

Dobie Tails

The First Rescue of 2008...

Dutchess



The call came on a Friday afternoon that two females had been found wandering the countryside over the holidays. The two seemed very bonded and the shelter that had picked them up figured that they might be mother and daughter. The daughter was about 7 years old and the mother appeared to be around 10 or so. Another rescue came in and took the younger of the two and the older one remained, waiting.

The shelter told us they would do everything they could to get this older girl adopted but a date had been set for her and if she wasn't adopted by that date

she would be euthanized. We called a member of an affiliate Doberman Rescue in the area who could not take the dog because they were full. They went down and checked her over, took some pictures and offered to pull her for us if we would take her and meet us about halfway on a relay.

The Board quickly discussed the dilemma the dog was in and it took us very little time to decide that she was coming to us.

Please meet Duchess. Look at that face and you will know why we couldn't send her away. She is currently in a foster home where her foster parents say she has absolutely no negative characteristics whatsoever. She is a sweet girl, about 9 by our veterinarian's records and would make a great companion and family dog with her gentle nature. So 2008 started out with the saving of a life. (*Update - Dutchess has now been adopted and is in her forever home! ed.*)

A Changing of the Guard

In December, our founder, Alice Erftmier, officially retired from the Board of Doberman Rescue of Nebraska. After 25 years of very hard work she decided she wanted some time to do some other things in her life. We remain in contact with her as an advisor and she is helping us do different things but is no longer involved in the day to day running of the rescue. We all join together in wishing her the best as she goes off to enjoy other activities and we hope to carry on in a way that will make her proud of all we do. Without her tremendous sacrifices and contributions we would not be what we are today.

*We also have a new address and phone number so that Alice will not be getting the daily mail and phone calls of the rescue. **Please note our new contact information:***

Doberman Rescue of
Nebraska
POB 390684
Omaha, NE 68139-0684
402-614-4495
dron95@yahoo.com

... And Our First Adoption of '08

Buddy Joe

The year also began with our first adoption, also an older dog. Buddy Joe is 11 and came to us from another shelter. He had originally been given up at age 10 when his family decided to get a puppy and that they didn't want an older dog any more so Buddy was sent to live in a shelter. He had been there for many months with no adoption prospects so we took him in and decided we would try to place him.

Buddy came to us with a big kidney stone blocking his urethra. We talked to our vet who was able to palpitate the stone, calculated the risks of anesthetizing an 11 year old dog and made the decision to give our Buddy a chance. He had already won over all who had met him. The surgery was a success and Buddy made a quick recovery.

Buddy's age really is not apparent in his personality. He is a smaller male but so very happy. He greets everyone who comes up to him with a little dance and a bark that sounds so much like that of a seal that we all wanted to give him a beach ball to play with.



He won the heart of someone who noticed him on our website and Buddy became our first adoption of 2008. He is in a home where he will be spoiled for as long as he lives. His new family reports that he is a wonderful companion to them and they just love him very much. We are glad for another life saved. See his happy face?

BARNEY - *Life with a Doberman and four little boys*

We have a very loud, very hectic, very active household. With 4 boys ages 8, 6, 4 & 3 and a goofy red Doberman named Barney, there is always something going on. We lost our 10-year-old black and tan dobie, Jake, last December. He died at home very unexpectedly and I was heartbroken. The boys didn't really understand what had happened because of their ages.

continued on page 5.

Older Dogs Make Great Companions!

All of us here feel that the older dogs are very special and we try to rescue them whenever we possibly can. We also find that the people in this area have a heart for older animals. Their lives are so important to us and we take that seriously. Every adoption we have done where an older dog is involved has been successful. Why? We feel that people realize up front that time is limited so they cherish the dog from the start but there are other reasons too. Consider this:

- They are housebroken.
- They rarely chew up your shoes, underwear or furniture.
- They don't run you ragged from sun up to sun down because they don't have all of that excess energy. That means they still like to get exercise but they also give you time to relax and watch your favorite movie and will be happy to snuggle beside you while you do.
- They don't nag at you constantly for attention. They are happy to just be with you and do what you are doing.
- They ride perfectly in the car.
- They are calmer and make it easier for family and friends to be around.
- You don't have to worry about how big they will get or if they need obedience school because what you see is what you get. Yes, some of them come with some health issues that require medication but that happens to a lot of dogs at one point or another. This way you know what you are getting in to.
- They are there for you instantly. It is very difficult for a dog in older years to lose the family they have always known. They are truly grateful when someone loves them. That is something no one can put a dollar amount on. They just get sweeter and sweeter as they age. They become a part of you.
- You **can** teach old dogs new tricks. Dobermans are very intelligent dogs.

My 13 year old liked to continue learning until the day she passed away.

People often say "Well, they're old. They won't live very long." The truth is, when you deal with *any* living creature, there are no guarantees. All of us know people who have lost dogs far too young to serious health issues. The older dog teaches us to live in the here and now and to love those we have while we have them. All any of us know we have is *today*. Yesterday is a memory and tomorrow is unknown. We have today. Let us use it while we have it.

Let me leave you with one last sentiment on older dogs. Rooster was an 11 year old who came to us when his family fell apart after some very difficult times. The day his owner signed him over to us and left the store Rooster cried for hours and it broke the hearts of each of us around him. Rooster's story did not end there. He was adopted by a young woman who had suffered anxiety attacks. The attacks had made her feel helpless and afraid to be alone and yet afraid to go out too. She felt a dog would be a calming influence on her life. (She is a very smart woman because that is true. Dogs do have a calming effect on people!) We introduced her to Rooster. Rooster and his new owner are virtually inseparable! He has a job to do in his twilight years. He looks after his new owner and helps to calm her. They go all sorts of places together. Her anxiety has decreased very significantly and Rooster's cries for companionship ceased long ago.



cont'd

older dog, cont. from p. 3

A human life is made better and a working dog has a job to do. What could be better?

When considering adoption, do consider an older pet. You won't regret the time you spend with them and they will touch your life forever!

A LOOK BACK AT 2007 AND A LOOK FORWARD TO 2008

Another year is upon us and there have been some big changes at Doberman Rescue of Nebraska. We will get to those in a moment but before we do I would like to take a moment to look back at what we accomplished in 2007.

A Record Year

The year 2007 will go down as a banner year for DRON. We ended the year with a record of 91 adoptions! The prior highest year in our history had been 56 adoptions. This was a large increase! It is sad to know that 91 dogs needed our help but even better to know that we had the staff of volunteers, foster homes and financial support to place them in their forever homes. We are eternally grateful for such a privilege and want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of such a successful year.

We treated 4 dogs that were heartworm positive, one cancer dog and many other cases with health issues. All of them have gone on to happy forever homes.

We had our first Annual Doberman Rescue of Nebraska Car Show on September 15th

and in spite of uncooperative weather we had a successful event. We are in the planning stages for the next car show so details will be forthcoming.

We also had our first Christmas tree represented at the historic General Dodge House in Council Bluffs, IA. The Board of the Dodge House has invited us to return in 2008 to have another Christmas tree and this time it will be for a competition. Our creative team is already at work to formulate the plans. We all know how fast the year goes.



*The DRON tree at General Dodge House
(notice the gift bag, lower right!)*

Barney

continued from page 2

They saw this as their opportunity to get that puppy they have always wanted. Mom, being the supreme ruler of the house, said no way. I did not want to go thru the puppy stages of potty training and chewing up everything in site. (When Jake was young he ate my glasses while I was taking a nap, not funny because I can't see at all without my glasses!) I too wanted to get another dog as soon as possible but I wanted one that was a little older because I am already so busy with all of my other "Mom" duties.

After many family discussions (especially with our 8 year old who really, really wanted a puppy) we decided to call Doberman Rescue. There was no question that we would get another Doberman, the only thing to decide was puppy or older dog. Honestly, my husband and I were a little nervous about going with an older dog because of our kids. They are young. They are loud. They are active. Not

all dogs do well with that, especially older ones who have not been raised around children. With rescue dogs the background of the animal is usually not known. I know the rescue group also had some concerns because not all children are kind to dogs. Some people also think it's cute to let the kids ride the dog like a horse. It is not a horse. It is a dog. Don't let your kids ride your dog.

On a Saturday morning Mary and Holli were going to bring Barney to our house to meet our family. We had "the talk" with the kids before they arrived. You know the one. "Boys, be on your best behavior. If they know how crazy it is over here, they may not let us keep Barney. Don't jump around. Don't talk loud, use your inside voices so you don't scare Barney. Don't run around, don't, don't, don't, don't...." The 4 boys lined up in front of the picture window eagerly awaiting the arrival of Barney. Finally, the big moment was here. Barney came in and was

the goofiest looking little dog I had ever seen! He didn't look anything like Jake, our big, beautiful black and tan boy. Holli said he looked like Wile E. Coyote (from the cartoon) and she was right! He has a long face and floppy ears. He was skinny & whoever docked his tail obviously didn't know what they were doing because they took it down to nothing. But, we didn't care. We were not going to enter him into any beauty contests anyway. We just wanted a new dog. One that was loving and loyal. One that would play with the boys. One that would protect us. So, on that Saturday in late December, we added a new member to our family.



We have had Barney for a year now. It took him awhile to get used to his new home. He was not so tolerant of the kids at

Barney *contd.*

first. He would do a closed mouth growl when they got too close and he didn't want them to come near him. After much patience on all of our parts (Barney included) we have learned to get along. The boys know when leave Barney alone. They know when Barney wants to play, he will play and when he wants to nap, they need to leave him alone. Barney also knows what we will accept, behavior-wise, from him. He knows we will not tolerate him growling at the kids. Now that he is used to the commotion we don't have that problem anymore. He has done so well here with all the craziness that is always going on. He loves to run. And he is fast. He loves to race down to the garage on school mornings so he can ride along to take the older 2 boys to school. He loves to catch snakes in the yard and play with them. (total yuck!) He throws them up in the air like a toy, over and over; until I finally get so grossed out by it I put an

end to it. Then, of course he wants kisses. He has learned, finally, that I hate snakes and will not let him kiss me anytime within a week of him having had a snake in his mouth!

It took a lot of work and love to convince Barney that he belonged and we were not going to dump him. Now, he loves "his boys" and is very patient with them. He just wants to please us and thank us for that second chance at life that he has been given. Nowadays it seems like we live in a disposable world. We just throw everything away when we are done with it. Unfortunately, for many animals, there are people who feel this way about their pets also. They buy a dog when it is cute, fluffy and little. Then they get home with it and it starts peeing on their floors, eating their furniture and shoes, costing money for vet care and shots and food and heartworm pills and on and on. So, they dump it. Just like that. And, most don't even seem to feel the least bit of guilt

over it. Dogs should be a member of your family. They need to know they can depend on you for a warm, safe place to sleep, have food and water available, pats on the head and tummy rubs. What will you receive in return? Undying love and loyalty. Puppies are cute. But with a rescue pet you will receive a dog that will show you their appreciation daily at a second chance at life. They want to love you and be loved in return. They want to please you and make you proud of them. Dogs, like people, have different personalities. Sometimes you and your dog both need to bend a little to make your personalities mesh.

We have not regretted getting an "older" Doberman and I don't think Barney has regretted moving in with us either. Although, I bet there are times he wishes it were quieter than it is! Dobermans make great family pets. They are loyal, loving and beautiful dogs.

We need your help!

Doberman Rescue welcomes your donations and help of any kind!

___ Yes, I would like to help you to care for the animals.
Enclosed is my gift of \$_____.

___ I would like to make a monthly pledge to support
Doberman Rescue of Nebraska. I will pledge a monthly amount of \$_____.

___ I know of a business that would do a corporate sponsorship.
Here is their contact information:

DRON is a 501 (c) (3) organization, so all donations are tax deductible!

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO DRON,
ATTN: HOLLI SAMPSON
POB 390684
Omaha, NE 68139-0684

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT DONATING:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (WE WILL NOT SELL THIS TO ANYONE!) _____

PHONE NUMBER: (____) - _____ - _____

___ I AM INTERESTED IN BEING A VOLUNTEER. PLEASE CONTACT ME!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR DOG:

THANK YOU AGAIN!

DRON Car Show

Sunday, May 18



The first annual DRON Car Show was a big success last September. Don't miss the second car show, it's a great chance to visit with other DRON members and see some great classic cars. And all the proceeds go to help the dogs, it's a win-win!

Here's the information --

Sunday, May 18
Bag 'n Save 144th and Center
Registration 8am - noon
Awards 3pm
Entry fee \$10.00

Awards will be given for the best Stock and Modified cars -- Ford; GM; Chrysler; Truck; Other; Peoples Choice; and Best In Show.

Call Vicki Pearrow for more information. 402-714-6787. We need participants and volunteers -- be there!

There is also information on the web site www.doberescue-ne.org



Don Pearrow, Daisy Mae and Don's cherry '68 AMX

Board of Directors

President, Newsletter:
Holli Sampson

Vice President/Secretary:
Vicki Pearrow

Treasurer: *Jerry Sorbel*

Adoption Coordinator:
Mary Gibilisco,

Corresponding Secretary,
Newsletter:
Jim Tannehill

Fundraising:
*RH and Phyllis Fanders,
Cathy Wray*

Doberman Rescue of
Nebraska
POB 390684
Omaha, NE 68139-0684