



Dobermann Rescue UK and Europe (DRUE) Presents

# DRUE LIFE



### This month's cover girl is Mabel

Mabel is still dreaming of her forever home, our stunning Isabella (cream) Dobermann. Mabel is a true "cuddle monster" - affectionate, loving, and beautiful.

We're puzzled why this lovely girl hasn't found her perfect match yet. Could you be the one to give Mabel the home she deserves? See more information on our lovely lady, on pages 9 & 10.

February 2025

Issue 26

## Welcome from the editor

As we embrace the new year, we're excited to share with you some pupdates.

### Online shop

Celebrate love this Valentine's Day with some great Dobermann-themed gifts, more valentines items available online from Monday 3rd Feb, every purchase supports our mission to rescue and rehome these loyal dogs.

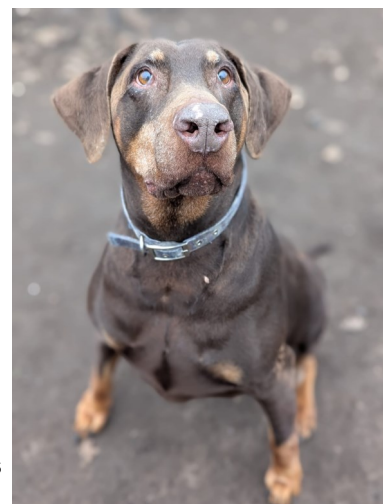
### Urgent appeal for our seniors

Our hearts are heavy as we share the stories of two elderly Dobermanns who have recently lost their owners. These gentle souls, now in their twilight years, must be bewildered by the sudden change. They are looking for compassionate individuals

who can provide them with love and comfort in their final chapters.

Please consider opening your heart and home to these dear old dogs who need love and stability more than ever.

**Polska**—Black and tan 10yrs old  
**Thor**—Brown 11yrs old



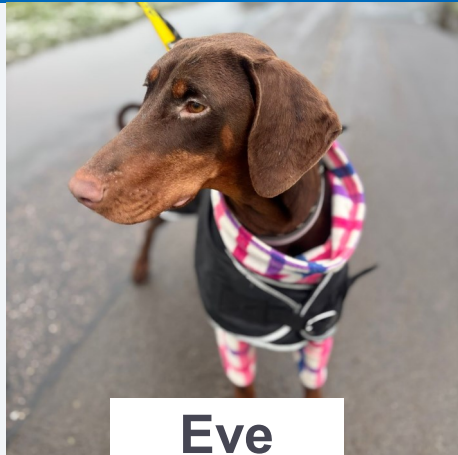
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## Dogs who found their new forever home



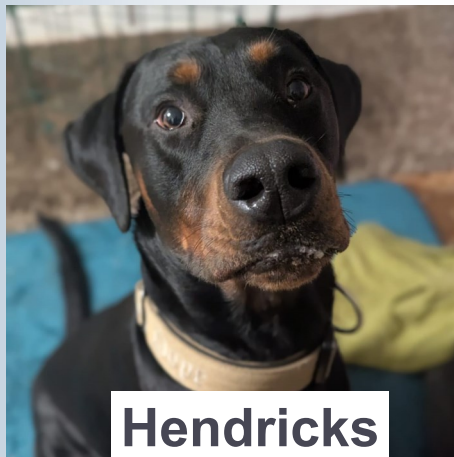
**Roni**



**Eve**



**Rupert**



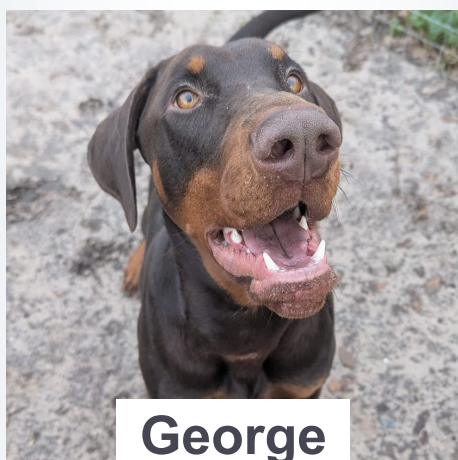
**Hendricks**



**Enzo**



**Sid**



**George**

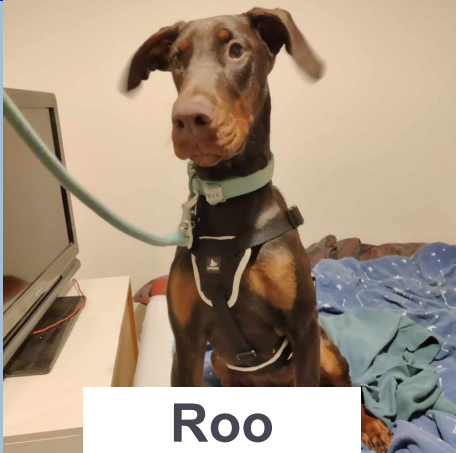


**Rhea**

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](http://www.dobermanmannrescueuk.co.uk)

## Please help me, I need a home !



**Roo**



**Luna**



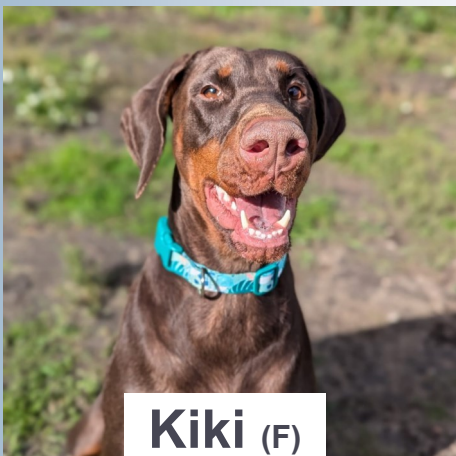
**Mabel**



**Thor**



**Polska**



**Kiki (F)**



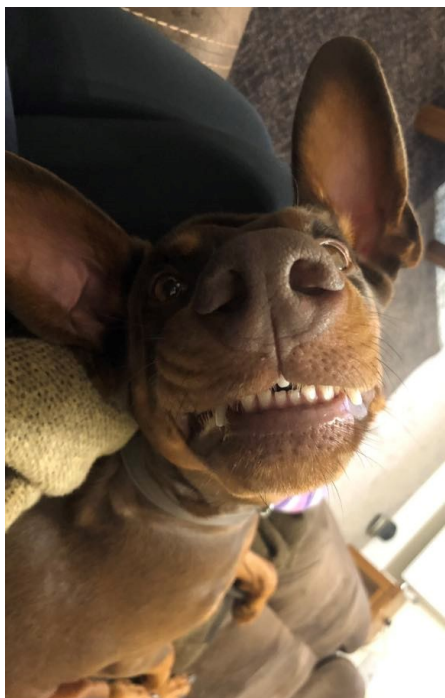
**Molly (F)**



**Ava (F)**

Can you give one of our dogs a home?  
Find out more about them and complete an application on  
[www.dobermanrescueuk.co.uk](http://www.dobermanrescueuk.co.uk)

## Life after rescue — “Mrs Coco-Pops” The good the bad and the ugly!



**Editor:** This month we talk to Sam and find out about the lovely “Mrs Coco-Pops”. I love to hear how Sam overcame the difficult Diva issues, by finding the correct trainer and most of all for NEVER giving up on her. Over to Sam for her story...

### The struggle to move on

I sadly lost my last dobie back in 2008, which absolutely devastated me at the time, I couldn't bring myself to have another dog as felt it would be a betrayal to my previous dobie and emotionally wasn't good for me, due to my personal life at the time.

In 2016, I moved with my partner (Dave) to a rundown (nearly derelict) farmhouse with a bit of land which is when he tried to convince me again it was time to give another dobie a beautiful life in the country but I still felt it wasn't the right time.

### Finding DRUE

In mid 2017, Dave sent me a link to the DRUE website and a poor timid

and nervous dog called Kismet (from memory) that needed rehoming. As my previous dobie had been a nervous rescue dobie, something about Kismet made me think I could possibly help her, and for the first time in 9 years... I thought I may be ready!

I filled in an application form which seemed to take forever to be acknowledged and chased on several occasions to see if someone could carry out a home visit. I initially dealt with a lady in Sheffield (her name escapes me) then found out that there were some on going issues and that the Sheffield DRUE rescue would be closing.

After waiting for another couple of weeks, I accepted it wasn't meant to be and clearly not my time to own another fur baby.

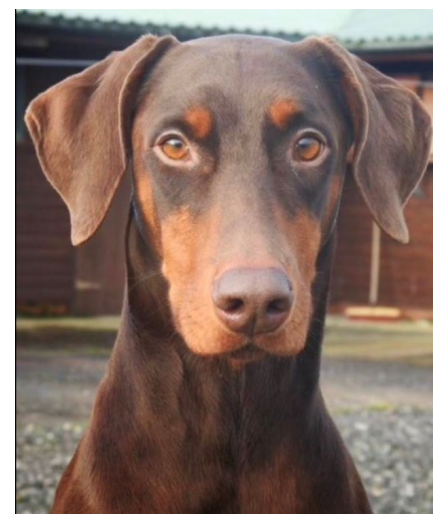
Then randomly out of the blue, I was contacted by a lady called Liz who confirmed that DRUE was then operating solely from Stoke On Trent and if I was still interested in rehoming a dobie, she would arrange a home visit.

I asked about Kismet however by this time, she'd been rehomed leaving me feeling a little disappointed however Liz convinced me to go ahead with a home visit so if and when another suitable dobie became available, I'd be “good to go” and ready to rehome.

Shortly after my home visit, Liz contacted me ago to say she'd found the “perfect match” for us and given our previous experience with nervous rescue dobie (I still laugh now looking back on this conversation)!

She told me she had a 5-month-old bitch called Coco who was being rehomed due to her not getting along with the resident family dog she'd

gone to live with from a puppy and was showing stressful and emotional behaviour but should hopefully be manageable in the right environment.

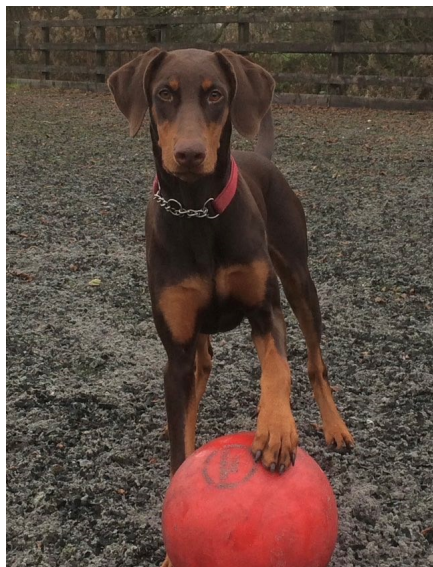


Due to Coco's age, Liz had decided to take her home rather than leave her in the kennels, she was totally honest and said the situation had been challenging with her own 3 dobies but felt with the right home and training she'd come round and would settle down in time!



I went to the Stoke kennels one weekend on my own due to my partner working, where I first met Coco.

## Life after rescue — “Mrs Coco-Pops” The good the bad and the ugly!



I spent about 30 minutes in the secure compound and was barked at constantly by this noisy vocal little diva with an attitude for the whole period I was there. Every time I tried to connect with her, she'd run at me, bark and then run off.

Eventually, after half hour, I walked away feeling that she would be too challenging for me and I would literally be “biting off more than I could chew” with Coco given her “issues” however as I went to walk out of the gate, she suddenly ran over to me, gave me a nudge and let me stroke her staring at me with the most beautiful but scared soulful eyes.

As I left, I told Liz I really didn't know if I'd be the right person for Coco clearly given her needs, but I'd discuss with Dave and come back to her.

For the next few days, I kept deliberating on whether we had enough experience to bring her on and give her the time clearly needed to help this little lost soul.

After a week, Liz rang to see if I'd had any further thoughts, and from

nowhere, I just said, yes, we'd give it a go without Dave even meeting her and that was it!



For the first 48 hours, Coco hardly left her crate (see above) and would grumble every time walked into the kitchen and passed her. She would reluctantly go outside to do her business encouraged with food (which we soon realised was her Achilles heel). On day 3, this little head appeared around the door frame into the front room where she sat quietly looking absolutely petrified though determined not to move.



Over the next few weeks, she started to slowly decompress, and her confident levels seemed to slightly

improve so we naively thought we'd started to break through with her, then the fun and games really began!!!



In the first month and after being introduced to several members of both sets of families, we really began to understand how reactive Coco was toward people when she decided to “strike” from behind to taste the bottoms of one uncle and 2 sister in laws before running off like a petrified wide eyed obsessed animal.

By this time, we started to feel we had definitely taken on more than we could handle, so I decided to contact a couple of dog trainers to see what they recommended and whether they could possibly help?

After meeting the first trainer and having an assessment, he suggested that the kindest option would be to PTS as she clearly had deep underlying issues and he felt her quality of life would be hindered by her reactive nature given the disturbing signs demonstrated during the assessment!

At this stage I just took my dog, loaded her into the car and drove off

## Life after rescue — “Mrs Coco-Pops” The good the bad and the ugly!

without giving his “recommendations” at second thought.

As upsetting as this situation was at the time, it was the turning point for me to ensure that somehow I would ensure that Coco would live a happy and prosperous life going forward.



I then joined another local group dog training programme which I attended for approx. 12-18 months which definitely assisted Coco with her socialisation, but she still continued to demonstrate reactive behaviour towards other people and other dogs.

As time went on, we reluctantly accepted that our beautiful “Mrs Coco Pops” had underlying issues which we were thankfully learning to manage by taking her out of any stressful and difficult situations and managed her reactive towards humans with a “slowly slowly catchy monkey” approach when meeting and bonding with new people.

In July 2019, we decided to go on our first family holiday abroad since having Mrs Coco Pops though due to everyone going on the same holiday, we had to put Coco into kennels.

I contacted Liz regarding recommended kennels and given that

she was still running DRUE from the kennels, she suggested I boarded my ‘ASBO’ puppy dog there so she could keep an eye on her, take her out into the paddock and give her some exercise.



Whilst we were on holiday, I remember seeing a post on the DRUE Facebook page posted by Liz (above) which made me realise we’d really broken through with our “little aggressive puppy who had grown up into a beautiful girl”



Early into 2022, DRUE were kindly donated an on-line training course “Reactive Behaviour” to auction for their fundraising by Sharon Chamberlin from Dobercademy which I successfully bid on and won which is when the “game changer” with Mrs Coco Pops really began!

Over the coming weeks and months, the training really taught me to fully understand how to communicate with Mrs Coco Pops, recognise her needs and requirements, to understand and manage her triggers along with reading her body language in all aspects of her life. If there’s one word of advice I could give anyone with a reactive dobie... it’s to find the right trainer!

Life today with Mrs Coco Pops is now considerably calmer and more settled though at nearly 8 years of age, she’s still a “Crazy Brown” who keeps us entertained on a daily basis!



She’s very much like Velcro and is normally stuck by her dad’s side in the daytime and then a mummy’s little girl of an evening.

## Life after rescue — “Mrs Coco-Pops” The good the bad and the ugly!

She’s always content and comfortable in our company and wherever we go she’s happy to follow sticking to us like glue.

Her favourite place is definitely Formby Beach where she “smiles” for hours running around and acting like a puppy dog before settling down for lunch and “thieving” butties in the sand dunes



### Editors note:

This is a wonderful success story of resilience and commitment. In the end, the journey with the very challenging “Mrs Coco-Pops” taught them the true essence of patience and unconditional love.

Today, they stand as a testament to perseverance in the face of adversity that has led to the most rewarding of friendships.



Finally.....there has never been a dull moment since Mrs Coco Pops entered our lives, there have been lots of “ups and downs” along the way however if there’s any advice I could give to an owner with a reactive dobie it would be:-

- Don’t ever give up.
- Find the right trainer for you and your dobie.
- Love and cherish your fur baby giving them all the love, security and routine needed to ensure they are happy and content



### Quick fire interview — Mrs Coco Pops— 7 years 8 months old

**Q. How long has she been in your life?** A. 7 years and 3 months.

**Q. Favourite food?** A. Anything...She’s an absolute gannet, anything goes, though her absolute favourite “scooby snack” is daddy’s prawns at dinner time!

**Q. If she was a famous person who would he be likened to & why?** A. Audrey Hepburn for her beauty and Amy Winehouse for her attitude!

**Q. What makes you laugh about her?** A. every morning she opens the kitchen door when the alarm goes off, runs upstairs, knocks the bedroom door off the hinges, robs anything she can find on the floor (normally socks), jumps on the bed, drops the socks on daddy’s head then gives him a big sloppy kiss before running back downstairs to the fridge for her morning “scooby snack”.

**Q. Does she have a naughty side?** A. Yes, everyday she does something to entertain and make us laugh. After being parents to both black and tan and crazy browns, the browns definitely have a naughtier side!

**Q. Best memory/adventure with her so far?** A. There have been so many but definitely our visits to Formby Beach, seeing her coming in leaps and bounds and developing over the years and watching her being “Lady of the Manor” around the home.

## Why I loved my rescue “Frankie”

### Thinking of love as we approach Valentines day

As a special for this coming Valentines day we wanted to do a feature on our Facebook fundraiser site on 'love', in particular why you love your rescue. We asked for you to share your rescue's photo and let us know (with a sentence or two) why you love them

All of the entries touched our hearts and it was a difficult and somewhat emotional task for our judge 'Kat' to select the winning entry. But one stood out in particular and pulled at the heart strings; Marky Newcastle who lost his most his beautiful boy Frankie just weeks ago.



Marky said...

This is Frankie, and although he broke my heart when he crossed the rainbow bridge 4 weeks ago he was and always will be my special boy.

He proved everyone wrong and showed the world why rescue dogs simply need the right person to show them they are safe and loved beyond measure.





## Please... I'm Mabel and I need someone to love me

**Our most beautiful Mabel is still with us looking for her forever home**

Mabel arrived at the kennels on a snowy morning in November.



She had been picked up as a stray and served her 7 days in the pound. Luckily we had space and were able to save her life.



From the instant she arrived she was a firm favourite with everyone - each person is greeted with her bum for scratches and she will happily snuggle on the sofa in the office with any willing team member.



We thought that Mabel's unusual colouring and gorgeous personality would mean that she would have a very short stay with us, but alas, Christmas came and went and after 3 months she is still here.

Mabel is known by many names by the team at DRUE, as follows:

### Muttering Mabel



She loves the sound of her own voice when she's on her lead and will shout at passing dogs at the top of her lungs. Please don't let this vocal behaviour put you off (after all so many other dogs do the same). But as anyone who has followed her beautiful friendship with Enzo can see, she's not an aggressive dog by any stretch of the imagination.

### Matey Mabel



Even before Enzo arrived she loved to play with the other dogs in the kennels and has been somewhat of a social butterfly. She is full on but Dobs aren't known for their gentle play style! *Continued next page.*

## Please... I'm Mabel and I need someone to love me

### Moonstruck Mabel



Mabel found love! She adores to play with the little Enzo.



They bounce off each other in play and love going on walks together. He is her side-kick and she loves his company.

### Marvellous Mabel

This girl can be dressed in anything and will always look fabulous! She can usually be seen rocking the latest in dog fleece fashion and pulling it off effortlessly, she's a real stunner!



### Muddy Mabel



One of her favourite things to do is have a nice clean set of pyjamas popped on and find the nearest muddy patch to roll around in. She's making sure our washing machines are getting a work out!



Unfortunately the latest nickname that she's earned is...Mussy Mabel

### Mussy Mabel

She's come into season and oh dear, this has signalled the end of all playdates with best bud Enzo.

As Enzo leaves us very soon it's saddened us all that she won't get to enjoy his company again. For this reason we would love to see this beautiful and loving girl in a home of her own so she can enjoy the life that she fully deserves and have her much loved bum scratches for many years to come.



### Can you help Mabel

Please contact us if you are in a position to give this beautiful affectionate girl a home.



## Spotlight on our volunteer "Kym"

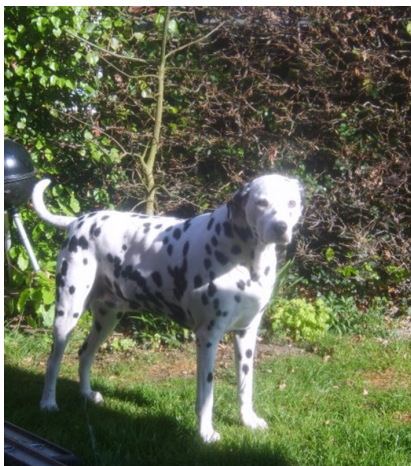
### Introducing Kym

This month we have the pleasure of introducing yet another one of our amazing volunteers, Kym. I've had the pleasure of walking the dogs with her and now we can all read her story, over to Kym...

### My own life with dogs

I've always loved dogs, and animals in general, for as long as I can remember. Growing up, our neighbours had large breeds like German Shepherds and a Rottweiler, and I was fascinated by them. As a child, I couldn't get enough of animal programmes and films, 101 Dalmatians was a firm favourite in our house, especially with me and my three younger brothers.

Our own family's dog journey began when I was 11 years old, with Oscar, a Dalmatian who I quickly dubbed my "fourth brother." He was utterly food-obsessed, and having our first family dog felt like a dream come true. Oscar became such a huge part of our lives, joining us on family holidays to Anderby Creek are memories I'll always cherish. Picture this: six people crammed into a static caravan with one very excitable Dalmatian, it was chaotic, but unforgettable!



When I was about 13, I started working weekends at a local dog kennel and cattery. I met all kinds of breeds there, but surprisingly, I never came across a Dobermann.

Fast forward a few years, I often saw a man in my hometown walking an absolutely stunning Dobermann called Nero (pic below).



Although I never said hello to them, those encounters left a lasting impression, and it was amazing to hear that this man and his family later adopted the gorgeous Louis from DRUE just last year (pic below).



As I got older, having my own dog became a top priority. I made it very clear to every boyfriend I ever had that if they weren't dog lovers, it simply wasn't going to work. Luckily, my husband Lewis, although had a family cat growing up, not only loved dogs but had a particular soft spot for Dobermanns.

His Aunty and Uncle had owned one, Cleo, when he was young, and he'd always been fascinated by her. In his words, if we were to get a dog, it had to be a "dog-shaped dog," and for him, that meant a Dobermann.

We agreed we would get a Dobermann puppy when we moved into a larger, detached home.



We moved in September 2017 and Dex was born 4th July 2018. We both did a great deal of research on the breed and even bought the book 'Dobermanns, A Practical guide for owners and breeders' which is written by one of DRUEs Trustees, Jay.

## Spotlight on our volunteer "Kym"



Our beautiful boy Dex is now 6.5 years old. He's as tall as me and nearly the same weight too, yet thinks he's the size of a lap dog.



He is incredibly clever, knows about 20 commands and his favourite things are, ball...ball is life, cuddling with me and

Lewis, anything involving mental stimulation and suckling his blankie. Oh, and beaches! He loves the beach!



### Finding out about DRUE

We first came across DRUE about four years ago through social media. On 28th August 2021, Lewis and I visited one of their open days when the kennels were still based in Stoke.

At the time, we already had Dex but hadn't had the chance to meet many other Dobermanns since getting him. The open day was the perfect opportunity to spend time with more Dobs, and it didn't disappoint. We had such a brilliant day playing with the rescue pups and chatting with fellow Dobermann owners. It was wonderful to connect with others who share the same love and admiration for the breed.

### The motivation behind becoming a DRUE volunteer

I've always been passionate about animal welfare. I had previously volunteered for the RSPCA as a home visitor, helping to assess potential adopters. It was my role to visit their homes, ensure the environment was suitable for the animal they wanted to adopt, and have meaningful conversations to make sure they'd thought through the responsibilities of pet ownership.

When DRUE moved to Goostrey, Cheshire, I was absolutely thrilled, it was just a short journey from my home. Around the same time, a close friend told me about her aunt, who had volunteered for Cancer Research for 30 years before she passed away. Her dedication really inspired me. With DRUE now so close by, I thought to myself, "I can make time for these dogs!" I reached out to the kennel coordinator, and the rest is history.

### My typical day at DRUE

A day at DRUE is a perfect mix of walks, training, play, cuddles, and

plenty of leaning (Dobermanns do love a good lean!). Every dog gets the individual attention they crave, and it's all about making their day as enriching as possible.

When you arrive at the kennels after breakfast time, there's often a calm stillness. If you're quiet, you'll spot the dogs cosily curled up on their plush, well-padded beds. But as soon as they notice you, their little faces light up with excitement, and their personalities truly shine. Some will press themselves against their kennel with those irresistible "please stroke me" eyes, others belt out the 'song of their people' to grab your attention, and some, like the beautiful Mabel, prefer a good vertical, starfish stretch before greeting you.



After saying hello to all pups, the fun begins. Coats on (if needed), leads clipped, and we're off! The day might include paddock/secure field time, a long walk, indoor play and sofa cuddles in the on-site office, or even a bigger adventure further afield. Very often, it's a mix of all of the above.

## Spotlight on our volunteer “Kym”



On-site, the dogs enjoy plenty of high-value raw treats, sprats and pigs' ears are firm favourites! The generosity of

DRUE's supporters shines through here too, with amazing treats and toys often sent in from kind-hearted individuals and companies.

Sometimes we'll head out together as a group, each walking a dog. It's a brilliant way to socialise the dogs while connecting with other volunteers. There's such a strong sense of community at DRUE; we all share a love for these wonderful dogs, and it's clear they feel it too.



Everyone works together to ensure the kennels are spotless and the bedding is always plush and fresh. Bedding and PJs are regularly taken home by staff and volunteers to be washed, so there's always a clean supply ready for the dogs. It's a real team effort, and everyone plays their part to keep things running smoothly.

### The challenges and rewards

One of the most challenging aspects of volunteering is hearing about the heartbreaking situations some dogs have endured. Whether

it's abuse, arriving in poor condition, being found as strays, or losing their owner. It's heartbreaking to witness.



However, volunteering at DRUE is a rollercoaster of emotions. The moment a dog arrives safely at the kennels, there's an overwhelming sense of relief. You know they're in the right place, where they'll be cared for with the love and attention they deserve.

The rewards far outweigh the challenges. Being part of each dog's journey to their forever home is incredible. There's no better feeling than seeing a dog rehomed with a wonderful family, knowing they'll be cherished from now on. And the updates? They're the best! Especially those cosy living room photos of the dogs relaxing in their new homes.

### Getting to know the dogs who might be shy, scared, or reactive

When meeting a shy, scared, or reactive dog, especially one arriving at the kennels for the first time, it's essential to remember that even if they've come from a loving home, they may be feeling anxious and confused. No matter how warm, clean, and welcoming the kennels are or how kind and caring the team at DRUE is, the transition can still be overwhelming and frightening for them.

I approach these situations with calmness, armed with high-value treats and toys to help build trust. I always give the dog plenty of space, avoid sudden movements, and focus on positive reinforcement. That said, there's no one-size-fits-all approach. Each Dobermann has its own unique personality and backstory, so it's important to adapt to their individual needs.

Empathy for their past experiences is key, and sometimes it takes a lot of patience, but it's always worth it. Dobermanns are naturally loyal and loving, and they thrive on companionship. When they're ready to trust you, you'll know.

It's also important to pay close attention to the signals a dog gives if they're feeling uncomfortable. Signs like backing away, avoiding eye contact, lip licking, or tail tucking should be respected. If you notice these behaviours, don't go further into their space. Taking things at their pace helps to build a foundation of trust and comfort.

### Having the opportunity to take them on adventures?

I had the pleasure of taking the beautiful Mabel on a 10-mile walk with my husband and Dex.



## Spotlight on our volunteer “Kym”

We set off from Goostrey, walking through Cranage and across several fields, eventually reaching Holmes Chapel. Along the way, we stopped for a well-deserved Costa puppachino (one for each of the pups!), chatted with some locals, and wandered around the area where we previously lived and our last home.



Afterwards, we headed back to our home for some playtime in the garden, followed by a coffee and a snuggle for me and Mabel on the bed. Finally, we made our way back to the kennels. Needless to say, by the end of the day, we were all absolutely shattered!



It was such a memorable day, and I'll treasure it forever. Mabel is a complete sweetheart, and I'm absolutely smitten with her. She's truly stolen my heart, alongside Dex and Lewis, of course. She's such a gentle girl who loves to stay close by your side and is an absolute delight to have in the home.

Mabel is still working on her tendency to bark at other dogs she spots in the distance. There's no aggression behind it, it's simply frustration because she wants to say hello!

She's already making great progress with this. Most of the time, a firm “don't” or “leave it” followed by positive enforcement of “Good girl Mabel” is enough to settle her down. With continued support and training, I'm confident she'll overcome it.

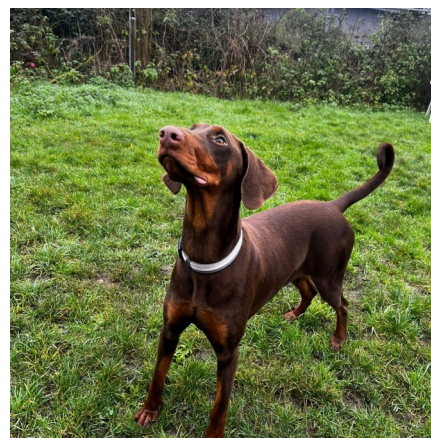
Unfortunately, my job doesn't allow me to work from home, (Lewis does, but it wouldn't be fair to take on another), otherwise we'd take Mabel in a heartbeat.



“Mabel, your perfect forever home will come soon sweetheart.”

### Memorable moments

I've been volunteering at DRUE for four months now, and two moments stand out as truly memorable so far. The first was conducting my very first home check for DRUE for the beautiful Eve.



Everything went perfectly, and Eve's forever home is now filled with so much genuine love for her. Being part of her journey in this way was incredibly heartwarming, it's moments like these that make it all worthwhile.

The second moment involves Mabel and her progress with training. As I mentioned earlier, she has a tendency to bark at other dogs out of frustration. One day, I took her out for a 1-2-1 walk to focus on this behaviour. Every time we came across another dog, I worked with her on “leave it,” and she did so well, she didn't bark once!

At one point, a lovely couple without a dog passed by and saw us mid-training (while dogs were passing by). They stopped to chat and said, “What a well-trained dog.” The immense pride that rushed over me in that moment was indescribable, yes Mabel! Well done, sweetheart!

She's come so far since arriving at the kennels, and it's all thanks to the

## Spotlight on our volunteer “Kym”

consistent training she receives from everyone who works with her. But the biggest credit goes to Mabel herself for listening, learning, and working so hard.

### The impact of rescue

DRUE provides Dobermanns with a second chance, offering a safe haven for those who have been abandoned, abused, or neglected.



Every person at DRUE plays a vital role in transforming the lives of these incredible dogs. From the behind-the-scenes work to save and transport them to the kennels, to the training, care, support, and socialisation each dog receives, every step is tailored to their individual needs. The journey also includes everything from kennel cleaning to home checks, fostering, and the adoption process. Every aspect of a dog's journey with DRUE is approached with their unique circumstances, past, present, and future in mind.

Dobermanns at DRUE go from being abandoned or mistreated to finding loving, forever homes where they can finally feel safe, cared for, and wanted.

The team at DRUE is truly remarkable. From the trustees and staff to the volunteers, everyone is united by the same mission: to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome Dobermanns in loving forever

homes where they will never again be unwanted, afraid, cold, abused or hungry.

### Understanding Dobermanns

Dobermanns are an incredibly loyal and intelligent breed. They're quick learners, which makes training enjoyable, but don't be fooled, they can be cheeky with their intelligence! A little patience goes a long way with these clever dogs. They thrive on mental stimulation, love companionship, and, of course, a good lean (hence their nickname, the “Velcro dog”).

Dobermanns in rescue centres are some of the sweetest dogs I've ever

met. Each one comes with their own backstory, don't we all? Some have been found as strays, others have suffered abuse or neglect, some come from broken homes, and sadly, there are those who've lost their owner. Having met many Dobermanns through DRUE, one thing is clear: they all crave attention and companionship. Some enjoy long walks followed by cuddles, others love a good run and a play before settling down for snuggles, and some are happiest simply sitting with you on the office sofa. Whatever their preferences, one thing remains constant, cuddles are almost always involved!



## An introduction to trailing

### A Journey with Companion's Trail Dog Training

In this article we catch up with Marilyn Gilchrist to give us more information on this engaging canine activity.

### Discover the Joy of Trailing

Trailing is more than a dog training technique; it's an incredible way to bond with your dog, support their natural instincts and foster confidence. As the founder of Companion's Trail Dog Training and co-founder of The Canine School of Trailing, Marilyn has had the privilege of witnessing first hand the transformative power of trailing for both dogs and their handlers.



### What is Trailing?

Trailing taps into your dog's most natural and powerful ability—their nose! Whether it's man trailing (finding a person) or pet trailing (locating another dog), your dog learns to follow a specific scent to its source. This skill not only enriches their mental stimulation but also promotes their physical and emotional well-being.

### The Benefits of Trailing

Engaging your dog in trailing offers a host of benefits for both of you:

- Lowers heart rate and blood pressure: Trailing has a calming effect, releasing dopamine, which promotes relaxation for both dogs and humans.
- Encourages natural sniffing behaviour: Dogs thrive when given the opportunity to sniff, which reduces stress and fosters well-being.
- Builds confidence: Trailing provides dogs with greater autonomy, which enhances their problem-solving skills and overall confidence.



### Transformations in Reactive Dogs

One of the most rewarding aspects of trailing is seeing how it helps reactive dogs. As they gain experience in trailing, many dogs naturally adjust their behaviour, such as:

- Actively avoiding triggers: Nervous dogs often slow down, curve around, or avoid the things they find stressful.
- Focusing on the job: With their attention on the trail, dogs frequently ignore their usual triggers entirely.
- Relaxed engagement: Over time, many dogs approach triggers with calm, relaxed body language as they work to complete their trail.

Trailing gives reactive dogs a sense of purpose and control, allowing them to overcome their fears in a safe and positive way.

### The Canine School of Trailing Instructor Course

As co-founder of The Canine School of Trailing, Marilyn is passionate about helping more people discover the joy of trailing. Their Instructor Course equips dog professionals with the skills to teach this rewarding activity.

Whether you're looking to enhance your dog training services or embark on a new career, their course offer the tools you need to inspire others and bring trailing to your community.

### Learn More and Get Involved

Whether you're a dog owner seeking a new adventure or a trainer looking to expand your skills, trailing has something to offer. Visit our websites and social media to learn more:

- [companionstraildogtraining.co.uk/](http://companionstraildogtraining.co.uk/)
- <https://www.facebook.com/companionstraildogtraining/>
- [thecanineschooloftrailing.co.uk/](http://thecanineschooloftrailing.co.uk/)

Discover the joy of trailing today and watch your dog thrive!





# 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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