



Doberman Rescue UK and Europe (DRUE) Presents

DRUE LIFE



This month's cover boy is Louis.

What a mess this poor boy is in. He was found on the street emaciated and with sores on many parts of his body.

Read more about him and our fundraising efforts for him on page 10

February 2024

Issue 14

Welcome from the editor

Welcome to the February Issue of DRUE Life!

As we wave goodbye to the chill of January and welcome the promise of spring being not too far away, we are delighted by the enthusiastic energy brought in by our new team of dedicated volunteer dog walkers! Join us in extending a hearty welcome to these wonderful volunteers who have stepped forward to make a difference in the lives of our treasured Dobermanns. They will support our existing team to provide our dogs with love, exercise, and socialisation. Our tails keep wagging with excitement seeing the positive impact our DRUE volunteers continue to make!

Also we are changing over our software systems and we now have a new email to contact us on. Please make a note: info@dobermannrescueuk.co.uk

In this edition, we're thrilled to announce an exceptional opportunity for all our volunteers and Dobermann lovers. Sharon Chamberlin, a renowned dog trainer known for her effective and compassionate training methods, is offering a free 4-day training challenge! The dates are set, and more details can be found on page 10, we encourage everyone to mark their calendars and check out Sharon's page for more details on how to participate.

Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information about our annual highlight – the DRUE 2024 Open day and dog show! This year promises to be more exciting than ever. Hold the date 24th August 24. More details will be unveiled in our forthcoming issues, so watch this space!



Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we're not just a team; we're a family dedicated to making a difference.

On that note, please do follow our new boy 'Louis' as we care for him and rehabilitate him. He's clearly had a lot of trauma in his life and has arrived in a very poor state, but he now has the loving arms of DRUE and DRUE's supporters helping him to recover so he'll now find out what true love really is.

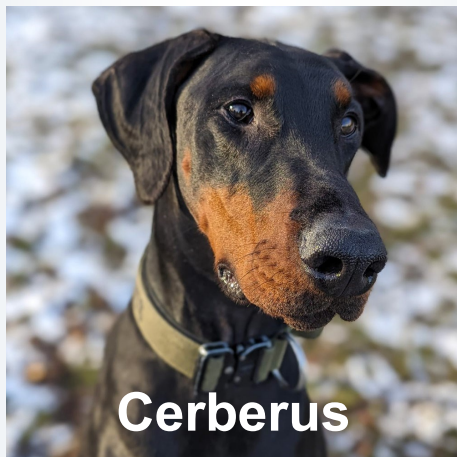
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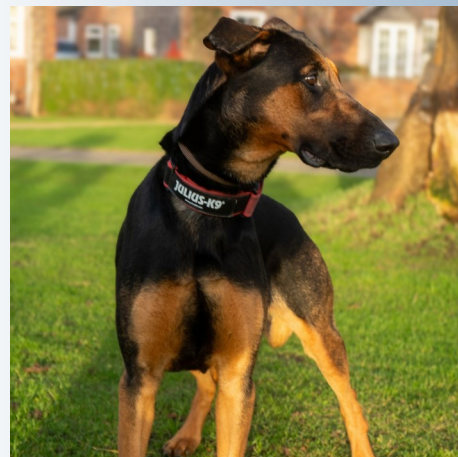
Dogs who found their new forever home



Sadie & Sacha



Cerberus



Francesca



Priya

Had been fostered at end of December but now officially adopted

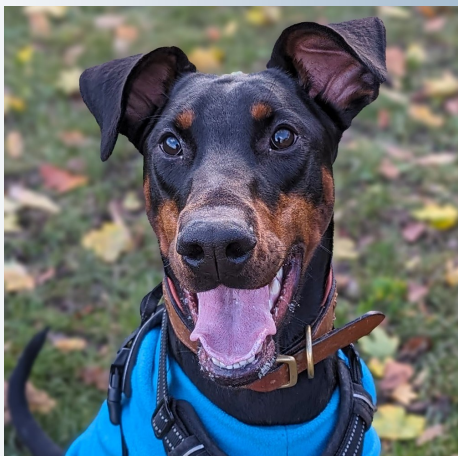


Milo



Poppy

very quick adoption so no pics

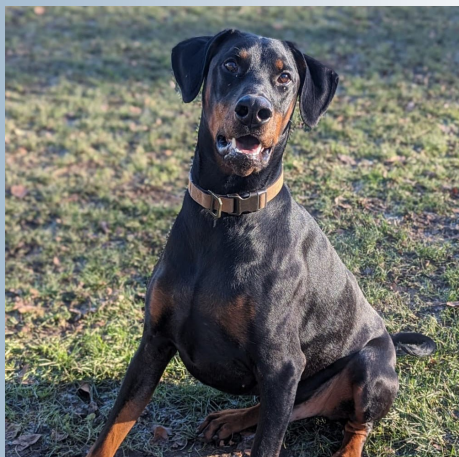


Bruno

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.dobermanmannrescueuk.co.uk

Please help me, I need a home !



Luther



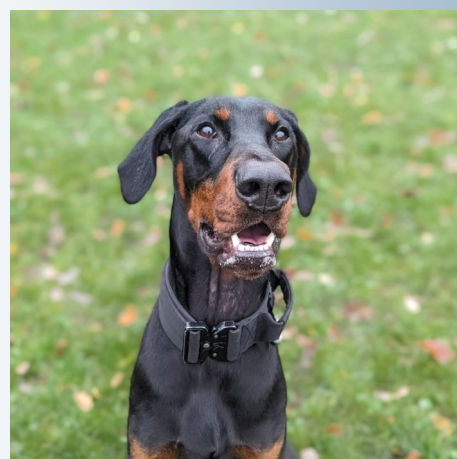
Louis



Dotty



Pepper



Dougal

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

Life after rescue — “Vinnie”

Editor’s note

For those of you who bought one of our DRUE calendars you will notice that Vinnie was January’s super model!

Life leading up to Vinnie

Our personal circumstances changed positively 18th February 2023, enough for us to consider welcoming another large German breed. I came home from 6.5 years working in Saudi & we felt the time was right. (We became a whole family again - no more international work moves).

As background, our Weimaraner Finn, passed away extremely suddenly aged 7, at the beginning of lock down 2020. We’d had Finn from a pup & that suddenness left everyone pretty traumatised. We knew we couldn’t have another Weim to replace Finn & GSD’s were considered too hairy!

We flirted with a GSP pup but when you know the whole country is awash with unloved animals, that flirting was dismissed unanimously by our grown-up family x5. Hence we started to consider a rescue.

How we ended up with a Dobe, was a fairly simple decision. Fabulously sleek animals, akin to Weims. Dobermann breed requirements fit our family set-up & values, (needs for long, muddy walks with a pub at the end).

Finding DRUE

How we ended up with DRUE was also a simple choice based on our desk research. The charity is well marketed / widely accessible on Social Media & the written, posted words from DRUE are articulate and compelling. Responses to our enquiries were quick & helpful. Once that ‘detective work’ was proven as more than bonafide, we made the appointment near the end of Feb ‘23 to visit. No hanging about in our house!

Such was the mutual commitment, we drove up to Cheshire from Oxted, Surrey to see a dog that we fancied. (Rocco - we didn’t like his look or markings - sorry).

Then Vinnie was suggested & both my wife Shan & I recognised “...now that’s a Dobe!...”.

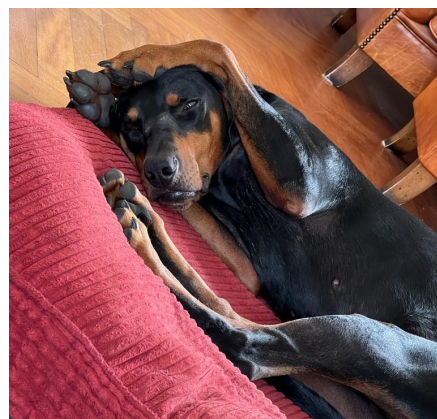
I was immediately struck & I knew we could help him. Shan had valid observations and she immediately spotted that Vinnie struggled with the leadwork, but he was a lovely animal to be with. Vinnie’s history was a malnourished, unloved stray, so we could offer him the stability required.

It took us about another week to weigh-up the pro’s & con’s & we settled unanimously for a Dobe & our Vinnie. The rescue process was simple & the home check was a formality as we are blessed with a large, enclosed garden.



We collected Vinnie on the 3rd of March ‘23 and brought him home in his crate. He travelled & continues to travel very well without incident (if not a wee bit ‘singy’).

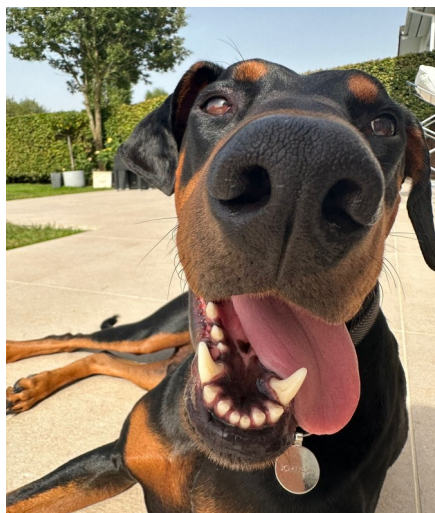
Vinnie’s home



Once home, of course, he was on high alert & a bit of a hooligan crashing / humping round the house but he loved his new family & raw food & settled extremely well in his crate overnight. No fuss, destruction, crying or mess & we’ve never looked back.



Despite Vinnie’s unsettled background, someone clearly once loved him & his manners in the home have always been 100% impeccable. We castrated him within 2 weeks and dispensed with the crate after 3 months.



Life after rescue — “Vinnie”



He's not allowed on the sofa unless your back is turned!

His home demeanour is incredible, although he remains hyper-vigilant of our home & grounds. In the early days, he regularly saved us from the 6- & 8-year-olds trampolining two doors down and the crows and magpies in our garden. Runners, dog walkers & school kids still get 'full-on gangster Vinnie' when the walk by the front of the house.

On and off the lead—W.I.P. !

Outside / lead work remains work in progress (WIP). It has been 9+ long, hard months of lead training. We're not sure Vinnie was every really walked other than at DRUE. We've tried everything; Halti; harness; long training lead; short training lead; high - value treats / distraction training; even whistle training.

We'd paid for a couple of training sessions with a local ex-Met Police dog handler (who was 'quite surprised' at Vinnie's strength & hyper-sensitivity on lead walks). Vinnie's cognitive retention seems limited & his vigilance remains supreme but we do feel we're making progress, albeit slowly.

Daily walks are slightly more bearable now. He zig-zags less & doesn't claw at the halti anymore causing his own

facial bleeding (these little wins!). The objective remains, that the whole family can walk him with confidence.



As for recall, he's 100% in the back garden, or a secure field and 10% when we're out on a walk with some quite hilarious stories to share.

Even if you offered him Beluga Cavier on a Palladium spoon he wouldn't care. I was out gardening in the front & I had his harness on, and the long training lead attached to the car, so he wasn't going anywhere (we thought). He'd been pacing for a few minutes & he'd clearly decided enough was enough of the harness.

How on earth he'd managed to back out of the snug fitting harness remains implausible to this day. The builders on the scaffolding across the road were looking at me as incredulously as I was looking at them "...how's he managed that?...", as Vinnie was in the last few seconds of escaping. It

was as if he'd dislocated his own shoulders like Houdini!

Once he's escaped, he's a bolter. He thinks the whistle is a starting whistle for the race.

He was fairly swiftly recaptured after his 'escape to victory' & there are many more stories like that. His favourite people are runners. He will run with anyone. He's no threat, he'd join them for their run and mind them all the way round their route, but joggers don't know that and he can appear intimidating, so we really have to distract him when we're out. We only let him off in a secure field now. Rarely off-lead on a walk unless there's completely no distractions.

But despite he escapology, fast acceleration and high top end speed, he thankfully, mostly comes back to the same point. Or you can generally catch him up within in about 35 to 45 minutes on his regular route, this is the limit of his running endurance. We know that's terrible recall, so we're wise to that now and we won't risk it.

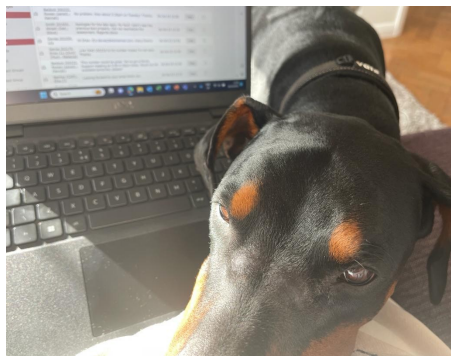


He can sprint this trail in about 3 mins

Life after rescue — “Vinnie”

Love dog

He always wants to be close and constantly wants loving even when we're at work on our computers.



He has another favourite family member, our son Joe.



He is always on the prowl for food. In addition to his 'raw' breakfast and dinner, we supplement his 'starvation' with a raw chicken wing for him to scythe through at lunch time. Giving him a raw wing at lunch time staves off his (stray's eternal) hunger & gives him confidence that dinner is on its way at 1630h if only he can find a way to survive those 4 hours of food deprivation.

He's now more confident around food and he doesn't steal anymore (another small win). He was a skinny 29kg on 'gotcha day' & he's nearly 37kg now which is optimal. He takes his dishwasher pre-rinse duties very seriously.



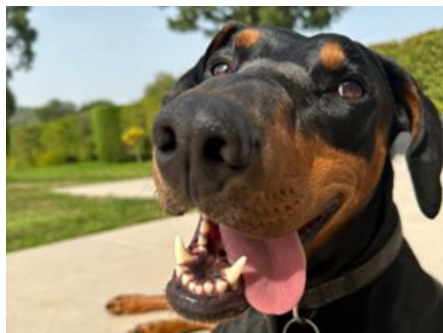
He really does love a celebration. We gave him a little 4th birthday bash, he loved the fuss and revelled in the attention.

Then the next big occasion was Christmas and boy did he take great delight in unwrapping his Christmas presents.



Life after rescue — “Vinnie” cont.

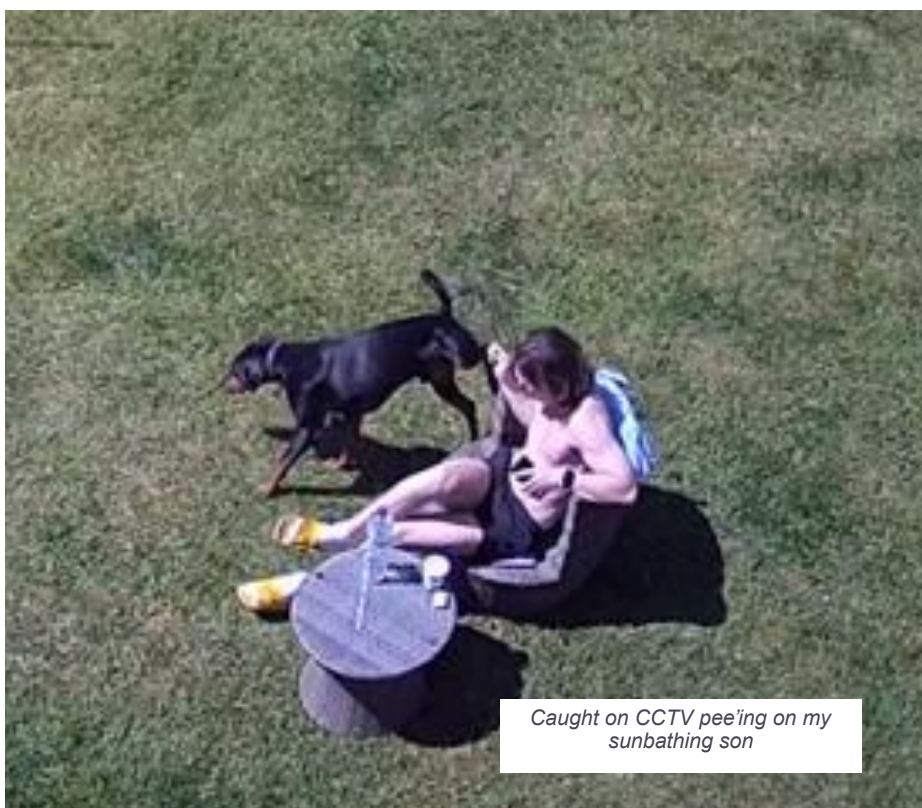
All in all, I'd say he's thriving in the large family environment with even better behaviour to follow.



He's good with everyone coming into the home, once he's done his vigilance / scaring duty at the front door. Then he sits & guards the visitor.

Caught on CCTV

When our son was sunbathing on a lounge, he went over and cocked his leg and pee'd on him. We caught it on CCTV (photo to the right). So funny!



Quick fire interview — Vinnie — 4 yrs old

Q. How long has he been in your life. **A.** He's been with us around 11 months now.

Q. Favourite food? **A.** Eats anything & everything although we limit him to raw breakfast & dinner.

Q. What makes you laugh about him? **A.** What makes us laugh is related to the dog walking 'loop' that we used to do with Vinnie. To set the scene it's about a 4.5k walk. The route goes under the M25 up to the North Downs of East Surrey then a lovely 'pull' across the 'Ridge' that crosses the Greenwich Meridian line and back over the M25 via footbridge into the field behind Oxted School. Lovely, picturesque route with panoramic views of East & West Surrey & into Kent & West Sussex. We occasionally let Vinnie off at the end of that loop but only in the field behind the school when he's tired.

What's funny & what we've now realised is there's no 'quick walk' with Vinnie & he doesn't get tired. The field behind the school is well contained, so if you fancy the quicker walk & try some recall training, that's the place to go. However, when he disappears for about 25 mins, we've now realised he re-traces the 'loop' route but in the opposite direction. He either runs it himself then eventually comes back (like a 9k run), or someone catches him at the 4.5k mark and 'phones us. How do we know this? He's done it a few times we believe but we've had two specific 'phone calls from dog lovers where he'd gone all the way back to the original start line & they caught him & called us. We don't let him off anymore. When he returns or we collect him, he's like a smiling little Hobbit. Looking at us like 'Dad, I've been on a great adventure!' Annoying & dangerous but quite funny now we've worked out where he goes.

Q. Does he have a naughty side? **A.** His naughty side is the blatant disregard for any recall & whilst it's not funny for us or the poor unsuspecting folks who have a 37kg German monster bearing down on them, at least we've made many new friends across the North Downs public footpath trails of Surrey. The regulars are beginning to know him now.

Q. If he was a famous person who would he be like? **A.** He'd be someone between Houdini for the escapology skills & Usain Bolt for the (bolting) acceleration & top-end speed.

Q. Best memory/adventure with him so far. **A.** Every moment and adventure is special. But what's really cute is that he's just started to wag properly around 8 months in. We simply thought the erect curly, pig tail & not wagging was a Dobe 'thing'. He's so loving, he likes being kissed, chatted to, obviously strokes & play. Now he's started wagging we're hopeful that will increase. We wouldn't be without him & his food driven goals. The constant, intense staring at us can be a bit freaky though!

Spotlight on our volunteer “Danielle”

Editor’s note:

We used a number of DRUE Life issues in 2023 to put the spotlight on some of our amazing team of volunteers. We intend to highlight more of our fabulous team members as we head through 2024.

We couldn’t give the dogs the stimulation they get these days, without these caring individuals who give up so much of their own time to spend with our rescues. Some are local and others travel many miles on a regular basis to do their bit for our Dobies.

The dogs are flourishing, they are taken out on regular adventures to give them a decent break from kennel life. They’ve visited parks, pubs, woodlands, hillsides, nature reserves, homes, been cani-cross running (one won a medal) and some have even been camping.

What a life our DRUE rescue Dobies are having, and it’s all made possible due to this fabulous group of volunteers we have.

Introducing Danielle

This month the spotlight falls on the lovely Danielle who can be found entertaining our Dobes on a very regular basis. Time now for Danielle to give us some background on her involvement with dogs and ultimately with DRUE.



Kisses from Rescue Ralph

Early canine experiences

I grew up with a Doberman called Bruno, we lost him when he was 11 and he made a lasting impression on me because he was the most docile and loving dog.

As soon as I was a "grown up" I got my own two dogs, two chocolate Labs called Maggie and Mooh who we all adored. Losing them at the ages of 13 and 14 was horrific and we all said that we would never put ourselves through that again so NO - MORE - DOGS.

That lasted around 10 weeks, I was thoroughly miserable without a canine friend and my mind kept wandering back to Bruno. We got our red and rust female Doberman, Daisy, in December 2020 and then took on our male, Seamus, in October 2021 as he was unwanted by his owners.



Having two young dogs has been a challenge but we wouldn't change it for the world. They love each other to bits, and we in turn love them.

Getting to know DRUE

I had followed DRUE on Facebook for a while and had actually applied for a couple of rescues but our children were quite young and our garden isn't what a rescue would class as secure so we weren't able to adopt.

When I saw that the rescue moved to Swettenham, I got in touch

When I saw that the rescue had moved to Swettenham I got in touch to ask if I could be of any help and I started volunteering there in April last year. The team were so welcoming, especially the kennel manager Dawn who I have loved working with. I usually go every Monday and Friday, although there are weeks when I go more often.



My son Paddy, with Rudy

It's something that my whole family has gotten on board with - my two children have been over to meet lots of the dogs, my husband was walking one of the puppies that is in at the moment last weekend, and when we've needed to dog test a new dog my own pups have been on duty for that!



Daisy 'dog testing' Ghost

Spotlight on our volunteer “Danielle”

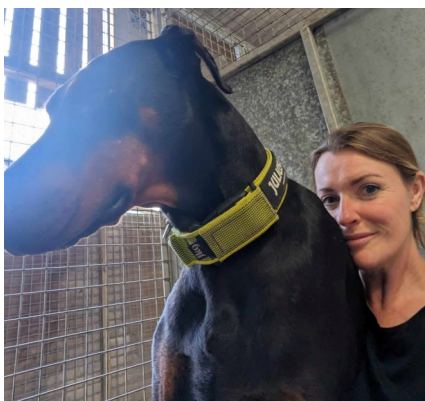
Getting to know the dogs

One of my favourite things is getting to know the dogs and their individual personalities. Some of the dogs are fortunate enough to be in and out of the kennels relatively quickly, but some are there for longer periods and you can really start to build a bond with them and discover what they really like.



One example that comes to mind is Diego - now Dobes aren't really known for their love of the water but on a trip out to a local nature reserve he couldn't get enough of it! So, whenever I had some spare time I would go and pick him up and take him somewhere where he could get as wet as possible! It was so rewarding watching him in his element.

Coco was a lovely girl, I wanted to take her out but all she wanted to do was sit on my lap and have a cuddle. She was a beautiful girl, very nervous when she came in so we spent a lot of time just sitting together.



Rudy was another dog that was in kennels for a while and we realised that his favourite thing was going for van rides! Again, when I had some spare time we would go for a drive, have a nice long walk somewhere and then go back to my house where he would potter around the garden on his lead with my husband (who was very upset when he was eventually adopted!).

Another highlight for me was when Dotty started getting in and out of my van. She has always been very reluctant to get into vehicles but we took things very slowly, I spent a lot of time with her so she knew she could trust me and eventually she knew that the van was ok because I was with her, and she didn't have to be afraid.



Dotty visiting my Mum's house

This really opened up what we could do - we have been on visits to the nature reserve, some quiet walks near to where I live and even to my mum's place so we could see how she behaved in a home environment. She obviously did brilliantly because she's an amazing girl!

I can honestly say that going the kennels is one of my favourite things to do with my time. There are days when we just play in the paddocks, the dogs gallop around and have lots of fun and cuddles, and other days when we go on lovely adventures to the pub, on new walks, or to busier places to see how the dogs react to certain situations. I like to think that all of this helps the dogs get the perfect forever home - we are able to tell the charity whether we think the dogs

would be happier in a pet free home, or if they would prefer a companion, if they like children etc.



Neo - I took him to a local dog show with my daughter and we won the egg and spoon race!

I also love taking photos of the dogs, I'm always delighted when my pictures appear on the adoption adverts, and some were even in the calendar this year - Dobermans are natural posers, and so photogenic, so it's usually pretty easy to get some lovely shots of them!

I would recommend volunteering to anyone, the team at DRUE is amazing and I've met such wonderful people as a result. The dogs make a lasting impression on me (I think I cried for about a week when Bobbi was adopted as I was completely besotted with him!) but seeing them go to their forever homes is something very special and I like to think that I help make their time in the kennels less stressful than it otherwise would have been.

Dobermans are a fabulous breed, but I think too many people rush into buying one without doing any research, or understanding that these tiny little puppies will grow into big powerful dogs that need training in order to be able to handle them. They are strong animals, they don't just learn to walk nicely by themselves, they need a lot of input. Obviously this is the case for all breeds, but it's easier to be dragged around on a walk by a 7kg dog!

Helping Louis recover



We have him booked into the vets and he will require some costly treatment to restore him to a healthy condition and deal with his ailments. We will also keep him with us until he is fully fit and recuperated, and ready to go to his new home.

We believe his date of birth is around Sept 21.

He is a lovely friendly chap who has shown no malice, he is just happy to be rescued and to be shown love and caring.

We have started a fundraising campaign for him at Gofundme to help with his long road to recovery.

<https://gofund.me/92eb6d56>

Thank you in advance for any contributions you might be able to offer to help Louis..

We will post regular updates on him on Facebook.



Many of you have seen our Facebook posts about this chap, he was found straying on the streets and taken to a dog pound. The pound contacted DRUE who immediately took him in, so he is now safe with us.

He is by far the worst we have seen in recent times. He is emaciated and full of sores on various parts of his body. He is bright, eating and has made friends with our long term resident Dotty. He has been named Louis by one of our wonderful supporters.



Free 4 day training challenge



Is life with your Dobie just too hard?

Does your life with your Dobermann often feel just too hard? Are you dealing with worry & frustration daily, possibly even stress & fear, or maybe you just dread getting up every morning to face the challenges each day holds with your Dobermann?

You are so not alone.

Reactivity is more and more common as are many of the behavioural issues listed below that I hear about & help owners with all the time in our breed:

- Barking & lunging at other dogs/people ?
- Mouthing & biting you ?
- Demand barking at you every night ?

- Steals everything ?
- Runs away from you?
- Destroys all your cushions/his bed/ everything ?
- Can't settle? Ever!
- Paces?
- Digs your sofa or carpet to Australia ?
- Charges & jumps on you ?
- Chases Cats, cyclists or joggers or all of them & more ?
- Barks & lunges at your TV?
- Barks, lunges or whines in your car ?
- Has no recall ?
- Is completely unable to listen to you?
- Lives in the red zone reacting to everything & anything?
- You can't have visitors in your house?
- Has pulled you over, he's so strong & pulls so hard on the lead?

Dobermanns are super intelligent and are an amazing breed but they are high drive, take a very long time to mature and because of the job they were specifically bred for, can very often be reactive to other dogs & people. We also see behaviour we don't understand often due to their energy levels and their big emotions. They can also be incredibly sensitive and are more often than not completely misunderstood, and this means that training methods commonly recommended or employed for them is completely inappropriate for the breed.

I am passionate about Dobermanns, having owned, trained and competed with them for over 40 years. I've also owned & rehabilitated several seriously reactive Dobbies of my own, the last one of whom came to me with a serious bite history.

Dobermanns are a breed apart, they

are not like other dogs, and, as a breed specialist, I know that to train Dobermanns successfully you need to learn to understand them and why they behave the way they do, and also how to take care of their very specific breed needs.

If you want to live in harmony and achieve the life you dreamed of with your Dobermann, you will need to be prepared to learn a lot yourself in order to be successful training him.

What your Dobermann practices the most will 100% become his best performance: So if that daily practice is lunging & barking at everything he meets on his walks, not only is he experiencing high levels of stress (and no doubt you are too) but he's rehearsing this behaviour regularly so it's only going to get worse for you both.

The Dobermann is unique and if we don't give him a job to do, he is excellent at going self employed. He will find himself all sorts of jobs to do which he enjoys but none of those self employed occupations will have a great end result for us, the human!

I know how worry, tension, shame, isolation & a sense of helplessness and lost dreams are all part and parcel of being a reactive or unruly Dobermann owner. We can even feel grief or loss as we realise that what we dreamed our lives would look like with our Dobermann is completely lost to us due to behavioural challenges. I can reassure you that it doesn't have to be this way.

I do know how hard it is to find the right professional help, advice and support that works, quite apart from the cost of it, particularly in today's current financial climate.

I'm so passionate about our breed and because I love to share my knowledge with as many Dobermann owners as possible, and my mission



Free 4 day training challenge

is to absolutely improve the lives of our dogs & provide them with kind, ethical training that works, for the first time ever I am opening up the doors to my brand new Dobermann Owners Membership Club. "Dobercademy Reducing Reactivity & Everything Dobermann" on 29th February 2024. This is an exclusive membership group that will run for a year & will provide the highest end online training & personal coaching & support from myself & my Dobercademy Team for you and your Dobermann.

At Dobercademy we help many owners all over the UK & the World, to reclaim their freedom with their reactive or rascally, self employed Dobermanns and we want to help more owners like you to realise your dreams and be able to go out and about to beaches, cafes, on holiday, enjoy beautiful walks or whatever your personal goal looks like for you and your Dobermann.

We have helped many clients who have become proud to walk around in public drawing compliments on their Dobermann's loose lead walking or ability to settle in a public place - just imagine what that feels like!

Just a few of the things you will learn In our Membership are :

What is normal for Dobermanns - this is a relief and often a surprise for many owners which then assists them with their training plan & expectations

Why Dobermanns are so misunderstood and how this impacts negatively on your training

The unique & important characteristics of the Dobermann that are not known by generic dog trainers

Body language of the Dobermann which will absolutely help you avoid bites, fights & other antisocial or embarrassing incidents & injury to yourself or others

Common misconceptions around training your Dobermann so you can uplevel your training ability avoiding these

By learning to understand all about our Dobermanns, our lives and theirs will dramatically improve.

If you'd like to find out more about my new membership, how it will work and what an investment it is for you and your Dobermann, wherever you are in the World, I am extending my invitation to you to join me on my free 4 day Dobermann training challenge, during which I will be sharing some free powerful information & training advice for all Dobermann owners, covering; reactivity, antisocial & difficult behaviour, advice on adolescence and much more.

Come & learn for free when I will also be covering in detail what my brand new "Dobercademy Reducing Reactivity & Dobermann Owners Training Club Membership" will include & cover for you over the coming year and how you can join us when the doors open on 29th February.

Dobercademy: Changing lives

Dobercademy is changing lives by providing knowledge, coaching & education for you and training for your Dobermann through kindness, knowledge & understanding. If both ends of the lead can learn & be

supported success follows.

Education starts with us and once we understand that we can help our Dobermann.

Sign up for her free 4 day training challenge

https://portal.busypaws.app/customers/dobercademy?location_id=87&service_id=3860

You can find out more about Sharon and Dobercademy on her website: <https://dobercademy.co.uk/>

Or, search for Dobercademy on Facebook



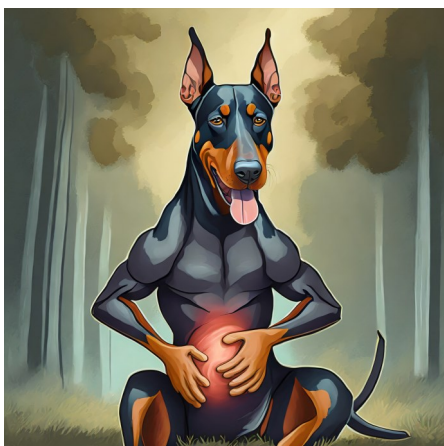
Conditioning and exercise - Part 3

Following on from last months article...

Lactic acidosis

This is an unusual painful condition that can occur in healthy human and canine athletes after exercise. During normal exercise the liver and kidneys maintain the balance of lactic acid produced by the muscles for energy, and remove it from the body.

When the body is tired and working anaerobically without oxygen lactic acid is not adequately cleared from the blood and accumulates in the muscles, causing lactic acidosis.



Common symptoms include excessive panting, sickness and abdominal cramps. Persistent lactic acid in the body can affect cardiac and other organ functions.

Progress gradually

Progress gradually if you are planning to start running or cycling with your adult dog, ease him into the new exercise routine slowly as you would for yourself, by including just a minute or two of a steady trot in your normal walk.

Gradually progressed to more small runs a few times a week, rather than one long run a week, which puts both you and the dog under duress, and which will be less beneficial in the long term. Little and often is key to building fitness.

If you and your dog are overweight, you will both struggle with the extra stress on bones and joints, so work up to running slowly and avoid strenuous endurance or speed work until you are both at peak fitness.

Walk purposefully

Like all dogs, Dobermanns prefer an active and purposeful walking pace rather than a meandering wander pace, so if you can't manage a run or a cycle ride, provide a satisfying march to get the dog into a good stride and workout. The discipline of structured exercise can be very satisfying, and if the dog spends the whole walk sniffing the floor, he is not making the most of the walk.



There is plenty of time for sniffing when he is off lead in the woods on a recreational walk. Similarly, with both males and females, don't let them stop and pee every few minutes. Males in particular like to mark every lamppost, but you are playing a poor leader if you allow your dog to have each pee stop he fancies. There is plenty of time for both scent stops and pee stops on a recreational walk; Try and get into a good rhythmic stride on your walk or run, and let the brain switch off whilst the body moves forwards.

Injuries: Identifying injuries

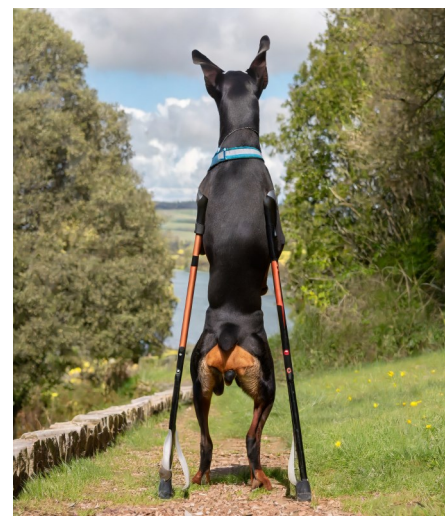
Ligaments and tendons are very similar to each other in their

functions: tendons attach muscle to bone, and ligaments attach bone to bone. This can make identifying injuries quite difficult as a symptoms of injury are similar. Both are made of collagen fibres for elasticity but they are created differently for each function.

The fibres in tendons run parallel to each other to allow for more stretching the muscles, while in ligaments the fibres are formed in a crosshatch pattern to keep the joints stable.

The relative rigidity of ligaments can cause them to tear or rupture when they are under strain or subject to a sudden force, and cruciate ligament injuries are common in both human sportsmen and women and in some dogs. Both humans and dogs are susceptible to cruciate ligament injuries, particularly when turning fast at high speed, where strain equivalent to G forces is exerted on joints and ligaments.

Tendons can become partially torn but will heal, but a total rupture can cause complete loss of movement.



These types of injury may result in the dog pulling up suddenly usually with the Yelp and limping, so if you suspect this has happened, you should see the vet to ascertain if any treatment is needed, or just rest. Do

Conditioning and exercise - Part 3

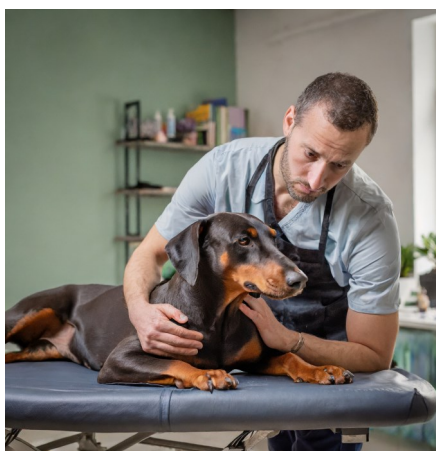
not continue with exercise if ligament or tendon damage is suspected, as more damage can occur.

For this very good reason puppies should have only limited exposure to hard or long durations of exercise, otherwise their joints will suffer, and their tendons and ligaments are not strong enough to support excessive stress. Even games on flat ground, such as chasing a frisbee, can put extreme force on the soft tissues on the outside of the carpal joints when the dog stops and turns.

Assessing for injuries

whether you are conditioning your dog for performance work or the show ring, or just going for a hike through the local woods, it is useful to have a professional assess your dog at least once or twice a year to prevent small problems developing into more serious conditions.

Dog competition is contended very seriously nowadays, and the owners of dogs competing in top flight agility, working trials, Schutzhund and so on will have their canine athletes assessed regularly by professionals to ensure the dog isn't carrying even a small injury which could be impacting on its performance.



Even minor injuries can affect the way joint works, as the dog will develop alternative movement styles to avoid stressing the injured part further.

Compensatory issues can then occur as the body isolates area of pain to reduce stress on the affected area, and as a result stresses are added to other areas changing how the dog walks, runs and jumps.

The observant owner who notices that something is not quite right will glean much more information than just the fact that the dog is lame. For example, is he weight bearing evenly, or leaning slightly one way? Is he resting one leg by dropping down from the hip as a human would stand relaxed with one hip dropped, or is 1 foot being raised slightly off the floor and then put back down again? Are his muscles the same size on each side, or do some bulge more, or are some flatter than others?

A healthy solid spine has strong lumbar muscles on each side, and by feeling or looking at those, the owner may see if some of the spinal segments stick up further than others, or if the muscles are shrunken or enlarged on one side or the other- this could indicate a long standing lower back problem, possibly from pain and or nerve compression.

Raised hair is a very useful indicator of a potential problem as tense muscles and nerves create a dimpled effect over the area of tension, causing the hair around it to stand on end.

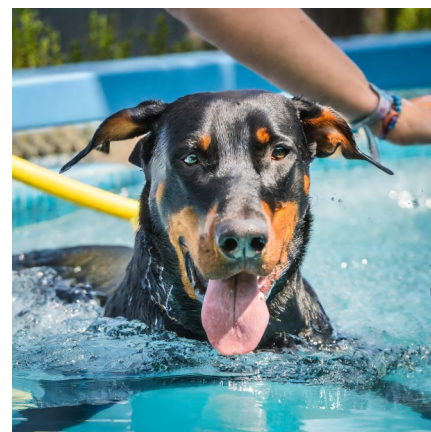
Excessive licking is also symptomatic of injury. Other signs of underlying tension may be:

- Stiffness after exercise, even if it wears off
- Restlessness
- A change of shape
- Tightening of the collar without any weight gain
- Loss of hindquarter muscle
- A dry nose

- Unusual performance
- Concentration errors
- Lack of enthusiasm for an exercise the dog has previously loved

Treatment options

If a dog is injured there are various treatment options available apart from veterinary care, ranging from chiropractors, remedial sports masseurs, and hydro therapy stroke water treadmill gait analysis;



These will also ensure the dog stays in peak performance condition.

Hydrotherapy centres

These can now be found in most big towns, and usually include a warm pool, and more commonly these days a water treadmill where gaits can be analysed.



Conditioning and exercise - Part 3

Hydrotherapy works all the muscles in balance without the stress of impact. A good canine hydrotherapist will hold dogs steady and horizontal in the pool to work muscles evenly.

In some older pools the water is cold, which is not as beneficial for muscles that have not already been warmed up, as working cold and unloosened muscles defeats the purpose of any exercise.

Chiropractic treatment and physiotherapy massage

Invaluable for any dog and particularly those which regularly take part in sports such as agility and IPO (Schutzhund).

Chiropractic treatments may also be useful for preventing lick sores, as dogs often chew areas of discomfort on the body.

Puckered areas or raised hair often indicates underlying damage and strain, which can be relieved by a combination of approaches.

Galen myotherapy

A long established method of assessing and treating dogs with postural and loading issues, and which suffer muscle pain caused by repetitive strain or injury, or compensatory problems from such conditions as arthritis or joint disease.



Before treatment the dog is assessed to identify any behavioural traits specific to the muscle pain and dysfunction, along with observation of posture and loading, gait (walk) analysis and hands on palpitation of the whole dog to identify muscle dysfunction that may be causing the lameness or lack of mobility.

Once the source of the problem is identified, the hands on treatment relieves the inhibited muscle congestion to help restore posture, ease pain and facilitate eased joint function.



Reference Galen myotherapy, West Sussex, England, 01403 740189.

Thermal radio graphic imaging

This very clever system uses the thermal sensitive camera to take a graphical image of the infrared radiation (heat) being emitted by the body called a thermogram.

Hot areas show up on a camera monitor as red, and cool areas appear blue.



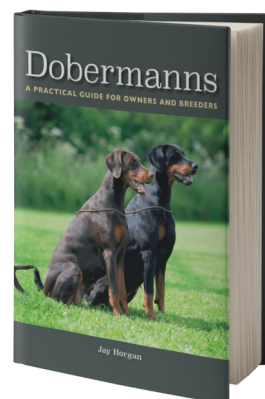
Physiotherapists

Vets are the general practitioners of the animal world, but unless they specialise in a particular area they can't reasonably be expected to spot every out of place hair.

There are now many good canine physiotherapists in most regions.

Anyone working with animals in these professions must be registered with their relevant regulatory body.

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



DRUE LIFE



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.



Please join our 1st of the month £2 pledge

Donate for the Dobies

Every penny holds immense significance, shaping a remarkable impact.

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.

Please support us by setting up a direct debit on the 1st of the month for a £2 contribution, hopefully you won't miss it but the Dobies will benefit greatly.

Account: Dobermann Rescue UK & Europe
Account No. 61927168
Sort code 30-84-26

THE 3 DAYS. 3 WEEKS. 3 MONTHS RULE OF ADOPTING A RESCUE DOG

**THIS IS A GENERAL GUIDELINE, EVERY DOG IS UNIQUE
AND WILL ADJUST TO THEIR NEW ENVIRONMENT DIFFERENTLY**

IN THE FIRST 3 DAYS

Overwhelmed with their new surroundings. Not comfortable enough to be themselves. Reluctance to eat or drink. May shut down and curl up in their bed, crate or in a corner. May be stressed, scared and not know what is happening. May try to test you to see what they can get away with.

AFTER 3 WEEKS

Starting to settle in, feeling more comfortable, and realising this really may be their forever home. Figured out their environment and getting into the routine that you have set. May start showing their real personality. Behavioural issues may start showing, this is your time to put boundaries in place and show them what is right and wrong.

AFTER 3 MONTHS

Now completely comfortable in their home. You have built trust and a bond with your dog, which gives them a complete sense of security with you. They are set in their routine and will come to expect the routine to continue





DRUE LIFE



4 REASONS TO SUPPORT DRUE



We are 100% invested in the dogs wellbeing.

We aim to ensure the dogs are stimulated everyday with time out of their kennels to walk, run, play.



We have a highly motivated team made up of professionals and experienced Dobermann owners/handlers.

We aim to save and rehome as many Dobermann dogs in need as we can, but we need your help!



WAYS TO HELP US



One off donations, monthly standing orders, take part in our fundraisers

Gifts, treats, coats, PJs
robust toys for the dogs



Bank details
Account name: Dobermann
Rescue UK & Europe
Sort code: 30-84-26
Account Number: 61927168

PayPal
druecharity@gmail.com
Please tick friends and family



Contact us & Follow us



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