

Dobermann Rescue UK and Europe (DRUE) Presents

DRUE LIFE





May 2023 Issue 5

Welcome from the editor

Welcome to our May issue of DRUE LIFE.

These last few weeks have been busy at the kennels, we've had new Dobies arriving and other Dobies heading off to their new homes.

Our team spend a lot of time interacting with the dogs, so it's not difficult to imagine how a bond can develop. It's always a joyous occasion to wave them off as they leave for their new lives, but there is also a little bit of 'we'll miss you'.

Because we've got busier we've recruited more volunteers recently to help us exercise our dogs. We are delighted to welcome some very capable folk onto our team who have a vast experience of Dobermanns. The dogs are now having some great trips out, we are aiming to up the stimulation and enrichment to make their life in rescue kennels as good as we can.

Our team have taken the dogs out and about to visit lots of great places, a beautiful lake, an equestrian stables to meet the horses, long countryside walks, and even the pub. We also now have 2 experienced CaniCross runners joining us who are taking 'suitable' dogs for a really good leg stretch. How amazing is this!



Inside this issue:

He is obedient off lead and

He is a happy chap who enjoys play, he appears friendly with other dogs.

We think he might enjoy a

home with someone who

would engage him in some

eager to please.

sport work.

Vision & Mission	2
Dogs Adopted	3
Dogs looking for their new home	4
Phoenix completes an Ultra marathon	5
It's a dog's life – life after rescue.	7
Coping with dog	10
In memory of Kiedy	12
Puzzle time	13
DRUE Info	4.4





"We are all about the dogs"



Dotty found as a stray

Dogs that are brought into rescue kennels are often experiencing a great deal of stress and anxiety. They may have been abandoned or mistreated by their previous owners, and the unfamiliar environment of a rescue centre can be overwhelming for them. As a result, these dogs can become frightened and anxious, making it difficult for them to settle into their new surroundings. It's important to give these dogs time and patience to adjust to their new environment. With the proper care and attention from staff and volunteers, most dogs in rescue kennels can eventually relax and settle in, but it can take some time for them to feel comfortable and safe in their new surroundings.

"Our Vision"

Our vision is to rescue as many Dobermanns as we can. Our Dobermann Rescue charity is committed to providing a safe haven for abandoned, abused, and neglected Dobermanns, and finding them loving, forever homes.

"Our Mission"

Our mission is to find loving forever homes where they will never again be unwanted, afraid, cold, abused or hungry. We will rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome Dobermanns, while also promoting responsible ownership and raising awareness about the breed.

We believe that every Dobermann deserves a second chance, and we are dedicated to providing them with the care and support they need to thrive.

Through our rescue efforts, we aim to reduce the number of Dobermanns who are abandoned or mistreated, and to help ensure that every Dobermann has a loving and permanent home.

Our team of dedicated volunteers and supporters is committed to providing high-quality care, training, and support to our rescued Dobermanns and to promoting responsible ownership through education and outreach programmes.



Milo making friends

We are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of Dobermanns and the people who love them, and to being a voice for the breed in our community and beyond.



Milo exploring in the woods

"Our Efforts"

At our core, we firmly believe in our ability to positively impact the lives of these dogs.

Our efforts extend beyond simply placing them in forever loving homes; we strive to enhance their current living situation within our kennels as well.

Our dedicated focus centres on enriching their daily lives, providing them with stimulation, and ensuring that they experience moments of joy and contentment. Through our unwavering commitment to their wellbeing, we hope to make a lasting difference in the lives of these furry companions.





Dogs who found their new forever home

A huge thank you goes out to all of our DRUE adopters and fosterers past and present for the amazing opportunity you have given our DRUE dogs, allowing them to experience a life outside the rescue kennel. We applied you!

During the month of April the following dogs found their forever homes.



Maggie

Aksel



Bobbi



Saffron



Roxy



Forest



Willow (in foster care)

We have dogs still looking for their forever home, these are featured on the following page. If you are able to give any of our dogs a loving home please check out our current dogs and complete an application on our website at:





Can you give one of our dogs a home? Find out more about them and complete an application on www.dobermannrescueuk.co.uk



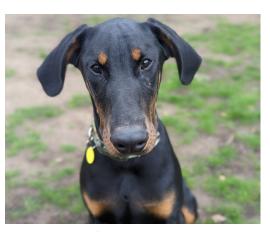
Milo



Ludo



Dotty



Lenny



Ghost



Fendy





Phoenix runs an Ultra Marathon & is star of the Dog Show

Once again DRUE rescue Phoenix takes centre stage. What a story, what a life, this lovely girl has had. She endured the worst life could throw at her and like her name suggests, she rose from the ashes... her story continues...

Editors note: As many of our dedicated followers will know, Phoenix, whose full story was featured in our February issue of DRUE life (back issues on our website) was found with her ears cut off at the root and in an emaciated condition. She brought tears to the toughest of our team. But now she continues to bring tears of joy.



I wanted to share this story as the progress in her life has been exceptional. In doing the fun things she enjoys and under the care of her human Mum Hayley, she has raised much needed funds for our rescue which allows us to continue to help more dogs in need. Over to Hayley now for the latest updates...

Completion of our Ultra Canicross

Well, thank goodness that is all over!!!

Myself and Phoenix would like to thank everyone that sponsored us to complete the 30 mile canicross in the Mynydd y Gaer mountains.



We set off on mass with 129 other dogs and their passengers at 07;30, up and along the Taff Ely Ridgeway walk with spectacular views, Dave Ronan came hurtling past me after going the wrong way for about half a mile

"Sideways hail, blinding fog, mud like I have never seen before and a never ending summit"

After about 7 miles, dropping down to checkpoint 1, a quick check of the dogs to make sure all is good, some cocktail sausages for the dogs and jelly babies for the humans, and we were off again.



At the morning brief, they did say, "if you can make it to checkpoint 2, you have cracked it, and they weren't kidding **②**

Sideways hail, blinding fog, mud like I have never seen before and a never ending summit was all in the first 5 miles, Phoenix took it all in her stride, being lifted over high styles, mud up to her belly whilst dragging me behind.

On the final mile to checkpoint 2 we encountered an inverted waterfall and a scramble down a shale embankment to get to the checkpoint.

I needed help in putting my gloves on as my hands were too cold to unclip my backpack, checked Phoenix, quick snack and off we went again.



2 to 3 was easy compared to 1 to 2, beautiful views, running alongside the river, under the wind turbines and through Ogmore forest.

Checkpoint 3 was a sight for sore eyes, Phoenix was happy to see her dad but shared her protein biscuits with her new dog friends and happy to continue.







Phoenix runs an Ultra Marathon & is star of the Dog Show

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Final leg was a toughie, over Mynydd Portref and through Llantrisan Forest felt endless, but thanks go out to Keith Mac for my navigation mishaps and brain fog with a farm gate \square



Going over the finish line was a massive high but the greatest relief that we had DONE IT and that Phoenix and I were injury free. We collected our medals, ate cake and Phoenix had a new squeaky duck as her prize. Finishing 52nd out of the 122 that finished in a time of 7 hours 49 minutes.



I couldn't have done any of this with out my snack provider, pit crew, cheerleader and partner Gary 😜

After a £5 donation from a lady in the local pub and finding £5 on route, total raised was £1355.

After struggling to walk for a week, I then held an Easter dog show at my dog club...

"A week later I held a dog show in aid of DRUF"



We had DRUE to provide refreshments and had lots of stalls, Stuffed hounds raw, T&S scent candles, CSJ dog food, Heathers hound groomers, Starpawformers obedience trainers, & Candy wow!



We held a fun dog show with classes that included, prettiest bitch, handsomest dog, best rescue and best costume, as Phoenix was the only one in fancy dress, she obviously won 😭 😧





With donations from local business's for the raffle, a lucky dip, proceeds from the dog show and DRUE cakes and refreshments stall, another £425.70 was raised for DRUE.

"classes included best costume, as Phoenix was the only one in fancy dress, she obviously won"



I feel that a small but poignant effort from me doesn't even come close to the gratitude I have to DRUE for entrusting me with my beautiful girl, she makes me laugh, proud and astounded every day





It's a dog's life Life after rescue — Meet Jedi



This month we talk to Miriam Vanags, who not only adopted a DRUE dog but also runs "Holidays for dogs" an amazing holiday destination for dog lovers where you can take your dogs and know they are going to be so welcome.

We gave a nod to "Holiday for dogs" in our last issue but we now have more information to share with you following this article. Do read on to hear the story about Miriam adopting our DRUE dog 'Jedi'.

Journey of the 'Jedi'

So Miriam, please tell us, where did it all begin?

We heard about DRUE through Facebook primarily and a few people we knew with Dobermanns pointed us in that direction after our 12 year old girl, Chai, died in June 2020.

We had spent 6 lonely months without her and couldn't stand the emptiness anymore.

So I got in touch with Liz Price, told her our circumstances and she made a few recommendations of suitable Dobes.

Jedi seemed to fit our situation and so we made plans to adopt him.



Because we were in lockdown at the time (December 2020) Liz very kindly agreed to bring him to us. Jedi arrived on 6 January 2021 so we've had him for 2 years now.

Settling in

We were quite shocked at how skinny Jedi was when he arrived (in his pyjamas), he was literally skin and bone as you can see from the first photos of him (left).

"We knew it wouldn't be long before we fattened him up"

We knew he hadn't done well in kennels (some Dobes just don't and there is no criticism of DRUE at all) but we were still saddened by his appearance. Still we knew it wouldn't be long before we'd fattened him up!



It's been an up and down journey with Jedi. Fortunately we have acres of land so we could safely work on his recall which was non-existent to start with. It's possible that he just didn't recognise our voices but it was a long haul.

We also had issues with his extremely high prey drive. He chases anything that moves! Birds aren't allowed to land in our fields. That continues to be an issue but we know how to deal with it now and stop any potential big problems.



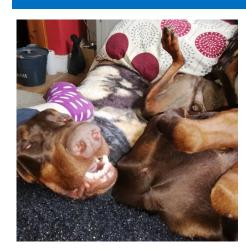
Our fields are big enough that he can entertain himself sniffing every blade of grass where the wildlife has been!







lt's a dog's life — Life after rescue continued Jedi



We run a holiday let business called HolidaysForDogs.com, where we let out a cottage on our land specifically to people with multiple dogs. Luckily Jedi is not remotely aggressive or antisocial so he takes new dogs every week in his stride. He's 'front of house', greeting each new set of guests when they arrive and showing them around his estate! If there are dogs he doesn't particularly like he either goes into megaphone mode

and barks them into submission, or he walks away with his nose in the air! His preference is for some of the



female dobermanns that come here!

Jedi certainly keeps us on our toes; we wish he had come with a volume control and that he would grow up and act his age! People don't believe us when we say he's nearly 9,

everyone thinks he's about 2 or 3. We had decided on an older dog for adoption thinking they would be nice and calm. Of course, with Jedi being our 4th Dobermann, maybe we should have known better...!

He's a lovely dog, fun and very affectionate and everyone loves him. We are very grateful to DRUE for letting us adopt him.



Quick fire interview — Jedi — 8yrs 7 10mths old

- Q. How long has he been in your life. A. Just over 2 years.
- Q. Favourite food? A. EVERYTHING. Literally EVERTHING (except celery!)
- Q. Best memory/adventure with him so far. A. He doesn't play with other dogs very much, he's more of a people dog. So when a group of female dobermanns stayed in our holiday cottage, we were delighted that he took a shine to them & chased & played with them in our field. It was lovely to see him interacting & doing what a dog should do!
- Q. What makes you laugh about him? A. When he runs round the house with his toy carrot squeaking it continuously. When we ask him where a specific toy is, he fetches it & throws it at us forcefully, "you asked for it, you got it!"
- Q. Does he have a naughty side? A. Erm.... he's a Dobermann... but let's see, here are a few of his favourites:
 - Sheep in the fields annoy him. They stand at the gates staring, he tries to outstare them and then gives a big WOOF and runs at them but they don't move! He looks at us in extreme annoyance as if to say "WHAAAAT?"
 - He has occasionally enacted The Great Escape. Once or twice we have spotted him several farms away... the least said about the better...
 - Like his Aunty Chai, he is very fond of digging huge craters in the fields for unsuspecting people to fall into.
 - His naughtiest thing is when he is let out in the pitch dark at 10pm for his last wee and he smells something and jumps the gate. Have you tried getting a Dobermann out of a 10 acre field when he's gone completely deaf? I think the earliest we got him back was midnight... Then it really is waiting for The Return of the Jedi...
 - ♦ He can't stand anything that moves: birds aren't allowed to land in the fields, pheasants in the garden (get your ear defenders on), cats, cars, air, blades of grass in the wind.,, His mission in life is to kill a tractor.
 - Currently learning to be a trip hazard
- Q. If he was a famous person who would he be likened to.... Why? A. Houdini. I'll give you one guess...!





Holidays for Dogs, you will receive your welcome by the Front of House (DRUE dog) "Jedi"

Background to us starting Holidays For Dogs:

20 years ago we had Crunchie, our first Dobermann together. When we tried to take him on holiday with us it was near impossible to find somewhere that would accept a Dobermann.

We were living in London at the time and were considering moving, so 16 years ago we made the life changing decision to find a place where we could live and provide a lovely place for people with multiple dogs to stay,

We chose South West Wales partly because we had family here but mostly because it is such a beautiful part of the UK. Four Dobermanns later we have been here ever since!



Holidays For Dogs

Arwel Cottage is on our 18 acre smallholding in beautiful Carmarthenshire, one of Wales' most unspoilt counties known as the Garden of Wales.



Holidays for Dogs is ideally placed, just off the A40 at St Clears, for exploring the multi award winning beaches of Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, and countless other attractions, towns and villages,

including the famous Pembrokeshire coastal path for stunning walks and scenery.



- Up to 5 well behaved, sociable dogs welcomed free of charge
- Cottage sleeps two in a spacious double bedroom
- Large, fully enclosed garden laid to lawn
- Dogs allowed on sofas and in the bedroom
- Safe, enclosed fields on the doorstep for dog exercise
- Stunning 360° views all around the cottage
- Perfect environment for nature lovers, birdwatchers, walkers
- A short drive to all amenities



HOLIDAYS FOR DOGS

Arwel Cottage, St Clears, Carmarthenshire

https:// www.holidaysfordogs.com







Coping with dog aggression — Credit: Jay Kershaw

This month we continue on from last months article on character and temperament and take a brief look (courtesy of breeder and trainer 'Jay Kershaw') at coping with dog aggression.

Editors note: A little bit of background on this article and the author. It is taken from "Dobermanns—A practical guide for owners and breeders" with the kind permission of the author Jay Kershaw (AKA Jay Horgan). It follows on closely to last months article on character & temperament.

Jay is one of DRUE's Trustees and has been involved in the charity for many years. She has kept Dobermanns for many years, established the award winning Aritaur breeding kennels, is an affiliate of the British Institute for Professional Dog Trainers, Wrote breed notes for Dog World, judges at Championship and International level and trains dogs in the sport of Schutzhund.

Coping with dog aggression

Unlike hounds, gun dogs and herding breeds which have been bred for generations to work together, the Dobermann was bred to be a personal protector and not part of a multi dog pack.

Be aware that despite all the best socialisation direction and training from the owner Dobermanns are not generally male to male compatible some may cohabit up until they are about 15 months or so, but usually they then want their own space.

Breeders will rarely if ever, home two dogs of the same sex together because if they fight they will have to be kept separated both in the home and on exercise for life, or rehomed. It is rarely worth the risk or the heartache.

Male dominance / aggression doesn't mean that a dog is bad or nasty.

Males of most species jostle for prime position and it is only our human social inhibition that stops fights breaking out every Saturday night!

"Research has shown that castration does not affect territorial aggression, so it is pointless in these dogs"

Fighting is normal behaviour for the dog that feels his resources are at risk. Remember the origins and purpose of the Dobermann, that it is not a pack breed in the way that hounds are.

Research has shown (Hart 7 Eckstein, 1997) that castration does not affect territorial aggression, so it is pointless in these dogs.

Dog aggression can rise from many reasons; stress, excitement, frustration, high fight drive, resource guarding, weakness, illness, fear.

Dobermans rarely start fights, but they won't tolerate being pushed by another male. Bitches can also be difficult with other dogs but much less so opposite sexes rarely fight.



Avoiding fights

Dog fights come down to dominance and submission, one has to yield. It is just a matter of when, although they may posture around each other, dogs usually work things out themselves before a fight develops so generally the safest bet is to leave them to back down in their own time.

Dogs that are held back or yanked by the neck in a heated situation may well turn and bite their owner, because they are not being rational and react to what they think is another dog attacking them.



Stand up boxing may seem fun but it can be a fight inducing game that rapidly tips over into a squabble especially if the dogs are the same sex.

Games exist to enable dogs to assess the strength of their opponent in a real fight. If it looks as if a game is getting rough and out of hand, call the dogs away to calm things down at least one of them will be relieved to have the game ended.

When two dogs stand over each other stiff as a board and about to go into a fight, owners must never try and pull the dogs away as a fight will be inevitable, just as it would be if they were to rush in screaming and shouting. Although it is our nature to





Coping with dog aggression

try and prevent our dogs from being hurt, if you try to separate fighting dogs you will be bitten even by your own dog as they are blinded by the



survival drive into fighting for their lives.

If there is any tension between dogs you have at home, separate them before visitors arrive to avoid flashpoints, particularly round gates or doorways. Excited barking prompts dogs to turn on each other in frustration and a vicious fight may develop in seconds.

which is fight or flight and can't think clearly. If the owner tries to dominate the dog into submission by checking and yanking him this will push him further into defence.

The clever owner can direct a dog out of instinctive, reactive hindbrain response into a calm thinking forebrain state

Hindbrain response can never be removed entirely it is a body part just like a limb but filling the mind with thoughtful process, effectively remaps the brain and provides an alternative path to the usual default response.

The horse trainer Clinton Anderson says a well-trained horse has a big thinking area and a small reacting space with training the reacting part gets smaller and smaller, but you will never get rid of it completely he must always be aware of its existence. It is the same with dogs.

tension, to clear stress build up and to loosen tight muscles and joints that have been in preparation for action

The stressed dog keeps his muscles rigid permanently which inhibits calm brain function. Just as we hold our breath in a stressful situation so does the dog and he may pant to oxygenate or yawn to take in deep breaths after even mildly stressful events. Stretching is a tension reliever to allow muscles and nerves to relax and to boost circulation to the body and brain.

Eye staring is a sign of confidence, assertiveness and alpha status. In stare downs, each dog holds an unblinking stare to his opponent until one of them yields and looks away. During the stare the lower ranking dog will lower his head and repeatedly blink to signal that he is yielding, thereby acknowledging the superior status of the other dog. When the stare or threat is over the dog relaxes his eyes and blinks to re lubricate them.

During stalk and chase the eyes remained fixed on the prey subject; blinking will also be part of the eye relaxation.

"Note that if people are injured from breaking up a dog fight the police and judiciary rarely view that as an attack on a human"

Forcing a dog to be in a room full of other dogs, or to walk past them, will not make him less aggressive unless he has had a course of professional rehabilitation naturally the dog that is attacked or bullied by other dogs especially as a puppy will mistrust other dogs.

This is why every inter-dog experience as a puppy is critical and will dictate whether in later life a dog is stable in company, or whether it is immediately aggressive. No matter how domesticated and well socialised the dog, we cannot apply social human niceties to dogs.

Managing behaviours

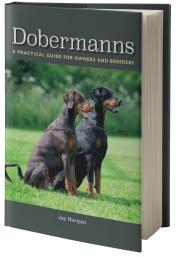
When a dog behaves aggressively, he is operating in hindbrain defence

Stress and its impact

Aggression is the result of a stressed mind resulting in a dog that can't concentrate. Therefore recognising the signs of stress in a dog and learning how to direct the dog out of the stress state will help in managing aggression.

Stress produces adrenaline for an explosive reaction of fight or flight hormone.

If adrenaline is not used, it literally gets stuck in the muscles. This is why dogs that have been standing for a judge to assess them, or who get into conflict tension with other dogs, literally shake themselves down as they move away in order to release



Credits:

Jay Kershaw—Breeder, Trainer, Owner. From her book Dobermanns. A practical guide for owners and breeders





In memory of Kiedy.

This month we take a break from Sharon Chamberlin's 'Training tips". Instead I want to dedicate this page to her special boy Kiedy.

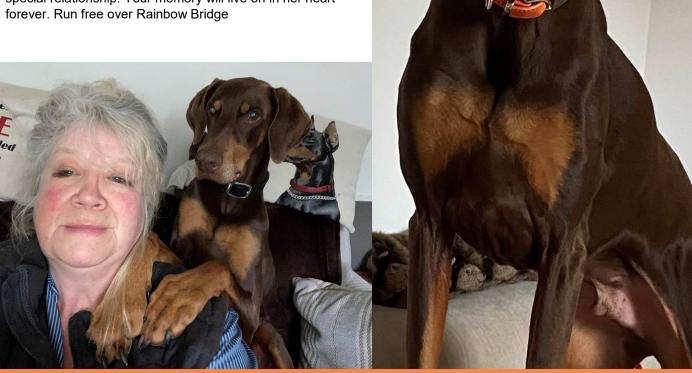
Very sadly and most unexpectedly Sharon's precious boy Kiedy suffered a major seizure and subsequently passed away.

This comes only 5 months after she lost her beautiful girl Coco to Osteosarcoma.

All of us who have lost one of our special fur babies know what pain and heartbreak it brings.

They are family and their loss is significant in our lives.

RIP Kiedy—You had the best life with Sharon and such a special relationship. Your memory will live on in her heart





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email: dobercademy@gmail.com





Take your Dobies for a walk and then settle down with a cuppa and find the 32 words related to Sharon Chamberlin's article from the previous (April) issue. Answers available next month.

Word Search

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TNFFSSQTJLEFRBASOSTALKWDD
RRZFBHIGHENERGYXNWKNOLECE
TKLSASTRAUETMXUGHAXDEOAW
TFYIHWRPHEELWORKUCEDIEZLO
RVWRIABKMCLOELPXAPSTGYLMB
IKITNYWLIOUQXRCARPEIGGENK
EHDPEBPBWNNBCANWDMAIIEYEC
V B O O A V L A I H G M I L R N W W R V N C X S B
IBLSUHFJEIKTIDBCKCKGRLSM
 TEECNICLXNAEENRICHMENTVO
 IRSEAEKHIGOMRMUMWIWFAOHI
ENCMNDBTVAHLEPEAIHNIYCBEV
SGABTRATWKSMNUCLNLGRNZDUE
GDDLRESICVFETSBFATDECMIIV
LTEFDNBHSNIFFINGEXRDBYZH
HRMWOAEMFDWRLCLQSUQAPFFC
YAYIWLHTSUDGFNHSMGBUI
RCQONIAURKKYGENETICSFLVDX
MKOFTNVGPVDEMGGZSXMRNGIGH
X I S O I E I G R L P S C A V E N G E R S M A N V
HNTQMIOIZYIIEDECISIONSWGG
KGIVESUNVGSTIMULATEDBKEVY
D B N L L U R G V K L R F C H E W I N G V S B I U
ONVVKBZOVPQDDHHEHG J B M C C M C
RFHALPWPREYFMOKIYDIYNIPHH
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Last month's wordsearch answers How well did you do?











