

Dobermann Rescue UK and Europe (DRUE) Presents

DRUE LIFE





January 2024 Issue 13

Welcome from the editor

Happy New Year from all of us at Dobermann Rescue UK & Europe!

As we step into 2024, we extend our thanks once again for your generous support over the last year that has been the foundation of our efforts to rescue and rehome our Dobermanns in need.

As we move into this new year we are excited by the events that we will be running to make this year at DRUE even

more impactful than 2023, and we did a pretty good job of that!

There will be plenty of upcoming fundraisers, another big open day and some local community events. All to raise the much needed funds to support our furry friends.

We will continue showcasing the success stories in our monthly article "It's a dogs life—life after rescue" where we can enjoy the uplifting tales of our Dobermanns who found their forever homes. If you have a DRUE rescue and would like to be featured please do contact us. Send an email to druecharity@gmail.com and mark for the attention of the DRUE Life editor.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support, and together, we look forward to making 2024 a year filled with hope, love, and new beginnings for our lovely Dobermanns in need.

Inside this issue:

The good news is that a wonderful home has been found and they

within just a few days

will be adopted together.

will be leaving us

of this issue being

released.

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Dogs who found their new forever home

















Dexter

Dougal

Macie (now Tess)

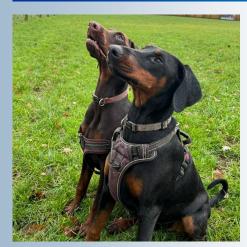
We have dogs still looking for their forever home, these are featured on the following page. If you are able to give any of our dogs a loving home please check out our current dogs and complete an application on our website at:

www.dobermannrescueuk.co.uk





Please help me, I need a home!



Sadie & Sasha



More dogs arriving in the next few days, keep your eye on our website and social media



Dotty



Pepper



Francesca

Can you give one of our dogs a home?

Find out more about them and complete an application on

www.dobermannrescueuk.co.uk





Life after rescue — "Maggie"

Finding Maggie

On April 6th, we lost our beloved dog Kimi, who was 12.5 years old. The loss left us utterly heartbroken, with a pain that felt beyond comprehension.

Two days later, on the evening of April 8th, Matt and I were sitting in our eerily quiet house, both of us feeling the emptiness without her. We simultaneously expressed how unbearable it was without Kimi, and Matt mentioned he had been looking at Dobermanns but hadn't found anything. I revealed that I too had been searching and came across some dogs on the Dobermann Rescue (DRUE) website.

Excitedly, I pulled up the page, and we saw Milo and Axel, I immediately wanted to speak with Dawn Cooke the kennel manager. I quickly filled out the application form, and Dawn called me back, setting things in motion.

By Bank Holiday Monday, April 10th, we found ourselves at the kennels, ready to meet the dogs - just looking, of course... no harm in looking!

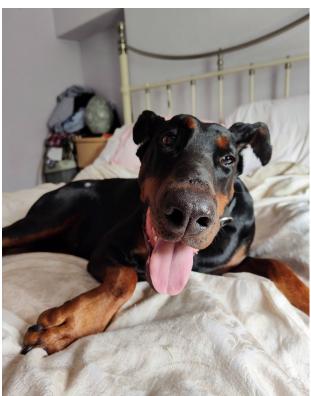
I still remember every Dobermann we met that day. The first was Milo, whom Dawn immediately said wouldn't be suitable due to my 93-year-old father living with us. Then, a smaller Dobermann approached us. As I bent down, I remarked to Matt, "Awe, look at this one." She stood there, gazing directly into our eyes. That was Maggie.



We continued our walk, meeting Roxy, Forest, Willow, and Axel, but eventually returned to Maggie. She seemed to resign herself to her basket, as if saying she wouldn't be chosen.

That moment touched us profoundly and melted our hearts. We said to Dawn we want Maggie, please, please don't let her go, we will make the payment first thing in the morning and collect her then. And thus, our story with Maggie began.

The following day, I brought Maggie home. She immediately made herself comfortable on the sofa beside my dad, affectionately licking his face.



We chose to ignore her, as we understood she needed time to acclimatise to the normal sounds of

> the countryside. So there was no telling her off while she worked it out for herself.

A few days later, we took her to Matt's parents' home, just two miles away, which boasts eight acres of dog-proofed fields and no other dogs.

We walked Maggie around the field on a lead before letting her off. She ran and ran for two full hours, and we simply let her enjoy her freedom. She obediently came back when called. and since then, we've made it a routine to take her there every morning. It's her time to do as she pleases, whether that's mousing, running, digging holes, or playing with toys.

That night, she claimed her spot on our bed, stretching out with contented groans, and slept soundly throughout. Matt and I barely slept, too cautious not to disturb her.

Reflecting on the first two weeks, it was quite a whirlwind, it was in fact bonkers! Maggie barked at every bird and unfamiliar sound, seemingly unsettled. She raced up and down the garden incessantly.

Maggie gradually adjusted to her new routine and home life. It took about two months for her to completely relax and truly realise this was her new home.

The incessant barking at birds and horses and racing around the garden ceased. She even befriended a pigeon in the garden, occasionally giving it a playful chase, but mostly coexisting peacefully.

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Life after rescue — "Maggie"

Now, six months in, Maggie has settled wonderfully. She seems as if she's been with us forever. Her anxiety has vanished, and her barking is now only for specific reasons like visitors at the door or expressing her needs – playtime, bathroom breaks, food, or cuddles. Her bark for these things is distinctively high-pitched.

Maggie is a total love and has become a beloved part of the family, adored by her grandad and all of us.

Her journey shows that given time and patience, rescue dogs can truly thrive. It's crucial to have realistic expectations and to listen to their needs, allowing the opportunity to settle into their new life.

Every morning, after her walk, she gets a burst of energy, doing zoomies and starts her playful Dobermann antics with me. She sticks her nose on my bum, a sure sign of her playful mood.

Then she engages in ankle snapping and gently nipping at my arms, entering a state of giddy excitement. It's incredibly amusing to watch; she's just so happy.

She has a special fondness for Matt, and it's heartwarming to see their unique bond. They have a little game



they play together, and it's magical to observe the two of them interacting.

Maggie prefers quieter places, so we avoid areas with lots of other dogs, like country parks. Instead, we enjoy walks to our local pub, particularly in the summer when we can relax in the beer garden, which she adores.





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Life after rescue — "Maggie"

Our village walks suit her perfectly. Plus, she gets her daily exercise running at her nana's every morning, so she's not missing out on any adventures.



Maggie's favourite toy is a talking Tigger. She has started talking too which is a dobie trait that started happening only 1 month or so ago

We love Maggie deeply, and she has transformed the pain and tears from losing Kimi into smiles and laughter.

One of the most extraordinary and peculiar things about Maggie is that she mirrors many of Kimi's behaviours, without any training from us.

She's incredibly gentle around Grandad, she sneaks into his bedroom to snatch his ginger nuts.

She has learned to open doors and gives a single bark when she needs to go outside. She even follows us into the bathroom, just like Kimi did.

We adore her and love her and we can't thank DRUE enough.

From now on, our hearts are set on rescuing and giving these amazing dogs a second chance in life.



Quick fire interview — Maggie — 3 yrs old

- Q. How long has she been in your life. A. 9 Months
- Q. Favourite food? A. Pepperoni Sticks & Purina Adventuros Dog Treats (Wild Boar flavour)
- **Q. What makes you laugh about her? A.** Maggie makes us smile everyday because she says thank you to us everyday with love in her eyes.
- **Q. Does she have a naughty side? A.** When we first got her anything we left out like shoes or clothes she buried them in the garden under a tree
- **Q. If she was a famous person who would she be like? A.** Tina Turner, because she had a bad time and everything came good in the end, plus she's simply the best!
- **Q. Best memory/adventure with her so far. A.** Her immediate affection when we first adopted her and how she sat on our laps as if she was saying thanks. Her constant licking is quite funny every morning too, so her general character is something that constantly makes us happy. Probably one of the funniest memories was when I was trying to find what made her anxious, so when I was out walking her I discovered she was not too bothered about other dogs, but instead hated cyclists or anything with two wheels Definitely made the cyclist ride faster!





Meet our dynamic Fundraising Team



The new fund raising team

The Autumn of 2023 marked a significant milestone for DRUE as we inaugurated our dynamic fundraising team, dedicated to generating resources for our Dobies. This energetic team, despite being relatively new, has surpassed our fundraising goals with remarkable efficiency.

Looking ahead into this new year, we are thrilled to announce lots of exciting events including an online dog show photo competition, a Valentine's Day special, seasonal raffles, an Easter event, and a unique Easter dragon egg contest. To name just a few of the events planned. The biggest goal for 2024 is to double (at least) this years amount and attract more supporters.

Fundraising team members

Our fundraising team is a vibrant group of volunteers, bringing diverse skills and immense dedication.

The driving team members include Jill Hall Woodward, Trixie Bailey, and the super sisters Dawn Wigglesworth and Debra Harmer.



This formidable team is a powerhouse of ideas and relentless effort in fundraising, backed by a rich history in charity support and event organisation.

Jill

Jill has extensive experience in charity work and animal welfare. She founded North Derbyshire Animal Support (NDAS) a decade ago and has been involved with organisations inc. the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Nature Watch Foundation. Her charity shop, established nine years ago, aids various animal causes and individuals in need (inc. kitting out an animal hospital in Kiev, through to helping to build bear sanctuaries).

Jill's knack for sourcing unique items, planning events, and securing sponsorships is invaluable, especially her expertise in finding quality Dobierelated items. A long-time supporter of DRUE, Jill shares a deep connection with the dogs, including her own DRUE-rescued Dobie Oliver. The biggest highlight was adopting her beautiful Romanian Dobie Shona, who had many health problems and will always be foremost in her heart.

Trixie

Trixie, another integral member, has been instrumental in supporting NDAS for over five years, blending her hands-on approach with her tech expertise. She had a four-year period in Jill's shop and now her role is in the technological aspects of DRUE's fundraising initiatives.

Dawn and Debra

Dawn and her sister Debra are vital to DRUE, they contribute extensively, being long term supporters and volunteers at DRUE, they help in so many aspects of the rescue such as home-checks, transport, regular assistance at the kennels, travelling and collecting donated items and taking care of a lot of the postage, covering many miles in the process. Their involvement in organising and representing DRUE at events, managing sales, raffles and tombola's and handling logistics is a cornerstone of our fundraising efforts.

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Meet our dynamic Fundraising Team

Making it work

The team uses social media very effectively, with the 'DRUE Auction and Fundraising Group' page nearing 2,000 members.



They continuously adapt their approaches to align with supporters' preferences, creating themed boards for occasions like Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. Their approach keeps the initiatives fresh and engaging. Meanwhile Dawn and Debra will continue to attend events as the year unfolds assisted by additional members of the DRUE volunteers.

As you can imagine, a lot of work goes into what they are doing but in their words "it's our breed, our passion and we are confident with the supporters behind us we will continue to raise money for our beloved breed."

Challenges

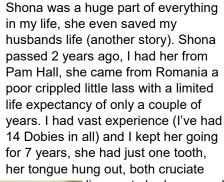
The biggest challenge remains to maintain the interest and affordability of the fundraising activities. In these changing times, we want to offer enjoyable, affordable, and quality events.

The team's passion for the cause and the unwavering backing of our supporters fuels confidence in continuing to make a significant impact for our rescued Dobies.

Who is Shona?

Some people on Facebook may have noticed that 'Shona' responds to some of the messages and might wonder who Shona is. Well Shona is the name of one of Jill's previous and much loved special Dobies, and is also her Facebook monicker.

I asked Jill about Shona and her other dogs and this is her account in brief:



ligaments had gone and healed rigid, arthritis in her front legs, one bent in and one plated and calcified, abnormal bone density, enlarged spleen, heart and thyroid.

As you can see, the poor girl had some significant issues. I absolutely adored her, I cared for her 24/7 she managed so well she was asked by the kennel club to represent the breed at Crufts unfortunately we couldn't travel her so far but that was such an honour.

I also had my DRUE rescue boy Oliver (below) from Spain, his ears cut off by scissors!











"Heroic Gladiator rescues Caesar"

Once upon a time

Once upon a time, in a world where strength and skill were celebrated, there was a Gladiator known far and wide as Warrior. This was not just a title; it was a testament to his journey, his battles, and his victories.

Warrior's story began on the athletic fields of England, as a young man, he excelled in athletics and rugby, proudly wearing the jersey of the England Colts Under 19's. He swiftly climbed the ranks to become the 5th best in his age group nationally, then progressing to senior Rugby. Not content with just one sport, he also dominated as a decathlete, displaying an unparalleled versatility.

His ambitions stretched beyond the rugby fields. By the age of 21, his focus shifted to the world of bodybuilding. He trained relentlessly, sculpting and strengthening his body. His efforts bore fruit, he swept through competitions, claiming the prestigious 'North West Britain' and 'Mr UK' titles. Then representing Britain in the European Bodybuilding Championships, he clinched third place, this fuelled his hunger for greater achievements. His journey led him to the Mr Universe competition, where he stood tall among the giants. It was this impressive résumé that opened the doors to the glittering world of television. He joined the popular TV series "Gladiators." Here, he became symbol of might and resilience. He captivated the audience with his formidable presence, embodying the essence of a true Gladiator.

Meeting the mighty Gladiator I met up with this Gladiator as I wanted to share his story.

The enduring impact of his legacy extends beyond the many titles he clinched and the legion of bodybuilders he inspired. There's a multifaceted depth to this man, a side often overshadowed by his athletic



achievements, which I am eager to share with you.

Are you curious yet about the connection between the mighty Gladiator and DRUE?

Connecting with DRUE

Michael (AKA Gladiator Warrior), now retired from competition, dedicates his life to coaching bodybuilding and passionately advocates for animal welfare.

About six months ago, Michael learned of a Dobermann, Caesar, who had been neglected and locked in a kennel for a year with no 'out' time at all.



Upon visiting, he discovered that Caesar's owner had abandoned him, putting him in kennels while he went on holiday and then never coming back for him.

Michael was moved by Caesar's plight - scared, dirty, underweight, and suffering from muscle loss due to inactivity. Compelled by empathy, and seeing the loneliness and despair in his eyes, he vowed there and then, that there was no way he was going to let this dog remain any longer in this condition and with no stimulation.

He said "Caesar, you're coming with me".

But Michael already had a number of rescue dogs at home so he rang around Dobermann rescue facilities and came across DRUE.

At the time DRUE was full but Michael said if we could get an additional kennel then he would pay his boarding fees until we could rehome him.

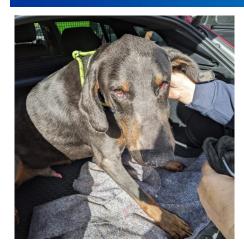


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"Heroic Gladiator rescues Caesar"



And so, Caesar arrived with us, the DRUE team immediately took him under their wing, bathing him, changing his food to build him up (which again Michael paid for) and he was given lots of daily stimulation. Walks in the morning, free running and playing with our team in the afternoon in the secure paddock.



Michael visited DRUE often and started to see the transformative journey Caesar was on and a very different dog emerged. Once a sad, subdued boy, his personality was now starting to shine through and he became a happy, playful boy who was an absolute delight to be with.

Michael reflected positively on his experience with DRUE, emphasising DRUE's commitment to Dobermann welfare and the remarkable transformation he witnessed in Caesar.

A particularly poignant memory for Michael was the first time Caesar was let off lead in the secure field where he ran, and ran, and ran. This moment captured Caesar's newfound happiness, it was a heartwarming and unforgettable highlight for Michael.



The success story doesn't end with Caesar. Michael later helped rescue Tri, a neglected and abandoned Collie, by arranging for

regular walks and eventually finding him a loving home too. Michael's dedication to these dogs' welfare exemplifies his generous spirit and commitment to making a difference.

Michael's journey from Gladiator to animal advocate reveals the depth of



his character. His actions not only changed the lives of Caesar and Tri but also highlighted the critical work of organisations like DRUE in animal rescue and welfare. He has supported DRUE since in a number of ways and through his generosity he continues to help our Dobies in need.







Michael's commitment
His empathy extends far and wide,
fuelling his commitment to rescue
and care for dogs in need. Above
are some of his own dogs





Conditioning and exercise - Part 2

Following on from last months article...

Complete body conditioning

Complete body conditioning is important whether you are conditioning your dog for showing, agility, working or general fitness.



Regular road walking develops even tone around the body avoiding strain on individual joints, muscles and tendons. There are many different exercises which help promote evenly distributed muscle development in the body, combining balance front and back, and hindquarter proprioception (awareness of the body area). These exercises might include the following:

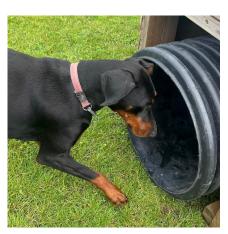
- Walking backwards
- Sit, to stand, to down, to sit etc balance beam - on the floor first
- Crawling
- Sit-ups
- Rocking a ball, with the front pause on the ball whilst moving it around Jumping over small objects game of tug- gently, not a fight
- Balance boards

These exercises should be introduced slowly, and it is important not to overdo them: the benefits will be in small steady movements. Top agility

trainers do a lot of this sort of training with their dogs, as it helps the dog to be aware of his body movements.

Agility training

This is an excellent all round occupation for the dog, as all the different tasks under direction from his owner keep his mind occupied, besides helping to promote his all round physical development by increasing suppleness, exercising all the muscle groups, and improving coordination. Agility training also builds the dogs confidence, and benefits the owner - dog relationship as you are working together



Obedience work

The routine exercises in obedience work are perfect for conditioning. The small, light movements of precision work may not look like much, but they add up to a great deal. Small, isometric movements work specific muscles rather than groups (compound) of muscles.

The brain is focusing on the obedience tasks, while the body is incidentally targeting each muscle to fatigue. Obedience workouts offer low grade impact on the body, making them ideal for general fitness and injury recovery. Ideally they leave the dog physically and mentally tired but satisfied.

Cycling and or jogging

cycling or jogging with your dog running alongside, provides a good aerobic workout for physically mature dogs of over 15 to 18 months.



Muscles are evenly developed around the body, and, most importantly, it satisfies the innate and primitive canine urge to roam and trot with the pack, providing far deeper fulfilment than galloping at full speed around the park.

Swimming

a perfect exercise for dogs, as it allows muscles to move freely and increases cardiovascular endurance without stressing the skeletal system.



If you go to a hydrotherapy pool make sure that the hydro therapist keeps the dog level in the water, and that the dog isn't doggy paddling with his front end raised higher if he is it will overdevelop the thoracic part of the





Conditioning and exercise - Part 2

trapezius muscle which will lead to a bulging muscle over the shoulder. This is undesirable particularly in show dogs as the big muscle mass spoils the clean shoulder line, it is especially prominent on the move.

Water treadmills

These treadmills are now routinely used to keep competition dogs in peak shape, and are ideal for injured and elderly dogs. Their use can improve mobility and also the speed of recovery from injuries by strengthening muscles with minimum impact, and by increasing cardiovascular fitness. It is very useful for increasing hind proprioception (awareness of the body area), and is particularly important in the Dobermann, who uses his front rather than his hind legs for propulsion.



Use a member of a regulatory body such as the National Association of registered canine hydrotherapists, or the canine hydrotherapist association.

Steady exercise

First of all, steady exercise helps reduce the physiological effects of stress by producing the calming hormones of brain dopamine, serotonin and noradrenaline. The particular exercise of trotting alongside his human owner when they are either jogging or cycling, provides the dog and the human with more than simply a good form of

exercise: it also allows the prefrontal thinking part of the brain to switch off and relax, whilst the locomotive system continues to function automatically and rhythmically. This combination of factors releases 'feel good' endorphins hormones through the limbic system and the hippocampus and the two parts of the brain controlling motivation and mood, both of which are stimulated by exercise.

However, even though you may be happy to pedal along at full pelt, be careful that you are not pushing your dog to the point of exhaustion and beyond. To be most effective remember the relaxed loping of the wolf, which does not drop flat out pounding the ground. This is not meant to be a race or an exercise in endurance, but the pack instinct is so high in the dog that he will continue to do his best to keep up with his owner, despite fatigue. So take it slowly and steadily, stopping occasionally for a rest and to check his feet.

Furthermore, we can't always avoid tarmac roads and lanes, and the hard surface can cause abrasions on the pads; also, if the dog is pounding along heavily at too fast to trot, his joints and bones will suffer from compression injuries. Glance down to check on his manner of walking and stride, which should be balanced; Take frequent breaks, and build up slowly to a full level of fitness.

Managing exercise and its effects

Warming up and cooling down whether you are planning on doing any type of endurance training, or if you are just going in the fields to give your dog a long run, ideally you should prepare him before he starts any strenuous exercise.

Cold muscles, ligaments and

tendons are prone to injury if they're not stretched and warmed up before being put under pressure, so if you let your dog out of the car at the field, tried to get him to do some warm up stretches in the car park before you

Dogs can be taught to stretch just as they can be taught to sit

set off.

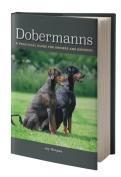
Dogs can be taught to stretch just as they can be taught to sit. Encourage stretching by massaging along the spine and down the legs caught: asking for a spin turn to the left and the spin turned to the right will loosen the body. Ideally walk to the field for 10 minutes or so before letting him



run free, as that will loosen up any tight muscles.

Cooling down is equally as important as warming up, and just as a dog should not go from crate to field,

neither should he go from field to crate without settling his heart rate down and letting his muscles relax, in the same way as when warming up.



Credits: Jay Kershaw—Breeder, Trainer, Owner. Extract from her book 'Dobermanns. A practical guide for owners and breeders'





The real BIG "£2 pledge"

Will you join us in taking the "donate for the Dobies" pledge on the first day of each month?

Dobermann Rescue UK & Europe, a dedicated charity, seeks your invaluable support. We are grateful for our devoted following, including those who already contribute regularly. Now, we reach out to all our supporters, urging you to pledge just £2 each month through direct debit (or more, if you can spare it). It's less than the cost of one cup of takeaway coffee per month, but every penny holds immense significance, shaping a remarkable impact.

We have nearly 9,000 DRUE Facebook group members and 20,000 Followers on our main page. If you all gave £2 a month, this would raise a huge amount. Imagine all the dogs we could help with that!

Being a charity we rely solely on volunteers for help and supporters to keep us running. By standing by us, you empower us to rescue, provide care, rehabilitate, and secure loving homes for these extraordinary Dobermann dogs. Your generous donations directly enhance their well-being. Together, let's make a lasting difference in the lives of Dobermanns.













