dysplasia is most common in cats where the valves of the heart are malformed.

Other causes of heart disease are acquired during a dog's lifetime such as dietary deficiencies, pericardial disease, heartworm infection, endocardiosis, and dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM).

The most common form of heart disease in dogs is **endocardiosis or valvular disease**. It is usually found in older dogs where the valve becomes leaky causing blood to leak back into the atrium or the ventricle. This leakage causes the heart to enlarge and develop congestive heart failure signs such as buildup of fluid in the lungs. The heart murmur often times heard is due to the leaky valves. Valvular disease is most common in small breed dogs. Treatment for these dogs consists of angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, pimobendane, furosemide, and spironolactone.

Breeds most commonly affected by valvular disease are poodles, cocker spaniels, Yorkshire terriers, Lhasa apsos, chihuahuas, toy poodles, and cavalier king Charles spaniels. Approximately 10% of dogs will develop some form of heart disease in their lifetime with approximately 80% of them being due to mitral valve insufficiency.

Another common disease that has gained a lot of interest recently due to its grain-free dietary correlation is **Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM)**. This disease targets the heart muscle cells to weaken which leads to heart chamber enlargement/dilation or formation of abnormal heart beats. One important thing to remember is that not all

dogs with DCM have a heart murmur, abnormal beats, or abnormal heart sounds. DCM accounts for approximately 10% of heart diseases in dogs with large and giant breeds being the most commonly affected.

- **General risk factors of DCM:** High-risk Doberman Pinschers (60% chance of developing DCM during lifetime), cocker spaniels, boxers (more commonly get syncope DCM), and Great Danes
- Older than 4 years of age
- Familial or inherited component exists in most cases
- Nutrition
- Taurine deficiency (common in Cocker Spaniels)
- L-carnitine (common in Boxers and Cocker Spaniels)

How is your animal diagnosed with DCM? Many dogs unfortunately can be asymptomatic at first with heart changes happening with the body still compensating. Some dogs get diagnosed when they unfortunately have an episode of collapse and sudden death. Different tests exist to try to monitor for those early cardiac changes and also to diagnose DCM. Important tests that may be run on your dog are an echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart), ECG (evaluates the heart beats to look for abnormal rhythms), Holter monitor (to record your dog's heart activity for 24 hours), genetic tests, and the NT-proBNP enzyme (increases with increased stress on the heart muscle, this is a good monitoring and screening test).

Once your dog is diagnosed with DCM, they will begin treatment to control the symptoms of congestive heart failure and syncope using various heart medications such as enalapril, furosemide, Vetmedin (also known as pimobendin), and spironolactone to name a few. Unfortunately, the changes associated with DCM cannot be reversed. On average, an asymptomatic dog will go about 1 to 3 years before they develop clinical signs. Once they are symptomatic, they will live an average of 6 to 12 months with DCM.

Dilated Cardiomyopathy Genetic Tests DCM₁ and DCM₂—What They Can (and Can't) Tell Owners

- John Walter

DobermanPlanet.com

Like any good owner, I wanted nothing but the best for my new Doberman pup, Arlo when I first brought him home in February of 2020. I was well aware of the many potential health issues Dobermans can face, so to make sure I got my new dog started off on the right foot, I knew I needed to get him checked for Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) using one of the widely available at-home DNA test kits for dogs.

DCM is a chronic heart disease that almost always takes the life of an affected dog within 6 months to 2 years after diagnosis, with little to no warning beforehand. I knew that this disease was affecting more Dobermans in recent generations and I had to know if Arlo was going to be one of them. My hope was this simple cheek swab DNA test would tell me. My wife and two young sons were becoming more and more attached to our new puppy. Did I even want to know what this test would tell me?

Since I run a website and YouTube channel dedicated to the Doberman breed (Doberman Planet), I knew two things; yes, I had to find out and I certainly wasn't going on this journey alone. I was going to video record every step of the DNA testing process and research everything I learned ad nauseam. I owed it to my viewers, my family, and Arlo.

I ordered a DNA test kit that I made sure would test Arlo with the latest DCM genetic tests, the "DCM₁" and the "DCM₂" tests. In a few days, I received my test kit, promptly tested Arlo via a quick cheek swab, and sent it off to be tested (recording everything with my video camera as I went for my subscribers, of course). Within about two weeks I received Arlo's results. I was horrified at what I saw, to say the least.

My eyes skipped right past all the interesting insights into Arlo's genetic predispositions included in the results and settled on a bright red flag next to one specific result. Arlo possessed two copies of the mutated gene the DCM₁ test checked for. This was the worst possible result for the DCM₁ test.

Obviously, this had me incredibly worried, to say the least. What did this mean? Was my dog going to just drop dead at 6 months old? At 2 years old? What would this mean for my family? I had to find out. My subscribers on YouTube were going to have a lot of questions when I told them about this, and so would my wife.

My obsessive research into Arlo's far-from-ideal result began.

Most Doberman owners understand that a "clear" result is the best possible answer they could receive on these tests (meaning the dog has zero copies of the gene mutation in question), but most don't know that regardless of whether your dog has 1 copy or 2 copies of this gene mutation, it indicates the same increased risk of developing DCM during their lifetime. In fact, there's no difference in those two "positive" results other than what it means as far as that dog's chances of passing the mutated gene on to their offspring.

So how much does having this gene mutation increase the risk for developing DCM? It really is still far from settled science.

First, I found a study published by North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine that looked at 132 Doberman Pinschers. Of those, 66 had the gene mutation that the DCM₁ test checks for, and 66 did not. Of those with the mutation, 82% of the Dobermans were affected by DCM during their lifetime. Whereas only 39% of the Dobermans without the mutation were affected. To me, this sounded horrible. Did this mean Arlo had an 82% chance of developing DCM and dying a young dog, thereby devastating my young family?

But wait, I may have found my saving grace. I was soon told about another study done by the Institute of Genetics, University of Bern in Switzerland that found that European Dobermans specifically (which Arlo is) had no increase in the occurrence of DCM with a positive DCM₁ result. This had me

thinking that maybe all my worrying was for nothing, and I could save face in front of my family and my subscribers on YouTube.

Unfortunately, that sense of security I felt was short-lived. I soon found out that European Dobermans, in general, were found to have an incredibly high overall occurrence of DCM in their genetic lines of 58.2% (according to a study published by Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, Germany). This was regardless of their DCM₁ or DCM₂ test results.

So I felt I was back "up the creek" as far as this DCM thing goes with my Doberman. That was it, I was ready to give up. As a last-ditch effort, I reached out to a veterinarian friend of mine who is directly involved in the "Doberman Diversity Project", a non-profit organization dedicated to the genetic health of the Doberman line. This organization is highly focused on DCM since it seems to be one of the most deadly for our breed at the moment.

After multiple long conversations and multiple emails with her, I learned a few very important things about the limitations of the DCM₁ and DCM₂ tests. The main takeaway—there's still so much we don't know.

Yes, a positive result for either of these tests is believed to increase a Doberman's chances of developing DCM during their lifetime, but it's really not known by exactly how much. Also, many Dobermans who are "clear" with these tests still develop DCM during their lifetime.

It was explained to me like this; the DCM₁ and DCM₂ tests basically look for genetic indicators of the dog's risk levels, but that's it. It absolutely does not look for the "cause" of DCM, because modern science still doesn't know what that cause is in Dobermans. Once a specific gene (or combination of genes) is identified that is the cause of DCM, a genetic test can be developed to determine for certain if a specific dog will develop this horrible disease at some point during its life. However, at this point, we have nothing close to that. We only have "possible risk factors" and that's what these tests look for.

Continued on page 6



DPRPA Holter Monitor Available for Rental

By Linda Dulak

Now that you have read the article about heart disease in our Dobermans, you should know that the most common heart disease in our breed is DCM. Because of that, many Doberman breeders and pet owners are starting to do a baseline monitor of their dog's heart at a young age. Later monitoring can easily show whether there has been a change. Others start monitoring when signs of heart disease has been shown by the CardioPet blood test or when the dog shows signs which might indicate DCM.

Early last year DPRPA was gifted a Holter monitor by one of our members, Denise Mangold. We were able to use that monitor to upgrade to a digital model which is now available for members to rent. So what is a Holter monitor? It's a device that will record the electrocardiogram of your dog's heart for a period of time, usually 24 hours. This will allow your dog's cardiologist to evaluate the functioning of your dog's heart during many different activities during the day. Normally, these are quite expensive to have done at the cardiologist's office (\$800). Our goal is for

our members to use this as a screening method for heart disease in their dogs or to compliment their cardiologist's treatment. While testing the use and the procedures for using the Holter monitor, I tested it on hospice dog Nova. When he had his cardiologist appointment on Dec. 23, the data from that test showed that he had significant rhythm abnormalities and was placed on medication to control that. A prior visit had not picked up these signs so the test was able to show something new. And the increased activity from Nova shows that the new medication has worked!!

The rental of the Holter monitor will require a donation of \$125 (this covers supplies, mailing, and a donation towards the cost and maintenance of the monitor), and a refundable \$100 deposit. What you get is the monitor, leads, electrodes for the dog's chest, a jacket which will keep the leads/electrodes protected and attached, a pocket for the monitor and a belt to hold the pocket on the jacket. Once the monitoring is complete, you can remove the SD card and upload the data to ALBA. They will invoice you to pay for the data evaluation (\$40) and once you pay they will send you the report by email, usually within 24 hours. This report should be taken to your veterinarian and preferably to a cardiologist for interpretation. DPRPA will NOT be able to help you evaluate this report. However, for an additional fee (\$50) ALBA will send it to a consulting cardiologist for an interpretation. If you need technical help with the transmission of the data, we can help.

There are several suggestions I have before you think about monitoring your dog. First, plan ahead for a date when you can be home

for that 24 hours and keep watch over your dog. The monitor is expensive (\$1275) and you will be asked to sign a contract agreeing to replace or repair any damage. Dogs can, if determined, remove the belt, pocket and monitor or shake it loose. Also, you should be willing to keep the dog being monitored away from other dogs in the home who may be curious about that new thing on the back of your dog. Second, while this can be done by one person, I'd recommend having someone help you put the monitor on your dog. My experience with Nova was that he always wanted to lay down when I was attaching the leads. And you often find you need 3 hands while putting on the jacket and holding the monitor at the same time! Third, be considerate of other people. We will take reservations and plan on giving you 5 days to complete the monitoring. And fourth, I found it important to keep a small diary of activities, time of eating, walking, running in the backyard, sleeping, etc. It is interesting to see if any activities have an impact. Of course, I will be available for phone consultation. Contact Linda Dulak at lhdlak@gmail.com or 410-810-4032 to get a reservation for the Holter monitor and/or discuss the procedure for rental. Let's get our dogs monitored to check for early signs of DCM. Remember that medications are now available that can extend your dog's life if s/he is diagnosed early.

Continued from page 6—

Dilated Cardiomyopathy

Arlo might be at an increased risk for DCM, or may not be. It's an incredibly frustrating result that honestly may not really indicate all that much until more studies are done and more genetic profiles of affected Dobermans can be studied by organizations such as the Doberman Diversity Project.

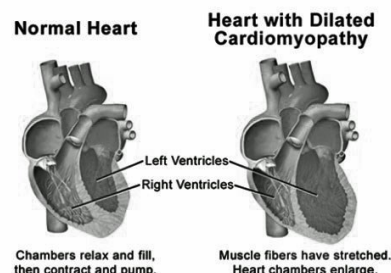
About the best I can do now is give this information to my veterinarian and have Arlo's heart checked regularly all through-

out his life with the hopes of catching any issues with his heart as early as possible.

I still strongly believe in the importance of getting our Dobermans tested. Testing gives us so much insight into our dogs that you just can't get any other way. It'll also tell you what to "watch out for" with their health down the road. Additionally, it helps breeders make more informed breeding decisions and new research is always being done on these genetic profiles. So hopefully, we'll eventually be able to paint a clearer picture of what these gene mutations ultimately

mean to our dogs and our families. At this time, Arlo is still happy and healthy.

For sources and to learn more, visit: www.DobermanPlanet.com/DNA



Judith Geduldig

I want to send a contribution directly to you in memory of David Washko, the recently deceased husband of my daughter's lifelong friend Jessica Berman.

Jessica and my daughter met at age three, and have been closely connected ever since. We live next door to Jessica's parents, and the girls grew up at her house and at mine.

Jessica adopted Kaiser from your organization. She has had Dobermans for years. And years ago, my daughter adopted Caesar from the Harrisburg Area Humane Society - he lived with her for a long time - first in a loft apartment in downtown Philadelphia (where he managed the iron circular staircase!) and then in New Hope, PA in a real house.

My daughter now is the thrilled mommy to a three-month-old Dobe who came from a reliable breeder in New York State. She researched for months until she found a competent, careful and honest breeder, and she wanted a puppy she could train and raise as a full-fledged member of her family (husband and two teen-age boys).

Many thanks in advance,
Judith Geduldig



Michele Sollitto

Thank you for another great dog! We love this girl. Lightning loves her and I think he feels like a "big daddy" again! Thanks again for another beautiful soul!

MAIL CALL



Taylor C. Meisel

Thank you sooo much for everything! We fell in love with Otis immediately. He's so sweet and so funny. Just a big, playful and gentle giant! Thanks for choosing us again, we are forever grateful!!

Bonnie Devine

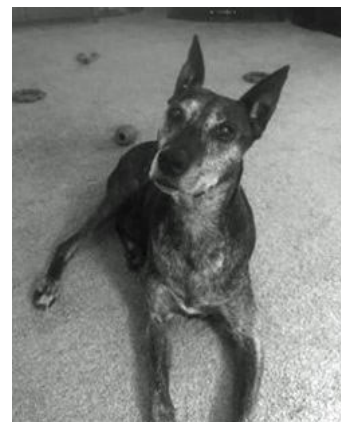
Achilles is a Senior dog who is helping me to accept being a Senior! We nap together all the time...I can't praise the Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA enough. Not only did they find the perfect companion for me, but continue to remain so very kind and helpful, and so dedicated to making sure that both the Dobe and "forever dog owner" are a perfect match. Thanks Lois, Laraine and Vanessa. So happy to have all of you in my life!



Tim Leiphart

I wanted to send a note in appreciation of mentioning my wife's passing and thanks to all who contributed to DPRPA in her honor. I have had a Doberman in my life since 1977, I started to date Carol one year later.

Rhonda brought us Ripley and though she may not be 100% Doberman she is a loving, smart companion. She will not let anybody on the property. She is also the healthiest dog I have ever owned.



Nancy Fortman

Took a little while, but Laney has at last embraced her inner nester! May Dobermans everywhere know of your unflagging goodness.



My name is Donna Hart and I am a foster parent to a Golden Retriever mix named "Sully" for the Franklin County Veterans Affairs Save-A-Vet Save-A-Pet Program. I have had 3 Dobermans in my lifetime, all red males. I would like to thank you and all of your volunteers for caring for these wonderful dogs, and finding them loving homes. I hope they enjoy these toys and treats.



Fosters

Rhonda Bieber (Petunia Hospice Dog)
Linda and Norm Dulak (Nova Hospice Dog)
Diane Buhl (Gino, Indiana Jones, Garrus)
Nancy Fortmann (Laney Hospice Dog)
Trudy Leedom (Keeper (Keira)-Hospice Dog)
Nancy Robson (Diesel)
Melissa Melvin (Scarlett)
VCA Smoketown (Zeus, Diesel, Delilah, Ozzie/Noah, Bruno)
Lana Kobuck (Indica-Jade)
Kelsey Thoensen (Ruckus)
Linda Bialous (Power, Greta)
Lori Swaldi (Zeus)
Vanessa Jarmoyych (Delilah), Bruno
Claire Chivington (Power/Riley)

Memorials (Dogs)

Flicka – Sue Perrotta (VCA Smoketown Animal Hospital)-DPRPA
Chopper – Laraine and John Mocenigo
Gunner – Catherine and Gregg Wolgemuth
Bella – Dominic and Sarah Etzold & Family
Atticus – John Krosnowski

Memorials (People)

David Washko – Jessica Berman's husband
Passed November 2020
Tiffany Kovalcin's mom Passed December 2020
Don Sheesley-Cocoa's Dad Passed December 2020
Eric Fox Passed December 2020
Carol Giambra's mom Passed December
Ed Wrobbel Passed February 2021

Adoptions

Hero – Amy and Tom Brown
Achilles – Bonnie Devine
Drogo-Voight (Otis) – Taylor Meisel
Scarlett – Michele Sollitto and Family
Diesel – Alissa Parker
Bella H – Andrea and Jared Hermany and Family
Vinnie – Kim and Brian Serafine and Family
Hank – Monica Fritsche and Vernon Lucas
Garrus – David Moe
Deanna – Melinda and Charles Coleman
Cocoa – Suellen and Charles Palmer
Ruckus – Kelsey Thoensen
Blake – John Krosnowski
Delilah – Catherine and Greg Wolgemuth

GOODBYE 2020

- By Lois Katchur

Well, we closed out the year 2020 and we have processed an amazing 313 applications. Even with COVID-19 going on, the awesome caseworkers made this a banner year. And, we have started off the new year with 40 new applications. Again, I want to thank the dedicated application caseworkers for their great work and getting the applications processed.

56 dogs were adopted 2020. A great number considering dealing with COVID and trying to arrange meet and greets safely.

We need to thank all the intake caseworkers, transporters, fosters (including Char-Will Kennels, VCA Smoketown Animal Hospital, and Linda Bialous from Country Pet Lodge and Salon). And, we cannot forget our volunteer dog walkers who make sure the dogs in kennels get out to play and exercise. Also, want to thank Kelly Langle, who has been evaluating and working with our dogs at Char-Will Kennels.

As your facilitator, no words can thank everyone enough for your help and dedication to see that DPRPA's application, intake, and adoption processes run smoothly and in a timely manner.

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Unused Medications

If you have medication that you no longer need for your Dobe, please contact

Kisha Reinmiller at 717-315-8518 or kishareinmiller@gmail.com

to discuss donating them to DPRPA.

Thank you, donors, for your continued support. More often than not, our costs per dog are considerably greater than the adoption fee. Some dogs come to us a sorry sight. Each Doberman leaves for his/her adoptive home neutered and medically up to date, whatever it takes! Your gifts make our work possible.

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Sponsor a Hospice Dog

We currently have five hospice dogs, due to advanced age or chronic illness. Consider becoming a monthly donor with a recurring donation (even the smallest amounts can add up) to help with the expenses of these special needs dogs.

Go to dprpa.org/donate and click on **MONTHLY DONATION**.

Memorials

When a subscriber's or friend's Doberman dies, please let us know and that beloved pet will be listed "In Memoriam." Add a donation and the pet (or person) will be listed under "Memorial Donors."



Jadie Sue,

What Did You Do?

- By Lana Kobuck

In October, I came across a picture of a seven-month-old Doberman (formerly Indica) in need of a foster on the DPRPA volunteer page. A fellow volunteer had agreed to take her in. Unfortunately, her pack would not accept her. Being the closest volunteer, we met the next day to allow her to meet my Standard Poodle, Karman. They immediately accepted each other so home we went.

We got home and we immediately had to change her name. I wanted to stick with a gem name, so I chose Jade. My senior foster-fail, Ruby, had passed just weeks before so a gem name was my way of memorializing her. If I could turn back time, I would have chosen something more suiting, like Crazy Lady, Cyclone or El Nina

I now had taken in a dog that was failed by humans. She had been shown zero boundaries and had zero structure. She was a puppy stuck in a 60 pound body. Jade's newest home is now her fourth home in a week and no dog deserves that. She was surrendered because she was too much.... and that she is!

Jade was not respectful of the smaller animals in my home. She's a pup so I told myself that would continue to improve.

We found that she is very often large dog aggressive. It was a fluke that she immediately loved my sweet Karman.

She came to me with crate anxiety and separation anxiety and the days and weeks of no sleep seemed never ending.

I chose to put in a doggy door and fence in the yard because, despite all the dogs I have had in my home, potty training a pup that was 60 pounds and equal to a toddler that

just ate a 5-pound bag of sugar (24/7), was a task I just couldn't tackle.

She has chewed and destroyed about everything in my home. She does wonderful with the e collar until it comes off.

Toys that existed moments before look like an avalanche of stuffing fills the room.

My neighbors have seen our most intimate clothing spread all through the yard. Oddly, the only thing she did not shred was the garbage.

She is like no ordinary dog I've ever met. I have been bitten (not aggressively), bruised, and beat up more times than I can think of.

I have not had a relaxing bath since she arrived. She will scream and holler, then open the door by chewing the knob. The other day, she came into the bathroom with her e-collar in her mouth, looked me square in the eye, and dropped it into the tub.

You may blame me for not proofing my home. I have. Only so much proofing can be done with Jade. Exercise her more? My body can't tire her out. These are just a small fraction of the adventures of Jade. She has been a tornado that has taken over my home and my life since October.

Here we are, three months later. She has accepted her place in the pack. There are some spats at the home but she has learned so much. She is learning how to be respectful of the other dogs in the house. She does submit within the pack when warranted. She is still hyper and destructive. She is still a pup. Just when she seemed okay a few days ago, uncrated, when I left, she ate the couch. That's okay. She lost a treat in the crack and was just trying to get it.

She is adjusted in the house to the extent that I can call her a normal pup now. Her mentality is equivalent to maybe a 6 month old pup at nearly a year old, but that's far better than the 12 week old mentality that she came with. She rests peacefully in her crate while I am at work. She usually asks to go outside if the doggy door is not open. She still eats the mail, chews doorknobs, shreds her toys and more, but I'll take the improvement we have seen. Rome wasn't built in a day. They can't be perfect, and she really is still a baby.

Is she a perfect dog that everyone would love to have in their home? Probably not. Truly, she is the poster child for the type of dog that most people don't have patience for and end up in a bad way. Lucky for her, I

raised a teenage daughter alone and work in an Alzheimer's/dementia unit, so I feel my trained level of patience helps and not much bothers me.

Jade is one of the sweetest dogs I've ever met and aims to please. I most likely will be a foster-fail for Jade. I have learned to love her and I can't imagine her ending up in the wrong hands and failed as she had been so many times before. She is settled, confident and happy in my home. Our home now. She is still equivalent to a sugar and caffeine high toddler that you gave finger paints and permanent marker to, but she will continue to learn.

Why do I write this you may ask? To deter people from fostering? No. It is about accepting. When you agree to foster, it is unreasonable to expect that a dog (often with zero or little history) is going to be perfect on day one. It is our duty to claim responsibility from the day we take them in and make every reasonable effort to not fail them, as most have been in the past. You and your new pup speak foreign languages to each other and are living in different worlds and their intense sense of new smells on top of it is very overwhelming. The smell alone is sometimes almost 100,000 times greater than ours. Imagine that!

As much as we expect them to learn, we must learn with them. There are a lot of things that they want to tell us but don't know how to. If it were that easy and a perfect world, nobody would ever surrender any dog. It is our responsibility to teach them, to study them and to help them feel confident, comfy, and happy in a home while also being respectable. This does not happen in days. This does not happen in weeks. Expect months before that broken pup that is scared in your home becomes themselves and you can begin to understand them. Will they be like Jade? Most likely not. But months ago a roughed up gem (unbeknownst to become Jade) found me and she is learning to shine like the magnificent gem she is....even if it's only through my eyes. After all, they only need to win the hearts of one to find their forever. Someday, I will laugh at all of this and say she's one of the best damn dogs I've ever had because I promise to give her my all.

Are all fosters fun? No. But they're not expected to be fun. They're hard work with long hours and dedication. Hard work eventually pays off. Let it be a task that you refuse to fail.

Volunteers Always Welcome!

If you, a friend or relative would like to help process applications, do home visits, help with transports, or enjoy walking and playing with the dogs in kennels, please fill out one of our Volunteer Forms on our web site <https://www.dprpa.org/volunteer-form>
We would love to have you on board.

Face Book Private Page

Also, any adopters who are on FB that would like to join our private Adopters and Caseworkers Group, please send a friend request to Lois Katchur and you will receive an invite. We love to hear updates and share photos of DPRPA's growing family of adopters and dogs.

DOBERMAN PINSCHER RESCUE

of PA, Inc.

Purse, Collar & Leash Mania

Live Raffle Event!

When: Wednesday, March 17th
at 7:00 pm

Leash & Collar Raffle Tickets: \$5.00

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*Join us to help support DPRPA and its mission to help
Dobermans find their forever home!*



DPRPA Membership Application

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DOBERMAN PINSCHER

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DPRPA ANNUAL JAMBOREE
Saturday, September 11th 2021
Lancaster Country Central Park

**DOBERMAN
PINSCHER**