



DRU News

Join Us for the Virtual DRU Open House Shelter Tour

Everyone here at DRU hopes you are well! For your safety and the safety of all, we have postponed our Annual Open House. We will update you when more is known about safe gatherings in NH.

For all of you who have been to the Annual Open House in the past, you know a key component is the Shelter Tour. With this in mind, we decided that since you can't come to us, we will come to you! We are bringing the Shelter Tour (with more details than ever) *to your mailbox!*

Not only is *this* Shelter House Tour up close and personal. . . it is being brought to you through the eyes of our very own DRU dog *Hailey*. Hailey will walk you through our magical process.

My Story by Hailey

My caretaker's name was Carolyn*. She was old and tired, but I loved her dearly. One morning she left in a big car. Later that day Carolyn's daughter Mary* came over and with tears in her eyes told me that Carolyn had "passed."

Unfortunately, since Mary already had dogs, she told me she couldn't bring me to her home. Mary called Doberman Rescue Unlimited. I didn't know it at the time, but I would later learn that a number of Dobs at DRU are there because caretakers die, go into nursing homes or can no longer care for them. Dobs like us were not abused or neglected. We are just suddenly alone.

The Intake Process

From what Rick told me, the Intake process involves three easy steps:

1. The intake coordinator sends the owner/caretaker a package with an Intake Release Form.
2. Once the necessary documents are received, the intake coordinator works with the kennel manager and sometimes the training director to ensure we have room for the Dobe, to ensure we can help this particular Dobe and whether the Dobe presents a risk to the staff.
3. Next an appointment is scheduled, and transportation is arranged.

My journey at DRU started on 8/17/17. Mary took me for a ride to Sandown, NH. She cried the whole way there. When

we arrived, Mary got out of the car and went inside. I had to stay in the car. At first, I was excited, but then I started to hear the other Dobs. I didn't know what they were saying when they were barking. There were mixed messages. All I knew was that it no longer smelled like Carolyn's home. I was getting anxious.

Next Mary and a tall man named Rick came over to the car. Mary gathered my toys and bowls and Rick took my leash. I remember seeing kindness over Rick's face . . . but I was still scared. Mary was crying hysterically at this point. It was awful. I didn't understand what was going on. Rick walked me toward a door and told me I was going into the "ISO" building. Mary followed. Mary said, "I am so sorry" and "goodbye" and then left. Rick put me into one of the ISO runs. I immediately jumped onto the gate and started barking. To my surprise, it didn't matter that I was barking. No one turned around. No one gave me a cookie. I started to get more and more nervous and I started to spin. . . spin and spin until I was so tired I slept.

The Three Buildings

1. The Isolation Building (ISO)



I remembered when Mary drove down the long driveway, I saw three buildings. I am now in a run in that first building called ISO. I don't like the name of this building. The name

*Names have been changed

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is cold. Personally, I think we should rename it “The Longley Doberman Welcome Center.”

I was told I was being “Quarantined.” Sound familiar? Fortunately, it wasn’t like Covid 19 quarantine. . . I was only in ISO for a couple of days! Just so you understand, every dog that comes in must be quarantined in the ISO building. This is to evaluate our health before putting us with the other Dobses in the Main Building. How long we stay in the ISO building depends on where we came from and under what circumstances.

The ISO building is a stand-alone building which is self-contained with its own ventilation, heating, and cooling system. The building has its own fenced in yard. There are three runs in this building. When Dobses are in ISO, in addition to monitoring our bathroom and eating habits, staff monitors our health. The staff watches to see if we are coughing, sneezing, or having any weakness or lameness. Any situation that looks like one of us may be sick or needs medical attention is recorded on the Observation Sheet and management assesses the need for medical attention. While we are in the ISO building, we have limited staff interaction. The staff is very nice to us, but they are only supposed to take us out, clean up after us and feed us. This is to ensure the staff doesn’t carry anything from ISO back into the Main Building. There is a dedicated washer and dryer in there, so we get our blankets cleaned every day, just like the rest of the Dobses! It is very quiet in ISO, especially if you are the only Dobe in there like I was. I slept a lot. I missed Carolyn. As you can imagine, it can be lonely in there. It’s also a little sad being away from the rest of the DRU Dobses, but much quieter.

From what I understand, Dobses coming from an out-of-state home situation usually stay in ISO for 48 hours but Dobses coming from a city shelter may have to stay in ISO for 14 days or more. If while we are in ISO we start coughing or sneezing or showing other signs of illness, then, guess what? We end up having to stay in ISO for a much longer time. Once our time is up in isolation, we go for a ride in the van. When I first got in the van, I thought I was going back to see Carolyn, but I wasn’t so lucky. They took me to the Vet...YUCK!!! The Vet checked me out and gave me a Health Certificate. From what I heard, the health certificate is a piece of paper saying I’m healthy and can go into general population in the Main Building.

2. The Main Building

I have so much to tell you about what goes on in the Main Building. There is a lot of activity that goes on in here! You might think they were building cars here. The process operates like a well-oiled machine. Once I left ISO and entered the Main Building, I was given my own private run.

It wasn’t like having the run of the house like I did with Carolyn, but it would have to do. At least there were soft blankets! I didn’t like the Main Building at first. At times, it was loud and the staff here are always on the go. It seems like all they do is clean, but after a few days there, I understood why. Do you know how fast we Dobses can make a mess? It doesn’t take us long!

The Two Shifts

The kennel schedule is made up of two shifts seven days a week. The first shift is scheduled from 8am-4pm and the second shift is scheduled from 1pm-9pm. There is an intentional 2 hour overlap and a grand amount of coordination!

The **first shift** usually includes Rick, Mickie, Katie, Mikayla, Kiara and Juanita. These are great humans. When they come in, I would get up, walk to my gate, and watch them in action! They begin by reading the Communication Log. This is a log which serves to document and communicate all information so no one forgets to share information between the two shifts! Each shift reads this log before starting their work. In addition, the first shift does the following for the Dobses in ISO and in the Main Building:

- * Feed breakfast and fresh water (we get fresh water all the time!)
- Administer meds
- Let dogs out for bathroom breaks
- Wash dishes (all of our dishes get washed after every meal)
- Do Laundry (Boy, there is a lot of laundry in this place!) Did you know we get fresh blankets every day? (This is a real treat.)

Next, the first shift begins the “Morning Clean.” This is a story in and of itself.

The “Morning Clean”

Have you ever heard staff refer to the “**Morning Clean**”? Gee, you might think we Dobses made a mess at night. Not us! Well, the “Morning Clean” is this amazing set of tasks that are done . . . every morning! It’s huge (and this is even before the Covid 19). With Covid 19, I thought about naming it the Day Long Clean! Here are just some of the tasks the staff complete:

- Scrub and sanitize all runs and all rooms
- Sweep then mop all hallways, the kitchen, the treatment room, each office and the two bathrooms
- Clean the crates where some Dobses reside

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The Main Building



After the “Morning Clean” is complete, the first shift does “Crate Outs” again and then cleans the backs of the runs. Then they give a couple of us Dobes an extra bathroom break because we need to go more (Yeah!). After their lunch, the first shift spends 2 to 2-1/2 hours of their shift doing “WellBeing” time. Then both shifts do “Crate Outs” again and fluff up our comfy bedding, clean any mess we’ve made and give us fresh water.

The **second shift** usually includes Kiara (yes, she works on both shifts), Hannah, Cooper, Sue and Cathy. Here is what they do, among other things:

- Read the Communication Log
- Assist the first shift with the 1pm bathroom breaks. Yes, like in a home, we go out on a schedule. Thank goodness for that!
- Feed lunch to those dogs getting an extra meal; administer any mid-day meds
- Spend 2 to 2-1/2 hours on “WellBeing” time



When the first shift leaves at 4 pm the second shift starts the process all over again. They feed dinner, wash dishes, sweep then mop the floors, clean the back of the runs, do laundry, gather the trash and remove to dumpster.

The remainder of the evening is spent getting the shelter ready to shut down for the night. This entails letting dogs out for bathroom breaks, fluffing up dog bedding and cleaning any messes in their front runs or back runs, administering meds, folding laundry, shutting down runs, locking all doors, checking thermostats and lights, unplugging phone chargers, e collars, can openers, fans and anything else that should be unplugged.

WellBeing Time

When I left the place called ISO, a nice woman named Cathy told me I would be part of the WellBeing program.

WellBeing Time



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Well that piqued my curiosity. I guess she could see I was curious because she went on to say that someone would be assigned to be my personal caregiver. I wondered if this meant Carolyn would be coming back. Cathy went on to say my personal caregiver would make sure that during my stay at the shelter I would be engaged in activities to enrich my life and help me to cope with shelter life for however long I was there. She also said that person would be responsible for my grooming needs and general well-being. To my pleasant surprise, I was assigned a couple of people to call my own. I liked that. These people would come to take me out during the week and take me for walks or play in the yard and work on other enrichment activities, and can you believe this, do obedience training with me. I was so happy to be able to have my own people I knew I could count on. Being Doberman people, I'm sure you all know how much we Dobermans need someone to call our own.

the boxes and writing on it is actually the map and layout of the entire main building. Pretty cool! Every one of us Dobes is assigned our own run or room or even a crate to reside in during our stay at DRU. All those boxes on the board represent the different runs, rooms, and areas of the kennel like the wings where the runs are located or the rooms up front where most of the roomettes are located. Each of us has our name put on the board in the space where we live. The best part is that under each of our names the staff writes what we eat, how much and when we eat. That way it makes it very easy to feed us with just a glance at the board. They also have a list of Dobes on the white board called "Crate Outs". The Dobes on the "Crate Out" list are those Dobes who need to be in crates because of spinning or Dobes who don't like to use their runs to do their business. For these dogs, the staff is required to add additional bathroom breaks throughout the day.



White Board

If you have visited the shelter or taken the shelter tour in the past, you have seen how many rooms and doorways there are. It can be quite confusing in the beginning until you get used to the layout. That's where the infamous "White Board" comes in. This large white board hanging on the wall with all

The Training Barn

I was told that DRU has an extension training program called "DRU U." Carolyn and I had a great relationship and she trained me well. This was immediately evident to the trainers at DRU, and I passed the program with flying colors. Fortunately for me, lack of training was not why I was at DRU and it wasn't why people weren't lining up to adopt me.

The Adoption Process

This is the most exciting time for the Dobes and the staff! Some say to adopt a dog from DRU is harder than adopting a child. I say I want to go to a home and not worry about my caretaker leaving me again - for any reason. I sat with Sue, DRU's adoption coordinator for a time. She tried to find me a home on a number of occasions. No one

The Training Barn



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wanted me. You know why? Well, I didn't look in a mirror, but I was told I was a little old (OK a lot old), and that I walked funny. I wanted to ask adopters. . . Do you know who I am? I am a wonderful Dobe - just have to look inside me! Forget what I look like on the outside. I am a Dobe! Get to know me!! The staff at DRU believed in me.

Sue explained the adoption process. She told me it involves the following:

- Adopters call DRU and send email messages.
- The adoption coordinator contacts them and requests a completed Adoption Application to understand who the adopter is. This includes gathering information regarding:
 - If the applicant works and if so, what their schedule is
 - If there are children, how many and their ages
 - If there are other pets in the home and if so, what and how many
 - If there are frequent visitors
 - If there is time and room for exercise (fences)
- The adoption coordinator then factors in what the applicant is looking for. This includes gathering information regarding:
 - Male vs. female
 - Docked or not
 - Cropped or not
 - Color preferences
 - Age preferences
 - Medical issues
- The adoption coordinator then takes what she understands about the adopter, what the adopter is looking for and goes through all the Dobses at the shelter. The adoption coordinator works with the kennel manager, training director, staff and the dobes wellbeing person and considers the following:
 - Which dogs are couch potatoes
 - Which dogs need constant training
 - Sex, ages, color, cropping and docking and medical issues
- Applications are then compared against current Dobses at DRU.
- Home visits are completed, and vet references are completed.
- If a match can be made, an appointment is set up.
- Adopter comes in to meet a dog and sometimes a few dogs. If it all works out, one lucky dog gets to go home.

Many adopters new to DRU think this is a quick process, but it isn't. Dobses like me have been through a lot. We don't

want to go just anywhere. We want to find a permanent home. Sue and the DRU staff work hard to make sure we find a home. The right home for us and the adopters. I was shown to folks a number of times. But some folks had certain preferences and they always ended up adopting other dogs. Always a bridesmaid, never a bride.

My Happy Ending

I described to you what a wonderful place Doberman Rescue Unlimited is. There are programs and processes and three key buildings to support those programs and processes that were developed many years ago by Claire Kontos, and Anne and Jon Longley. These processes, like the "Morning Clean," the Intake Process, the Adoption Process and WellBeing Time still work like magic today. I also told you about the wonderful staff and all the efforts they go through to keep us safe and happy. But. . . there is only so much they can do. DRU needs you. I arrived at DRU when I was 7. I felt well cared for at DRU. I was fed and walked, and I got my wellbeing time. It wasn't "home," but I did the best I could. Keeping me healthy and entertained for two years takes a lot of resources. Those resources cost money and unfortunately my prior caretaker, Carolyn, didn't think of that.

One of the programs started by Anne and Jon was the Endowment Fund. This Fund was designed to ensure that DRU will not only care for and provide a place to live for Dobses like me, but will continuously seek to find the right person that will love me for the rest of my days. That is all I ever wanted.

On 9/19/19 I was adopted by sweet Pat and Colleen. I will forever be grateful to DRU and to Pat and Colleen. But remember two things, first, still at DRU are many of my friends, who like me are overlooked for a variety of reasons. Below you will see a listing of some of my friends under the "Available Dogs" section of this newsletter. Please open your hearts and remember it's what is inside that matters. We are all Dobses! Second, please see the Endowment Fund section of this newsletter. Ask yourself what will happen to your Dobe or your mom's Dobe when you or she - for whatever reason - can no longer provide care? Will DRU be able to take your Dobe in? For this reason, I ask that you please consider donating to the Endowment Fund to allow DRU to serve the breed - one Doberman at a time!

We are sorry we won't see you in June for the annual Open House, but we will keep you posted if we are permitted to gather soon - we will let you know through a flyer, on our Doberman Rescue Unlimited Facebook page and on our Website at www.DRU.org.



*Until we meet again,
be safe and be well.*

Doberman Rescue Unlimited is pleased to announce the hiring of Michelle Cooper as our new Executive Director



Michelle began her career in animal service in 2007 as an animal control officer for Danville, NH, and has been a sworn officer there since 2009. Michelle has several years experience in non-profit shelter management and was previously employed by the New Hampshire SPCA, where she managed their farm program. In addition to animal service and law enforcement, Michelle has extensive experience in finance, marketing, and sales.

As Executive Director of DRU, Michelle will have operational responsibility for all staff, volunteers, programs, and execution of our mission. She will serve as the main public contact and spokesperson for our organization.

Michelle is an animal lover who is passionate about the DRU mission. She was raised on a working farm. She currently has three dogs, two cats, horses, goats and chickens on her family farm.

The Board of Directors is excited to start a new chapter in the life of our organization and looks forward to Michelle's contributions and leadership as DRU continues to grow.

Michelle can be reached at mcooper@dru.org or (603) 887-1200.



Over the past decade, the mission of DRU has been supported by an Endowment Fund established by members who contributed cash or securities to help maintain the financial health of the organization. It allows us to reduce our dependence on annual donations and membership fees and gives us peace of mind that the expenses of running the shelter can be met. Our Endowment Fund has made it possible for DRU to weather many storms over the years with the knowledge that we can continue our work in housing and providing loving, knowledgeable care for the many Dobermans we help on the road to their forever homes. Even now, as our world changes around us, the needs of the dogs and the focus of the mission remain unchanged and we could use your help more than ever. Your gift to the DRU Endowment Fund helps us to ensure that Dobermans in need will always have a safe place to land, learn and recover before they move on to families of their own.

**HONOR
the Past,
SUPPORT
the Present,
SECURE
the Future**

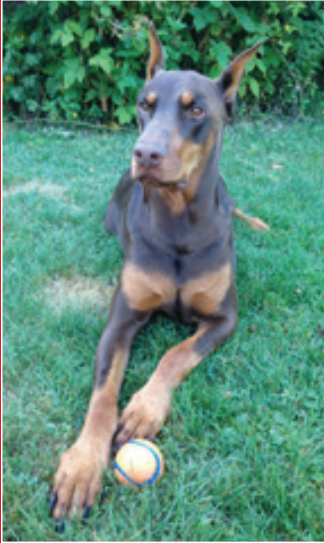


*Make checks payable to:
DRU Endowment Fund*

*Mail to:
Doberman Rescue
Unlimited
52 Tenney Road
Sandown, NH 03873*

May 8, 2020

Letters in Memory of DRU Dogs



To the entire staff of DRU,

I send my sincere thank you for the beautiful card you sent me with honors for Charlie. He was my life. Everything I did revolved around Charlie.

I am missing him so much. It is such a cruel pain like no other.

I am weak but trying to be strong so that I do not make myself sick.

I remember clearly the day I was so lucky to bring him home. I was with Claire for the second adoption. We had such a deep, meaningful time. I have many pictures of that precious day.

Life delivers such unexpected and unfair terrible events. Therefore, we must enjoy each and every minute.

I'm blessed that I spent so much extra time this last month with Charlie due to Covid.

I could go on and on about each one of you, but please know that I hold you all in very high regard. You are all special, selfless and kind to give of yourselves to our wonderful breed "The Doberman Pinscher".

I am the lucky one that found you all. There is always someone to listen and ease the pain because we all understand the whole process.

I am going to frame the card from you. It is Charlie sitting there at the beach where we spent a lot of time.

I am trying to remember the glorious days with him. So many...

He is forever my "Charlie Storm".

God bless you all. I wish I was closer and could then come and help.

I send my love and Charlie's love,

Katherine McCarthy



Sandy Forde on Rex

I went to the rescue after losing my beloved boy rocky of 12 years. I wanted to take a dog who was older. I met several and wanted to take them all. Rex was the last of the day. It was him instantaneously. I knew he was in need of an end of life home and wanted to give it to him. Sue and Cathy delivered him on a snowy night on November 7th. As usual these girls know how to match these fur babies to their new owners. He loved his elephants. He liked laying with his elephants after he tore their heads off!!! He also loved to sleep on his back w his eyes opened. Can't figure out how he pulled that off!!! Rex and I had a great 3 months together. It was a short time but felt like a life time. He was a strong beautiful Doberman. I'll do this again someday.

Dear DRU,

It is with a very heavy heart that I have to inform you our Hank Brown has passed away 5-7-20. I would like to thank you for finding Hank for me and my Mom that has dementia. He was a beautiful, loving and very smart dog. To have him at our house was nothing but pure joy and great companionship. He was truly devoted to our house and his protection skills were outstanding. We never had a worry when Hank was with us. Our house will never be the same without Hank.

I have enclosed a picture of Hank so maybe you will remember him. Not sure if it is possible but maybe you can put his picture in your newsletter.

I have also enclosed a donation to DRU. Please accept it in Hank's memory for all the wonderful things you do for all the Dobermans.

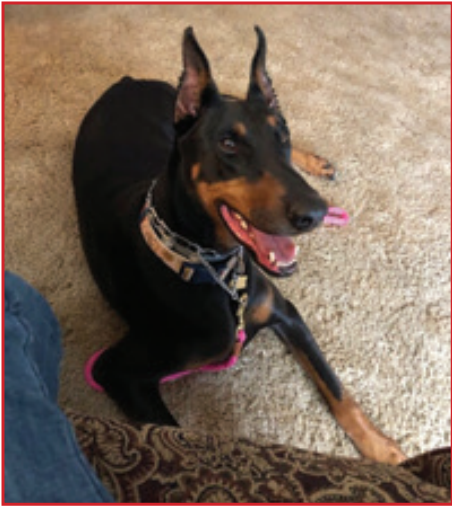
Thank you again for Hank.

Sincerely,
Denise L. Brown



Letters from Adopters . . .

Update on Ruby from Amanda Cline



Ruby has been with me for 10 months. She has settled in well and gets along with the two cats in the house. She loves to go for walks with a couple of her doggy friends and especially likes snuggling on the couch.

If given the chance, she will grab food off your plate and steal your socks (and eat them!)

She is super smart and we have gone through several training classes together.

Some of her favorite tricks include: Bow, high five, and sit pretty.

We're going to get her into agility classes soon also.

She has been a lot of fun and I am very happy to have her with me.

Update on Wes and Sampson from Cheryl Newell

Hi Sue, giving you an update on Wes and Sampson! Wes was adopted from DRU in 2012 (time flies) he has been the BEST Doberman we've ever had. He's a big goofball who loves to steal things and keeps walking in front of us till we notice and call him a thief! Sampson was adopted in 2018 when our dear Sami (also adopted from DRU 2010) had to be put down from wobblers. I saw Sampson on your webpage and immediately fell in love. He turned out to be quite vocal and it took him a year to be the good boy he is today. (Had been at the shelter 2-1/2 years). I thank God everyday he waited for us. I love having both boys. Thank you for all the wonderful work you do!



Update on Katori from Charles Szentkuti

Hey DRU family,

Charles Szentkuti here, or probably better known as "Katori's dad." I was given the opportunity to give an update on Katori's life. So since Katori's "gotchya" day back in August of 2019, life has been interesting to say the least. In the short amount of time Katori has been with Becky and I, He has been a part of huge mile stones! Katori has been there through our engagement, our move to VA and my deployment to Cuba. Katori has become such a huge part of our family and is truly our "once in a lifetime dog." We have come to depend on him so much during our trying times and while I'm gone I trust him to keep Becky safe. Katori has brought so much joy to both Becky and I! The Dobermann breed holds such a special place in our heart and our home. Katori and I hope to see you all soon, Be well!

Charlie, Becky and of course Katori

"Let my steps stay on your tracks, So that my feet will not stumble."



Update from Pat Savard and Colleen Leveille



Hailey is eight years old soon to be nine. We know Hailey was in the shelter for two years and no one wanted her. But when we met her we knew she was perfect for us and adopted her. On the way home to Berlin, we stopped at Wendy's and Hailey was treated to a big hamburger and a few chicken nuggets.

Hailey likes to ride in the car, sleep on the couch and sometimes even

the chair. If a dog barks on TV, Hailey barks. Hailey is very happy in her new home. She is loved and protected.

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Letters from Adopters . . . continued

Update on Boo from Betty Moscatelli

My passion is Dobermans. Many years ago I was introduced to DRU. Their reputation and caring was heartwarming.

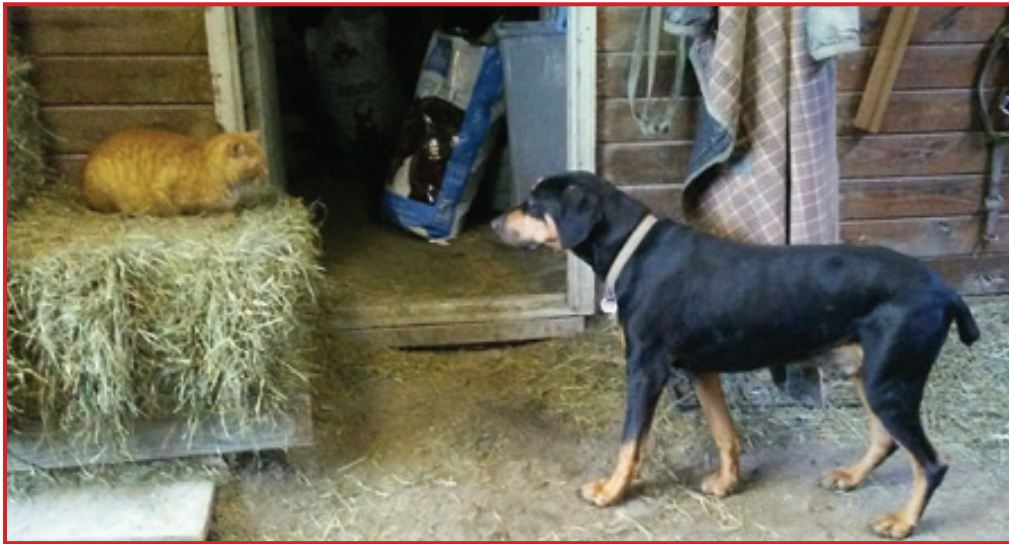
Thru the years I have adopted dobbies of all ages from them. I have loved them all and made their lives enjoyable and fun.

When they pass I feel that I have lost my friend. My only consolation was that we had a wonderful time together and in passing they made room for another.

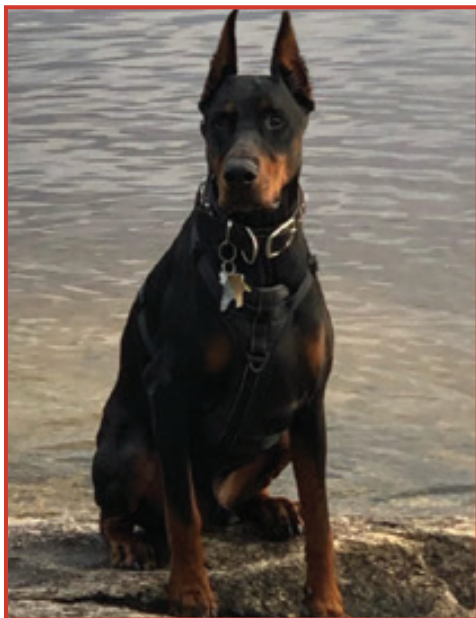
Then came my newest love "BOO" a 7 year old mush. We play chase the ball and go for long walks in the field and play hide and seek. I have a 21 acre horse farm and although he was afraid of them when he first came, but he's learned that they are much larger then he is. Boo has made friends with a few feral cats that wandered in.

I love my Boo and he makes me laugh. My "Guard Dog" barks when someone comes to the door and greets them wagging his tail and carrying his toy in his mouth as a welcome gift. If he can't find a toy he grabs my boot; I'm glad I don't leave my dirty clothes around. He's a nag and barks at me if I don't move fast enough making his dinner. At night we're on the couch watching TV with his head on one pillow and mine on the other.

He's a delight and I've been very fortunate to have all of these great dogs in my life.



Update on Spock from Mary Ellen King



This is Spock. Many of you know him from DRU's Facebook site. I adopted him on December 4th, 2018. He will be 3 years old this May 18th. He attended DRU U and I have continued his training with Julia, Tom & Jen at Fortunate K9. He is truly an awesome dog! I am always impressed by his intelligence and ability to actually make a decision on his own. This makes him both lovable and valuable to me but it also makes it imperative that I am relentless with training. I am training him to be a service dog. He walks with me for miles on hiking trails, plays with me, comes when called, obeys the simple commands, sit, stay, come, down, but he also knows: NO, wait, look out, quiet, over, up, can sit in motion, down in motion and obey sit and down when I am a distance away. He can throw a tantrum like any 3yo human I have ever known but he will submit even so. He instinctually helps me up if I have gotten down on the floor and we are working on retrieval. Since I have mostly lost my hearing, I have learned to read his body language to let me know when something or someone is approaching. He will nudge me out of the way if he doesn't think I am responding fast enough. I don't know if we will ever make it to competition but it is one of my goals for us. Most of all he's happy, healthy, generous with his heart & so loving to my family, and the best friend I have had since I had to give up my horse so many years ago. I can't thank all the folks at DRU enough for putting me together with this dog and I would recommend to anyone who wants to get a Doberman to apply and adopt one from them.



Damon

3 years old

This handsome boy was beloved by his human and reluctantly surrendered because his over-protective nature made it unsafe for any visitors. At around ninety-five pounds, Damon is a very large and powerful dog who tends to bark first and ask questions later. He has the classic combo of Doberman traits, "stranger danger" and dog reactivity, both of which he recovers from when handled by a confident and competent human partner. Although he will sound off at other dogs when on leash, Damon actually has a positive history of living with a similarly sized female dog and his owner described him as being very playful and puppy-like with his canine sister. We have yet to run Damon with a friend at DRU as we are just starting to work on his on-leash reactivity and want him to learn how to behave in a neutral manner when he sees other dogs, but it is definitely in his immediate future.

With people, Damon can be watchful and suspicious at first. He has a level of sensitivity that means you will need to be wise and conservative when it comes to meeting any new humans. Once you're "in" with Damon, you're definitely in and he will show his super affectionate, rather pushy side. He really needs a strong, smart human to be a confident leader and to teach him to make the best decisions to alleviate his worry. Damon has a high level of prey drive but has been doing much better staying by his human's side on walks, even though he remains very preoccupied with the local critters. Because he was not crated previously, Damon's anxiety emerges when he is crated or even left in the small exercise yard on his own. In transitioning him home, you will need to spend time teaching Damon how to be more secure by himself which will ensure his good mental health. His next home must have very secure fencing and you must be willing to keep a close eye on him when he is out in the yard. We hope that once he is settled in a home much of his anxiety will go away, but you will need to make a firm commitment to an initial few months of mindfulness about this big guy. When accompanied by someone, Damon enjoys time in the big yard stretching his legs and playing with his favorite rope toy. Based on his interactions with our DRU cats, a no cat household is advisable. We would love to see Damon get a person of his own who makes him feel safe and secure through calm and assertive leadership so that he can blossom into the magnificent Doberman he is at heart.





Adopt Me

Dino

Dino is one of our longest term residents and a favorite of everyone who works at the shelter. He has an interesting history having been purchased from an established show breeder but then returned at 6 months old. His first owner was elderly and not up to the task of raising a young, active Doberman pup. Dino was quickly re-homed but the “bounce” at six months old (a critical development stage for behavior) contributed to a “worried” state of mind that has remained with him. In his second home, he objected to having his head and neck area touched to the point of biting his owners and they decided he was too much for them to handle. When he came to us he had an embedded collar, most likely because his owners were worried about trying to remove it.

Since his enrollment in DRU University in October 2019, Dino has made amazing progress. Using patience and clarity, we have gained Dino’s trust and affection. He has shown us his pushy side, which can verge on inappropriate play with “shoulder checks” and big vocal displays, which stop as soon as his handlers remind him to tone it down. His obedience is excellent; he takes great pride in working with his handlers and accompanying them on many walks through the neighborhood and in the woods behind the shelter where he loves to explore. A recent screening uncovered a mild arrhythmia which, at the time, does not merit immediate action. However, because DCM is such a common issue with Dobes, it will be important to keep an eye on his cardiac health.

Dino is a true “lifer” at DRU; he is very settled and happy with his routine and his family of caregivers, he enjoys nesting in his comforters and arranging his many toys when he is not having hilarious “arguments” with them and he even offers a toothy “smile” when some of his favorite humans enter the room. As content as he seems with us, we would still love to see him in a home of his own with a truly experienced Doberman person who can understand, appreciate and work with Dino’s quirky nature. Because he is so settled with us, we would also prefer to see him go locally in order to better transition him back into civilian life a little at a time and to provide immediate support for him and his new adopter. Dino should be an only dog, and, because his history with children was very limited, an adults-only placement is best. Dino actually did very well with our resident cats, so feline family members may be negotiable.





Myles

Myles, an approximately 3-4 year old natural and docked black and rust Dobe, was picked up as a stray running around in Vermont and brought to DRU for placement. When he arrived, Myles had a few habits that put him on the fast track for DRU University training. This included an obsession with grabbing on to his leash with his teeth. Myles responded beautifully to training. Now, his leash-grabbing has diminished to the point where he can be interrupted from it with a verbal command and, as his less desirable habits disappeared, we got to meet the funny, eccentric and affectionate fellow he really is. However, and very important to note, Myles is still an adult male Doberman and deserves to be respected as such and provided with structure and boundaries in order to make good decisions. He was adopted once and subsequently returned when he took the role of "protector" of his human too seriously, deciding it was his responsibility to correct his human.

Upon his return, we noted Myles had a limp and some difficulty lifting his leg. After initial veterinary attention, we did not see any improvement so we followed up with a veterinary neurologist who suspects that Myles has Dancing Doberman Disease, a progressive condition which is very hard to diagnose and which has no actual cure. Myles doesn't let this stop him from playing in the yard with his person and his favorite jolly ball. He enjoys chasing and catching raindrops in his mouth. He does not like playing alone and will just sit in the yard until a friend comes along to join him in some fun. And we are always watchful to make sure he does not over do it.

Myles is truly a staff favorite and he may think of DRU as his home but he should have a home of his own. We prefer to see him be an only dog and a cat-free home is best. He also needs his very own person; someone who will set boundaries and rules and provide the clarity he deserves. Someone who will love and respect Myles for the complex and intelligent Dobe he is. Could that someone be you?





Nino

At nine years old and with a number of medical complications, Nino is still a bright and engaging Dobe whose body just can't quite keep up with his mind as well as it used to. Unfortunately, he is a poster boy for typical Doberman health issues. He has been diagnosed with liver disease and hypothyroidism, both of which are managed with medication, and his hind end weakness indicates that he may have Wobblers as well. Sadly, Nino was recently diagnosed with malignant spindle cell cancer but he is still doing well with the care given him by the shelter staff.

This handsome boy enjoys going for walks, playing in the yard with his person and he loves car rides. He is not fond of having his feet touched and, like many of his breed, Nino is suspicious of strangers and takes time to warm up to and trust people. Once that trust has been built and he has formed a bond, Nino is a wonderful companion. At some point, he learned great obedience skills and will happily show off for his trusted friends. Nino loves to suckle on blankets and carry stuffies in his mouth but, since he has a tendency to shred his bedding and toys, these should be off limits to him. Not even a kong is safe for Nino. However, the wishbone by Benebone (large or extra large) has proven to be the pacifier Nino craves.

Nino requires an experienced Doberman person who will provide him with structure and boundaries, as well as care and empathy for his specific needs. We would love to see Nino live out his days in a peaceful home of his own, either through adoption or our foster dog program.



Adopt Me

Ozzie

Ozzie is a 6 year old, black and rust, natural and docked male who was too protective for the busy horse barn where he lived. And while Ozzie may never get his picture on the "Pet of the Week" wall of fame, once he trusts, he craves the attention, affection and time spent with his person. Ozzie's passion is running, running, running! He'll chase a tennis ball 'til the cows come home. Ozzie's obedience is good, however he needs management with reactivity towards moving cars, perceived menacing strangers and dogs that surely mean him harm. He needs structure and responds best to kindness and nurturing. Ozzie Pawsbourne is not a starrer model but will be a super affectionate dog for someone, perhaps a homebody with a fenced yard. It's no surprise Ozzie doesn't like cats, but if correctly introduced to the right female dog, romance could bloom!





Adopt Me

Steele

Steel is an 8-1/2 year old blue and rust male with natural ears and a docked tail. His last owner was unavailable so we have no real background information about his life before DRU. This beautiful boy is extremely smart, friendly and playful, but his dog reactivity and intolerance of cats has made it hard for him to find a good home. We were heart-broken when Steele was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 lymphoma, as he is beloved by the entire staff and it is extremely difficult to accept that he may never get a chance to enjoy his final days in a home of his own. In spite of his illness, he still has very good days and has even taken some field trips to get ice cream or run on the beach thanks to one of his favorite caregivers. Steele should ideally be in a home without children or other pets so that his remaining time can be peaceful and without conflict. Steel is also available as a foster dog.





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 you are missed

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 In honor of Diesel Barrows, my beloved Dobie
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