



Fall 2015

Dobies in a Pinsch

Published By:

DOBERMAN RESCUE UNLIMITED, INC.

52 Tenney Road, Sandown, NH 03873

(603) 887-1200

a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization since 1988

www.dru.org

AGILITY: FUN TEAMWORK

There are many activities that one can enjoy with their dog. These activities serve to strengthen the bond and build a trusting relationship with your dog. Activities, especially team sports, give dogs environmental enrichment, encourage a happy and fit pet, provide socialization, as well as loads of mental stimulation.

Agility is one form of team sport that many dogs really enjoy. And like many other sports, it showcases the dog's ability and willingness to work with its handler under a variety of conditions. The dog must master a course of obstacles that include many jumps, tunnels, contact equipment (A frame, seesaw, dog walk), and weave poles all under the direction of the handler. The course has to be completed in the correct order, without knocking any of the jump bars down, and within a predetermined course time. *continued on page 3*



Kara Bassignani directs DRU's Waldemar over the pole jump.



Dieter flies through the tunnel and nails the weave poles!



Falko clears the hurdle with room to spare.

This newsletter is sent to all paid members of Doberman Rescue Unlimited, Inc. Complimentary copies are sent to area Animal Control Officers, shelters, veterinarians, rescue leagues, and anyone else who requests a copy. If you know of someone who would be interested in receiving this publication, please contact us. We are always happy to meet more people devoted to the Doberman. Membership dues of \$25.00 per year help defray our cost of this publication and help support our efforts to assist Dobermans in need.

Our hotline phone number, (603) 887-1200, has voice mail available 24 hours per day. Messages are checked daily and we respond to calls from people seeking information and assistance as quickly as possible.

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Dobies in a Pinsch

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DRU HOTLINE

603-887-1200

Visit our Web site www.dru.org
Email us at doberman@dru.org

We look forward to hearing from you!

Securing the future for Doberman Rescue Unlimited, Inc.



An endowment fund to “Secure the Future” for the Dobermans we rescue, care for, and ultimately, adopt out has been established. Donations to this fund will contribute to the ongoing expenses of running DRU and to reduce our dependence on annual donations and membership fees. Several members have already contributed cash or securities to get the fund started.

To encourage donations, one of our members has pledged to MATCH any donation to the Endowment Fund for the calendar year 2016!



YES! MATCH my donation of



Make checks payable to: DRU Endowment Fund

Mail to: Treasurer, Doberman Resue Unlimited
52 Tenney Rd., Sandown, NH 03873

Questions? Email Jon Longley at treasurer@dru.org or call him at 978-369-6490 during business hours.

DRU is a 501(c)3 charity.
Donations are tax deductible.

The dogs that are well suited for agility are those that are physically fit and older than 15 months of age. Puppies that are under a year of age can certainly learn foundation work, but shouldn't be jumping repeatedly until their joints are mature. Dogs with back problems, hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, ACL (cruciate ligament) injuries, or arthritis aren't good candidates for this type of activity as they will only further injure themselves. Nosework, Barnhunt, and Tracking are a few low impact sports that would be more suitable for them.

The best way to get started in agility is to find a local training facility that offers Beginner classes. The sport is hard to start at home because there's so much equipment involved. Classes will teach the dog body awareness, and safety on the obstacles which is very important. As with any class, there needs to be a working relationship between owner and dog. This includes coming when called, sitting/downing/staying, and accepting other dogs and people in close proximity. There also needs to be some drive for the dog to work for food and/or toys. If one's goal is to ultimately compete in the sport, it's a good idea to make sure the trainer and students are actively competing. Attending an agility trial is also a great way to get fully immersed in it, and see what the final product looks like. The sport can also be just a hobby where one attends weekly classes gaining all the same benefits without any pressure.

Agility is a very fun sport that builds teamwork between owner and dog. It exercises the body and mind, and provides a lot of enjoyment. It does require a commitment since it is not something that is easily mastered within a few months. The hard work and commitment does not compare in any way, shape, or form to the pride gained from working as a team with your dog.

I became interested in agility training about 6 years ago. Prior to this I had been an obedience person, and also trained my dogs in tracking. My young male Doberman, Falko, didn't enjoy obedience and would frequently shut down in training despite my efforts to motivate him. After two and a half years of commitment, I finally decided that obedience just wasn't his thing and that he needed something else.



Luckily my obedience instructor also taught agility so Falko and I began classes. Since he was the first dog I had ever trained for this sport, I trained a long time before entering the first trial. And the rest is history. Falko still competes at 9 years of age and loves every minute of it. I also compete with my 5 year old male, Dieter, who was left at my practice when he was only 5 months old. His family no longer could care for him nor wanted to. I have another male, Wally, who is from DRU. He has an absolute ball in agility, and it keeps him on the straight and narrow. The four of us recently competed at the Doberman Nationals in Lancaster, PA and did quite well. The boys always have fun which is my main goal. I recently adopted a young female from DRU that will hopefully become an agility star as well. Scarlett will be starting her foundation training in a month, and will hopefully follow in her brother's footsteps.

*by Kara Bassignani, DVM
Holbrook Animal Hospital*

Hypothyroidism in Doberman Pinschers

by Betsy W. Krueger, DVM

Hypothyroidism is a disorder in which a dog's body is simply unable to produce enough thyroid hormone. If you've had multiple Dobermans in your family, it's likely that you've been the proud parent of at least one dog with this condition. While any dog can be affected, Dobermans and golden retrievers are much more likely to be hypothyroid compared to the general canine population. In addition, these breeds are often diagnosed at a younger age. Other predisposed breeds include: Airedale, beagle, boxer, bulldog, cocker spaniel, dachshund, Great Dane, Irish setter, Labrador retriever, miniature schnauzer, Pomeranian, poodle, and Shetland sheep dog.

About 1 out of every 200 dogs will eventually become hypothyroid. Symptoms typically appear during middle age (the average age at diagnosis is 7), though the disorder can be seen in dogs as young as 6 months, or as old as 15 years. Although incurable, this disease is entirely treatable and will not decrease lifespan.

Thyroid Hormone

When your veterinarian talks about "thyroid hormone" she's specifically referring to levothyroxine, which is also called thyroxine. On diagnostic tests this is often just abbreviated as "T4," reflecting the fact that the hormone contains four iodine atoms.

Thyroxine is produced by a pair of thyroid glands located in the neck on either side of the trachea (windpipe), just below the larynx (voice box). When these glands receive an appropriate "signal" from the brain, the hormone is secreted into the circulatory system to be dispersed throughout the body. This chemical signal, called "thyroid stimulating hormone" (TSH), is released by the brain whenever it detects that blood levels of thyroxine are too low.

Thyroid hormone is critical for normal growth and development, as well as optimal functioning in adult dogs. It is primarily responsible for regulating the body's metabolism, including the various chemical conversion processes used to transform food and water into energy. This energy is constantly required to maintain the basic body systems essential to life, and is also needed to support daily activities, growth, and healing. Consequently, thyroid hormone has a profound influence on the function of cells, tissues and organs throughout the entire body.

Increased secretion of thyroid hormone can be likened to stepping on the gas pedal, and results in a generalized expansion of activity and growth. It significantly boosts utilization of stored carbohydrate and fat, which are then "burned" (metabolized) as fuel to produce the energy required to drive these heightened activity levels.

Thyroid hormone causes skeletal muscles to contract more vigorously, and also strengthens heart contractions to pump more blood. It causes increases in appetite and digestion, and speeds the rate at which food travels through the GI system. In addition, it promotes production of red blood cells, enhances oxygen delivery to the tissues, and boosts kidney function by increasing local blood flow. Thyroid hormone raises the level of brain activity and alertness. It also enhances development and turnover of skin and hair cells, and hastens wound healing. In fact, these are only a few examples of the wide-ranging impacts of this hormone.

Causes of Hypothyroidism

Roughly half of hypothyroid cases are caused by an auto-immune disease called "immune mediated thyroiditis." In this condition, the body's own inflammatory immune cells infiltrate and attack the thyroid glands. Eventually, hypothyroidism results due to gradual destruction of the glands over several years. As functional tissue is replaced by fibrous "scar" tissue, the production of thyroxine will diminish to a point where the dog becomes symptomatic.

A condition called "idiopathic atrophy" accounts for the majority of remaining hypothyroid cases. In this disorder, functioning glandular thyroid tissue is gradually replaced by non-functional fatty tissue, though the mechanism and origin are unknown. Other, very rare causes of hypothyroidism, include thyroid tumor, iodine deficiency, infection, TSH deficiency, certain drugs, and congenital disease.

Symptoms

Clinical signs of hypothyroidism develop gradually, and result from the prolonged and systemic dysfunction caused by diminished thyroxine levels. Given the diverse effects of this hormone, the symptoms can show up almost anywhere in the body and can mimic those seen with many other disorders.

The most common symptoms of hypothyroidism include obesity, decreased activity levels, cold intolerance, mental dullness, exercise intolerance and dermatological abnormalities. Skin and coat problems are common (85% of dogs), and can manifest as chronic skin infections, poor wound healing, increased bruising, coarse, dry and "brittle" hair coat, changes in coat color, hair loss, dandruff, and marked skin thickening ("myxedema"). A hypothyroid dog may have one or more of these symptoms, or may not have any of these at all.

Other manifestations of low thyroid that are less common include neurological deficits such as local nerve paralysis, dizziness, abnormal or "drunken" gait, weakness, and rarely, seizures. Behavioral abnormalities such as fearfulness, loss of enthusiasm, hyperactivity, and sudden onset of aggressive behavior have also been associated with low thyroid hormone levels.

Diagnosis

Hypothyroidism is one of the most over-diagnosed diseases in veterinary medicine. This is potentially because thyroid-specific diagnostic tests are not being fully utilized to confirm or rule out the disease. Consequently, a number of dogs with perfectly normal thyroid function are misdiagnosed as hypothyroid and placed on unnecessary life-long hormone therapy. More importantly, failure to identify the true cause of a dog's symptoms could mean that a different underlying disease has been missed and will go untreated.

The initial screening test for hypothyroidism is "total T4" (tT4), which is simply a measurement of the amount of circulating T4 thyroid hormone. A total T4 value that is below the "normal" reference range will raise suspicion for hypothyroidism, but is not by itself diagnostic for this disease. This is because around 25% of normal (non-hypothyroid) dogs will also have a depressed tT4 level due to various factors that are completely unrelated to thyroid function. These include on-going stress or pain, therapy with certain drugs, recent sur-



Poor Tasha arrived at DRU from a shelter in New York. Her thyroid gland was virtually not functioning! Please know not every hypothyroid dog presents like this.

gery, infection, and other systemic illnesses like diabetes, and liver or kidney disease. A critical part of the diagnostic process involves ruling out these other non-thyroidal diseases.

Because tT4 is so non-specific, a low tT4 must be followed up with one or more advanced thyroid tests in order to make a definitive diagnosis of hypothyroidism. This includes, at minimum, measurement of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), which will be elevated (above normal) in most hypothyroid dogs. A high TSH combined with a low tT4 is diagnostic for hypothyroidism. Those dogs that don't have this definitive combination require further testing, and diagnosis is somewhat more complicated. Fortunately, performing the appropriate follow up tests and considering these within the entire context of the dog's history, symptoms, physical exam, and routine blood results will almost always yield enough information to make a correct diagnosis.

Treatment

Treatment for hypothyroid dogs consists of twice daily supplementation with synthetic thyroid hormone (levothyroxine). Some dogs will eventually be able to transition to once a

day dosing. Many veterinarians recommend initiating therapy with a name brand drug such as Soloxine or Leventra. This is because there can be significant variation in absorption and bioavailability among the various generic levothyroxine formulations currently available. Once a dog has responded to treatment, some people elect to switch to a generic version. If a generic product is working well in a particular dog, it's best to keep him on that formulation to ensure consistency in treatment and testing.

Monitoring

In order to confirm that tT4 is within the therapeutic range, the tT4 level is checked 4-6 weeks after starting therapy, and also after making any dose adjustments. Once the correct dose has been established, tT4 be can be rechecked every 6-12 months. In addition, if the particular brand of levothyroxine being utilized is ever changed, the dog will need to be tested after 4-6 weeks to insure that adequate thyroid levels are still being achieved.

When testing for tT4 level, blood is typically drawn 4-6 hrs after the dog receives his AM pill. This is called the "peak" tT4 level. The peak tT4 level required for optimal therapeu-

tic effect is at the high end of the "normal" range, or slightly above the normal range.

Prognosis

Hypothyroidism is very responsive to treatment with levothyroxine and the prognosis is excellent for complete reversal of symptoms. An obvious improvement in attitude, alertness and activity level will occur within a week of beginning treatment. Any weakness or neurological symptoms should also start to diminish within a week, though complete resolution of neurological disorders can take several months. Depending on severity, skin and coat abnormalities may improve more gradually, with complete resolution taking 1-6 months. While a dog will need daily thyroxine supplementation for the rest of his life, properly managed hypothyroidism will not decrease lifespan. (August 2015)

Dr. Krueger practices primarily in metrowest MA, and specializes in integrating holistic treatments, including acupuncture and herbal medicine, with conventional medical therapy for a variety of conditions in dogs, cats, and bunnies.



Nazarene Mondello and DRU's Chloe' v Moss Hill earned an FPr1 tracking title at UDC Nationals in KY.



Nancy Plunkett and DRU's Luger visit residents at the Anderson Inn at Quarry Hill in Camden, ME.

Dobermans Doing Things

Please let us know what your DRU Dobe is doing!



Kara Bassignani and DRU's Waldemar added to his impressive resume RATI, RATN (All 3 legs had placements: 1 first, 1 second and 1 third), RATO (2 legs were second place), and NJP (All 3 legs had placements: 2 firsts and 1 second) at the DPCA Nationals in Lancaster, PA.

At right: Liz Cleaves and DRU's Sieben der Grosseretterhund competed at the Rally Nationals in Missouri and still find time to continue Therapy Dog work at Blairstown House and Tewksbury Hospital.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB 2015 Rally National Championship March 13, 2015 Purdon Farms, Missouri

Walking the Brooklyn Bridge With the Doberman Gang of NYC



DRU volunteers Laurie Guptill and Connie Gordon joined the walk in Brooklyn.

The Doberman Gang of NYC recently held a fundraiser to benefit the DRU Senior and Special Needs Advocacy Program (SSNAP). “Walk the Brooklyn Bridge with the Doberman Gang of NYC” raised over \$1500.00 for the DRU SSNAP dogs. Over 20 Dobermans and their handlers braved the August heat, the threat of rain and a restricted walkway. Despite this, all the Dobermans behaved as true ambassadors of the breed. Hopefully it will become an annual event!



Jason Simon and Dante take a break.



Dogs available for adoption

DRU currently has approximately forty Dobermans waiting for new homes.

The list changes almost on a daily basis.

Check our Website at www.dru.org or call the hotline for updates.



SAVANNAH is a 6 year old, blue and rust female with natural ears and a tail who was an owner turn in at a New York shelter with no history...very frustrating!

As soon as our veterinarian saw this poor girl with her sparse, brittle coat weighing in at a whopping 120 pounds, she ordered a thyroid profile and started Savannah on Soloxine. Since arriving at DRU in March, she has lost over 45 lbs. and looks marvelous!. Savannah feels so much better now that she is getting the veterinary care she so desperately needed. She adores people and craves affection, often crawling into any available lap and rolling over a belly rub. Toys are of no interest to Savannah. She much prefers the company of humans...a sweet, needy, follow-you-around type. Savannah happily chases her person around the yard, but will stand at the door if left outside alone. Food motivated, smart and sometimes stubborn, she's a fast learner who is calm when she knows what is expected of her. Savannah was very reactive on leash around other dogs when she first came to the shelter. We think she's more fearful than aggressive and hadn't been shown how to deal with that. Savannah is more relaxed on walks now and is accustomed to walking with a few regulars that don't cause her concern. She is a lady who keeps a clean kennel and leaves her bedding intact. Savannah has a strong opinion that cats should cease to exist.



COCO is a 3 year old, black and rust, cropped and docked female whose owner gave her up because he was relocating.

She is a smaller, social girl who is friendly with people and is as cute as a button. Coco would do best as the only dog in a cat-free home. She has the usual sought-after qualities on her resume: behaves well in the house, loves car rides, chases tennis balls, knows her crate, catches treats and stays off furniture. Coco is playful and gets very silly with her person. She is a nice dog who is confident in herself, and yet at times can be somewhat sensitive, so continued training would be beneficial. She is responding well to treatment for Demodex. Coco is a fun dog!



LUCKY is an 18 month old, fawn and rust, natural and docked male who was a frequent flyer with Animal Control until he was finally surrendered by his owner who said Lucky needed a fence. Poor Lucky had already been hit by a car once and we are glad he arrived at DRU in one piece. He's a young, healthy, high energy boy who

has a good track record with other dogs. Lucky's prey drive might be a bit too high for him to live with cats. He has some basic obedience but needs more work. On leash walks, Lucky goes after passing cars, but he's learning to focus on his handler's direction instead. Despite his checkered past with motor vehicles, Lucky enjoys riding in the car and will do almost anything for food. He loves his rubber chicken and is way overdue waiting to bond with his own person.



TASHA is a 5 year old, black and rust, cropped and docked female whose owners couldn't afford her veterinary care, yet they overfed her to the point of life threatening obesity. This poor dog could barely walk when she arrived at DRU. She weighed a mind boggling 140 lbs. and it was affecting her mobility, her eyesight and her outlook on life. Tasha's thyroid hormone levels were some of the lowest our veterinarian had ever seen. Fast forward 3 months and Tasha, although far from a swimsuit model, is truly a new dog. She is 24 lbs. lighter and can now walk a mile twice a day. Working on a plan involving physical therapy, roadwork, better nutrition and proper medical care has transformed this once lumbering black bear look-a-like into a still robust but happy, play bowing, toy seeking love bug who can't get enough attention. Tasha loves everybody she has met here, plays with other dogs and merely nods amicably at the cats. She becomes more beautiful every day and her fan base continues to grow. Her transformation is ongoing and anyone would be lucky to have this wonderful girl.

DRU Reunion Picnic



Dobes on leashes - all are welcome!



Kara Bassignani and DRU Wally gave an Agility demo.



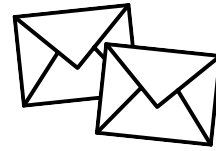
The staff and DRU Dobes assembled for the parade of dogs available for adoption.



This well-attended event was captured in a group photo by G. Gregory Geiger, Studio 95 Photographix.



Letters



Dear DRU,



This winter has been FULL of skate skiing for the 3 of us. Smokey and Jade love it and have met many more active dogs and their human companions through it. Bear Notch ski touring in Bartlett is 100% dog friendly! This once reactionary girl, Jade, aka the barker at anything that moved or fluttered in the wind, has charmed the pants off most that she has come in contact with, since moving to North Conway. "She's so sweet. She's so smart. She's so pretty...those eyes!" She lets Smokey know just how fortunate he is to have her company, but she actually adores him! Life is good, even though we all miss our Tuck. Thank you for all you do!!!

Cath Goodwin
North Conway, NH

Dear DRU,



I just wanted to touch base about Bonnie. She is doing well, last night and this morning she finished her meals. She rolls over in her bed so I can rub her belly and gives lots of kisses. She did very well on her first walk...held her head up, moving forward, and seemed happy. We will be going out shortly for another walk, now that we won't get blown over! Bonnie tried to play with

(spoiled) Louie, and that went as expected. He wanted nothing to do with it. Other than that they get along fine. She wants to sleep in her bed in the living room at night, but does come into the bedroom a couple of times to give me a nudge. She has good manners in the house and is starting to learn the routine. She is doing the Dobe thing of standing on my foot and leaning. Her records are already at our vet's office and they can't wait to meet her. It was so nice to meet Claire and some of the staff. We also met Bill, the Percheron, and all his friends in the barn. What a treat! He is so handsome! We are delighted to have Bonnie and I will keep you posted on her progress. Thank You!

Deb, Jeff, Louie and Bonnie Swett-Stout
Westbrook, ME

Dear DRU,



One week has flown by and we are so thrilled to have Ruger with us! He is playful and goofy, and likes playing with his new football tug toy. Ruger is having fun exploring his new home and territories. We go to the beach, the woods and the neighborhood on leash walks and he listens pretty well. He sleeps in a big, cushy bed. We just adore him so much and it is so good to have Dobe energy and love in our home again. Everyone at DRU did a great job caring for him and training him. He is definitely an attention sponge who will take all the loving he can get! Ryan and I are both very happy having Ruger in our lives! We will keep in touch about his progress and the fun things he is doing up in Maine! Best wishes to all at DRU.

Ryan Farr and Janet Keith
Saco, ME

Dear DRU,



Just a brief update on Ajax. For a while there I was going to call and see if I could bring a dog back, and it was not him! I had no idea Luna was so bossy and irritating. Ajax is a wonderful dog, thank you so much for letting me have him. He is much more confident and stronger on our long walks and lets Luna get away with less than he used to. On our walks, a few people have asked if they can get a dog like him if they call DRU. He is a major counter surfer and doesn't care if I am in the kitchen when he does it! He has gained a little weight. One can no longer see a prominent backbone but still more ribs than I would like. He is so sweet and loving. I am preparing to head south and think he will enjoy the weather, sunshine, and beach down there. He did not know what to make of the beach up here. Thanks so much!

Pat Priestly
East Sandwich, MA

In our thoughts

- Winter Denko*
- Zeus Winnat*
- Shea Stallings*
- Buster Bonner*
- Daisy Lee*
- Portia Weaver*
- Jake Sheaban*
- Raven Lopes*
- Luger Plunkett*
- Ace Hamilton*
- Tori Epp*
- Lexi White*
- Ruby Moonsamy*

Memorials

Hattie West
 Zoey DeBlois
 Ruby Evans
 Heidi Calabro
 Cheyenne Tocke
 Toy Boisse
 Apollo Hale
 Tilly, Bear, Rocky and Simon
 Karamourtopoulos
 Brutus Schreck
 Oakley Brown
 Austin Baker
 Bugsy Foster
 Clyde Taylor

Derek Hudson
 Joe Riendeau
 Shadow Clark
 Buddy Stratton
 AJ Molly
 Jasmine Champion
 BoBo LaCroix
 Rudy Chane
 Remy Cohen
 Bandit Boyd
 Gus Schock
 Gracie Kendall
 Derek Cummings
 Kain Compagnone

Arco Simard
 Remi Bonner
 Max Nirenberg
 Chelsea Pierce
 Diana Trottier
 Harley Weiner
 Ava Bassignani
 Fawny and China Boutin
 Indo Joyce
 Blu Willey
 Java Walker
 Apollo Dias
 Sully Peterson
 Lucy Hopkins

Charlie Caviola
 Athena Melanson
 Dubie Granoff
 Greta Saldi
 Hunter Newman
 Coco Vajay
 Rylee Flynn
 Leon Cecerelli
 Dillan Worster
 Conan Maurer
 Buddy Baker
 Saddie Bridges
 Harry Frazier
 Bandit Sotir Watson

In memory of Rex

Elisa Marotta

In memory of Lukey

Steven and Barbara Paquette

In memory of Barbara Munro

Kenneth Munro

In memory of Steadman, Wendy and

Bill Kontos

Scott Bordeleau

In memory of Liam's sisters,

Lilli and Jesse Mae

Kathy McKiernan

In memory of Zumba McIntyre

Kathleen Savesky Buckley

In memory of Quigley

Harold and Ronalee Delisle

In memory of Ruby Evans

Scott Bordeleau

In loving memory of my dear friend, Nan

Woods, and my 5 Dobermans: Katrina,

Fruhling, Brie, Echo and Sky Blue

Carol Buxton

In memory of Finn Duffy

Grace Lopes

In memory of Steadman Kontos

Lynne Harris

In memory of Jade on her Birthday

Irene Sweeney

In memory of Catharine Ruml

The Ruml Leithner Family Fund

In memory of Stanley Chalew

Laurie Guptill

In memory of "Ava" Bassignani, Swift

Run's Renegade Ava CDX, CKC CD, OBI,

BH, RN, RATI, CGC

Jo-Ellen and Casey Vought

In memory of Achilles Tatkin

Kristina Kelley

In memory of Sasanoa Front Page News

Penny Cary

In memory of Howard Cohen

Tami and Larry Cohen

In memory of Horace, Ruth and Jon Watson

Brian and Ruth Anne Cowing

In memory of Sydney, Bruiser and Thor

Brian and Ruth Anne Cowing

In memory of Ceilidh Herring

Richard Alsfeld and Sigrid Nordlund

In memory of Achilles Tatkin on his

Birthday

Carmine Durazzo

In memory of Fawny Boutin

Scott Bordeleau

In memory of Jasmine Champion and

Fawny Boutin

Lynne Harris

In memory of Priti

Arthur and Patrice Donoghue

In memory of Apollo Dias

Lynne Harris

In memory of Erik the Red, with compassion

Electra, Lady and Ann Fothergill

In memory of my Doberman niece, Lucy

Kimberly Bender

In memory of Erik the Red

Heidi Steen-Johnsen

In memory of Erik the Red Grynkrout,

Naudi McKiernan, Saddie Bridges and

Steadman, Wendy and Bill Kontos

Laurie Guptill

In memory of Nikki Winkler

Harold and Ronalee Delisle

In memory of Janice Lemoi

Jean Rapczak, Julian and Paula Angelone, David and Sally Dillon, John and Judith Donahue, Joseph and Rosemary Petrucci, Susan and Joseph

Prest, Ken and Mary Ann LaFazia, James and Sana Greene, the Lapatin Family, Andrew Sherry, Kate and David Somers, Paul DeCesare, Jerome and Kathleen Gillen, John and Sandra Petrarca of Providence Auto Body, Maria Russo, James and Alice Bryant, Patricia Dempsey, Kathy and Bob Laurito, the Elmhurst Boys, Walter and Jo-Ann Okleasky, Jaymie Cutaia, Dale Somers, Frederick and Kathleen Meers, Craig Scott Chemick, Daniel and Donna Egan, Donald and Annette Donnelly, Frank Caruso, Joe and Ann Morris, Thomas and Carol Flanagan, Cayenne Mikulski, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Angelone, Cynthia Boudreau, John and Michael Ianniello, Raymond and Mary Conroy

In honor of Robi Tatkin and in memory of her faithful companion Achilles. With much love and respect Lauren, Chris, Siena and Drago too!

Lauren Friedman

In honor of my friend, Connie Gordon, and Lilli and Sticky

Yigal Tropp

In honor of Chicky Compagnone and Mariab and Kain

Gloria Ruggiero

In honor of the marriage of Dr. Courtney Amie Brunagan

Cordelia Kaminski

In honor of Raven, Shadow, Ollie, Storm, Tanya, Sam and Bernie

Lorraine Rosenberry

In honor of Charmaine Krystal and Trudy

William Byam

In honor of Robi, Achilles and Peeve

Cathryn Holinger

These seven dogs from the Senior and Special Needs Advocacy Program (SSNAP) have gone to the Rainbow Bridge.

We thank the extraordinary people who gave each of them a home when they really needed one.



Scooby Phair



Chopper White



Fritz Conley



Denim Walker



Diesel Gestay



Brudis Jones



Naudi McKiernan

Dear DRU,

It is with deep sadness that I write this note to you. I lost my best buddy ever Cuda (formerly DRU Logan) this past week to liver and spleen cancer. Cuda and I had a very special bond that I have never had with another dog. He was always happy to meet other dogs and people. He would go from table to table at the outdoor restaurants and sit next to someone and nudge them to pet him, then move to the next table, and the next until he had been petted by someone at every table. Then he would come back and lie down next to me. He would wake me up at 3am just to be pet as he lie next to me in bed. He was definitely a lover and not a fighter. He lived a great life with me in NY, CO, FL and finally NC. He saw more of the country than most people. He was a singer and loved his stuffies. His little sister, Wubbie, and I miss him so much it hurts.



Sean van Holtz
Pensacola, FL

Dear DRU,



About 3 years ago I got a beautiful black Dobie from you named Leon. Sadly, yesterday he died very unexpectedly. He was down in the back field doing his business, like he did every day, and just fell over. I have to imagine he just had a heart attack. He was 5 years and 7 months to the day. As you may remember he was my 10th rescue Dobie, but for some reason this loss is harder for me than the others, probably because it was so sudden, and he was so strong 5 minutes before. I buried him last night in a real nice box I made him, wrapped him in his favorite blanket with my favorite pillow that he loved to chew on. Leon is buried next to Spirit and Lilly, the ones who were before him. I will not say he was, because as long as you are remembered you will always be, but that he is a great Doberman, always remembered by anyone who met him. I will want to get another Dobie, so please keep me in mind. Leon was the dog no one wanted, but he was perfect for me! Thank you.

John Cecarelli
Hamden, CT

Dear DRU,

It is with broken hearts that we inform you that we said goodbye to our handsome boy, Dubie, on Sunday, November 8th. He was

struggling with lung cancer, diagnosed over 2 years ago, when he got pneumonia. He enjoyed life up until early September when we noticed a change in his breathing. He passed at our home surrounded by his whole family with the help of our wonderful veterinarian, Dr. Ed Rooney of Daniel Webster Animal Hospital. The hole Dubie leaves is so deep, but the love and memories he gave us will always be with us. We all agree we wouldn't trade the pain of his passing for the life time of love and memories he gave us.



We want to thank all of you at DRU, Claire, Rick, Sue, Cindy and all those whose names escape me at the moment. Your care and welcoming reception every time we boarded him always filled us with confidence that he was in the best hands. You gave us a wonderful companion in Dubie, a true personality that shared a loving 7 1/2 years with us. Elaine and I called ourselves the "3 Amigos" as we took Dubie on weekend jaunts to Lake Winnepesaukee for boat rides and hikes around Lake Massabesic. Dubie filled our lives with so much love and companionship. Our daughter Kayla called him her "soul mate" and loved to snuggle with him and sing him songs where the only lyric was "Dubie!" Our son Mitch called him one of his "boys" and he would watch Bruins or Patriots games with us on the couch, the 3 of us in a "man cave" groove.

When the sorrow passes, we would like to come by and donate some of his blankets and food to DRU. Maybe one day we will adopt again, but as Claire always reminded me, Dubie was one in a million. I don't know if we would ever be so lucky again. Be well and thanks, with love.

Mark, Elaine, Mitch and Kayla Granoff
Auburn, NH

Dear DRU,

Just a quick note to let everyone who followed Nara's story know that she crossed the Rainbow Bridge early AM on Friday March 20th with both of us with her. She was playing one minute and gone the next...no time to hug her or say goodbye. I guess in some

ways that is good, but for us humans it leaves a very big hole in our hearts.



Nara suffering from demodectic mange in Kuwait

Her life started out pretty rough as you can see by the picture above – she was originally from Kuwait arriving here in the United States in February 2008 and shortly thereafter moved to northern Vermont with us. In May she would have been with us 7 years, not nearly long enough. Our plan was to retire and grow old together.



Nara enjoying happiness and good health in Vermont

As all Dobermans do, she gave us challenges, especially with the medical issues she had – but we learned to work through it and around it with love and the help of a great vet, Dr. Steve. Nara was patient with us, allowing us to poke, prod and constantly check and medicate her. She never complained, just moved forward in her day.

She had a great life – we had a great life with her. There wasn't a person she didn't like, but there wasn't a cat, squirrel or small dog that she did! She loved her stuffies, even though some never lasted more than 5 minutes. It was a challenge to find something that would squeak more than a week!

Our life without her is sad and too quiet - that is why we have hung her collar on the door so every time we go in or out we hear her greeting us even if it is from the other side of the bridge.

Mindy and John Stone
St. Albans, VT



DOBERMAN RESCUE UNLIMITED INC.
52 Tenney Road
Sandown, NH 03873

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DRU Shelter Wish List

The supplies listed below always are needed at the shelter. You can help the Dobermans by sending an item or two from the Wish List to the DRU Shelter, 52 Tenney Road, Sandown, NH 03873.

Jolly Balls	hot dogs	dish washing liquid	Soloxine (all mgs.)	Omega 3-6-9 fish oil capsules
blankets, towels, sheets	chicken and beef broth	toilet tissue	Proin	Co-flex elastic bandages
pure canned pumpkin (not pie filling)	postage stamps	Kleenex	Cosequin	cloth 1 inch first aid tape
apple cider vinegar	plastic cutlery	bottled water	Glycoflex	Vetericyn
double ended leash snaps	paper plates	ibuprofen	Sentinel	band-aids
small dog biscuits	contractor garbage bags (3 mil)	cat litter	Panacur	Aquaphor ointment
Rescue Remedy	tall kitchen trash bags	Earthborn dry cat food	Neomycin	elizabethan collars
canned dog and cat food	bleach	I/D Prescription Diet (canned and dry)	Frontline Plus	Vetmedin
all-meat baby food	paper towels	E/N Prescription Diet (canned and dry)	triple antibiotic ointment	
12	liquid laundry detergent		cotton batting bandage material	
	dryer sheets			