Issue 46

DRUFLIFE

DOBIE DETECTIVES
THE VELCRO DOG

PLUS:
RESOURCE GUARDING
SENIOR DOGS
FIREWORKS

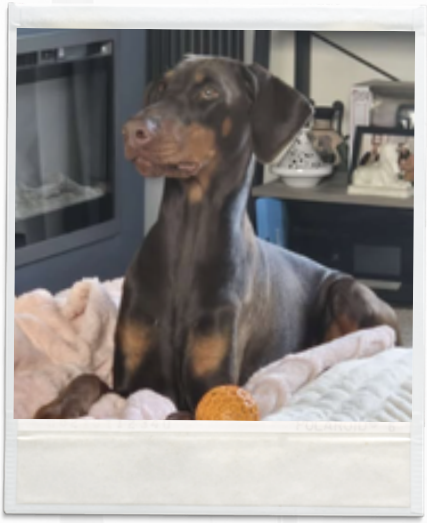
The Spotlight is on
NANCY



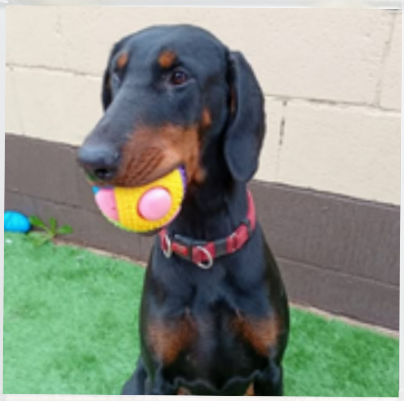
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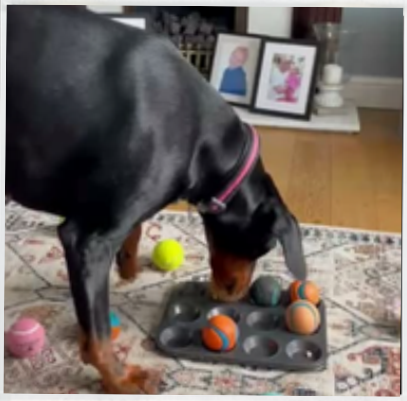
PAWS FOR THE CAMERA

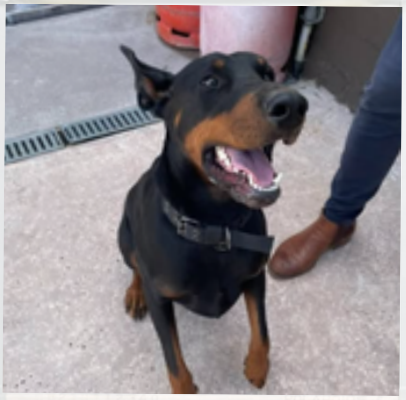
Some snapshots of DRUE dogs out and about. Thank you to the wonderful DRUE team for taking some great photos!





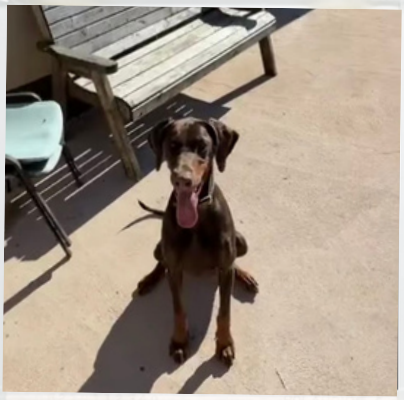














The Spotlight is on NANCY

The Spotlight Is On… Nancy.
Behind every rescue is a story, and behind every happy ending is a veterinary bill!
This time, our spotlight is shining on the beautiful Nancy.
Nancy is one of the special Dobermanns who reminds us exactly why we do what we do.
Every dog who comes into rescue deserves the opportunity of a fresh start, a second chance and, most importantly, a happy and healthy future.
Unfortunately, for Nancy, that fresh start comes with a rather hefty veterinary bill.
Nancy is has recently undergone her spay operation. However, following concerns with her mammary glands earlier in the year, further investigations and tests last week have confirmed that she also needed a mammary strip. This means the surgery was considerably longer and more complicated than originally anticipated.

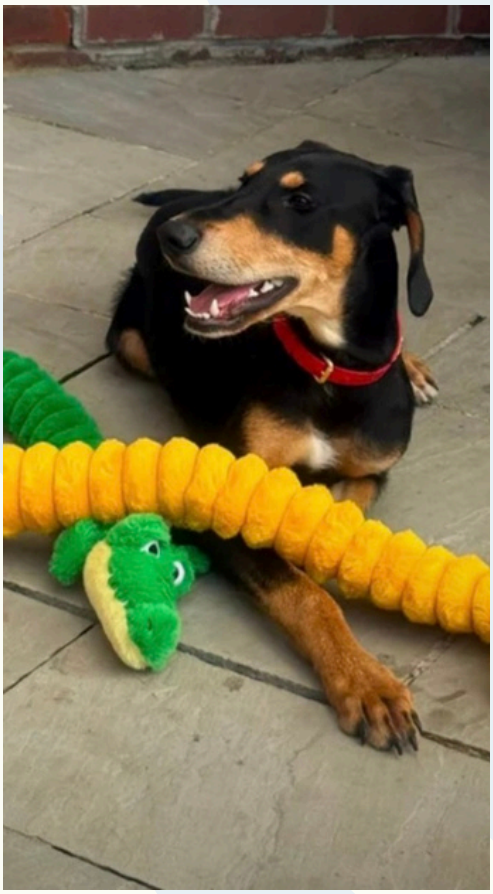


It's never easy knowing that one of our dogs needs additional surgery, but our priority has to be giving them the treatment they need. We simply cannot put a price on their health and wellbeing.
And this brings us to a subject that is never far from our minds here at DRUE… our vet bills!
The estimated cost of Nancy's tests and the surgery she needs is around £3,000.
That's a huge amount for a rescue like ours to find, particularly when you consider that Nancy is just one of the dogs who may need veterinary attention. From routine health checks, vaccinations and neutering to unexpected illnesses, investigations and major operations, veterinary costs are an enormous part of rescue life.
We often share the happy moments: the wagging tails, the new beginnings, the wonderful updates from forever homes and the photographs of our dogs finally living the lives they deserve. But behind every one of those happy endings is a considerable amount of work, care and, very often, some rather eye-watering veterinary bills!
Nancy's story is a reminder that rescue isn't just about finding homes. It's about making sure every dog receives the medical care they need, regardless of the cost.
We want Nancy to have the very best chance of recovery and to look forward to a future filled with love, comfort and happiness. She deserves nothing less.

Can you help us help Nancy?
If you are able to make a small donation towards her £3,000 veterinary bill, we would be incredibly grateful. Every single pound really does make a difference. Whether it's £2, £5, £10 or whatever you can spare, it all helps us continue to provide the care our beautiful Dobermanns need. And if you can't donate, sharing Nancy's story is just as appreciated. You never know who might be able to help.

From all of us at DRUE and especially from Nancy, thank you for being part of our rescue family. Your kindness, generosity and continued support are what make it possible for us to keep saying yes to the dogs who need us. Get well soon, beautiful Nancy. You've got this! Together, we can make a difference, one Dobermann at a time.

Welcome to our new arrival Diablo!







Protection or Fear-Based Resource Guarding?
Understanding the Difference in Dobermanns

Understanding the Difference in Dobermanns
Dobermanns are often admired for their loyalty, confidence and natural instinct to protect the people they love. They are intelligent, observant dogs who can be incredibly devoted to their families. However, some behaviours that appear protective can actually be rooted in fear, insecurity or anxiety.
Understanding the difference is important. A dog that positions itself between its owner and a perceived threat may be displaying confidence and awareness, or it may be feeling uncomfortable and trying to create distance from something it finds worrying.
Although these behaviours can sometimes look similar, their underlying motivations are very different. Recognising what is driving your dog's behaviour is the first step towards helping them feel safe, confident and settled.



What Does Natural Protective Behaviour Look Like?
Dobermanns were historically developed as working and protection dogs, so it's understandable that some may naturally be more alert and watchful than other breeds.
A confident, naturally protective Dobermann may:

- Notice unfamiliar people or unusual activity without immediately reacting.
- Position themselves near their owner when someone approaches.
- Bark to alert their family to something unfamiliar.
- Remain observant while still being able to respond to their owner's guidance.
- Relax once they understand there is no genuine cause for concern.

The important distinction is that a confident dog can usually assess a situation without becoming overwhelmed by it. For example, a Dobermann may bark when someone approaches the front door, but once their owner acknowledges the visitor, the dog can settle, observe and allow the situation to unfold.

Being alert does not automatically mean a dog is anxious, aggressive or trying to control a situation.

When Protection Is Actually Fear or Insecurity

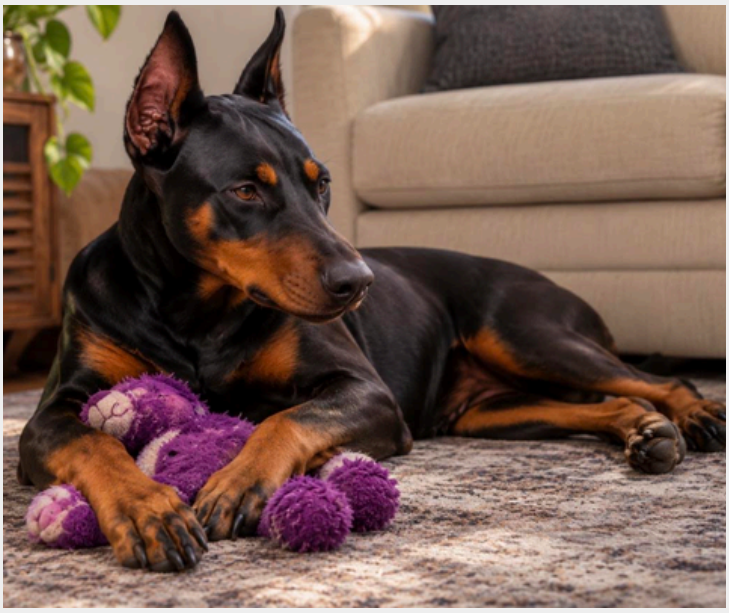
Sometimes, behaviour that looks like protectiveness is driven by fear rather than confidence.

A dog may feel the need to control access to their owner, their resting place or a particular area because they are uncomfortable with the presence of other people or animals.

This can develop into guarding behaviour, particularly when a dog feels that something valuable to them is at risk.

Signs that behaviour may be fear-based include:

- Becoming tense or stiff when someone approaches their owner.
- Moving between their owner and another person while appearing uncomfortable.
- Growling, barking or lunging when someone comes too close.
- Struggling to settle when unfamiliar people are present.
- Reacting more intensely when they feel trapped or unable to move away.
- Remaining on high alert even after the perceived threat has passed.



A dog displaying these behaviours isn't necessarily trying to be dominant or difficult. They may simply be communicating that they feel unsafe or overwhelmed.

Fear-based guarding can become more intense if the dog repeatedly feels that they need to manage situations themselves.

Understanding the Difference

One of the biggest mistakes owners can make is assuming that every protective-looking behaviour is a sign of confidence.

The dog's overall body language and ability to recover from a situation are much more useful indicators than the behaviour itself.

A confident, protective dog may notice something unfamiliar, investigate or alert their owner, and then relax when reassured.

A fearful, guarding dog may become increasingly tense, struggle to disengage and react more strongly when someone approaches.

Look beyond barking or positioning. Consider the whole dog:

- Is their body relaxed or stiff?
- Can they look away and disengage?
- Do they respond to familiar cues?
- Can they settle once the situation changes?
- Does their reaction become more intense as someone gets closer?

No single behaviour provides a definite answer. Context, body language and the dog's individual temperament all matter.

Why Do Dobermanns Develop These Behaviours?

There isn't always one clear reason. A dog's experiences, genetics, socialisation, confidence and environment can all influence how they respond to unfamiliar situations.

Some possible contributing factors include:

Lack of confidence: Dogs that have not had enough positive experiences with different people, environments and situations may find unfamiliar encounters difficult.

Past experiences: A frightening or unpleasant experience can influence how a dog responds to similar situations in the future.

Overprotective handling: Encouraging a dog to constantly watch, challenge or control interactions can unintentionally reinforce behaviours that are actually rooted in insecurity.

Stress and overstimulation: A dog that is already stressed may have a much lower tolerance for unfamiliar people or unexpected changes.

Individual temperament: Just like people, dogs have different personalities. Some are naturally more cautious, sensitive or alert than others.

How Should Owners Respond?

The aim should never be to encourage a Dobermann to become more suspicious of the world around them.

A well-adjusted dog should be able to feel secure without believing they are responsible for dealing with every unfamiliar person or situation. Here are some ways owners can help:

1. Build confidence through positive experiences

Allow your dog to experience new people, places and situations at a comfortable pace. Avoid forcing interactions or overwhelming them.

2. Avoid encouraging unnecessary guarding

There is a difference between appreciating your dog's loyalty and rewarding behaviour that involves controlling access to you. Teach your dog that visitors and everyday interactions are nothing they need to manage themselves.

3. Reward calm behaviour

Praise and reward your dog without over-exciting them when they remain relaxed around unfamiliar people or situations. Help them understand that calm observation is perfectly acceptable.

4. Respect their boundaries

Never punish a dog for growling. Growling is communication, and suppressing it without addressing the underlying discomfort can remove an important warning sign.

Instead, calmly create distance and work on changing how the dog feels about the situation.

5. Know when to seek help

If your Dobermann is showing signs of escalating guarding, lunging, snapping or aggression, seek help from a suitably qualified, canine behaviour professional. A veterinary check is also worthwhile, as pain or other medical problems can contribute to behavioural changes.

A Protective Dog Should Still Feel Safe



There is nothing wrong with having a naturally watchful Dobermann. Their loyalty, awareness and devotion are some of the qualities that make the breed so special. However, there is a significant difference between a dog that is confident enough to observe the world around them and one that feels responsible for controlling it. True confidence isn't about how loudly a dog barks, how intimidating they appear or how quickly they react to unfamiliar people. It's about their ability to remain balanced, assess situations and trust their owner to take the lead.

The goal isn't to take away your Dobermann's natural instincts. It's to help them understand that they don't have to live in a constant state of alertness to keep their family safe.

A secure, confident Dobermann can be protective when necessary while still being relaxed, sociable and comfortable in everyday life.



A huge thank you to Di for kindly washing and delivering some lovely winter coats to our kennels, ready to keep the DRUE Dobies warm and cosy through the colder months. And a special thank you to her gorgeous boy Zeus for being such a handsome model and showing them off in style!

ELEN CREAN

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR DOBERMANNS IN NEED.

My partner Josh and I are the very proud owners of Gus, our six-year-old brown Dobermann, who is our world.

Like most Dobermann owners, we're completely besotted with the breed. Gus is funny, gentle, incredibly strong-willed and full of personality. He's our best friend, and we couldn't imagine life without him.

So, in 2025, having just moved into our new home, we were devastated when Gus started showing signs of pain and discomfort.





After visits to the vets, we were told he was suspected to have Wobblers. Without an MRI scan, costing around £3,500, we couldn't be completely certain of the diagnosis.

We had some difficult decisions to make. Knowing that surgery wouldn't guarantee a full recovery, we decided it wasn't the right option for Gus. Instead, we opted for strict rest, medication and physiotherapy, focusing on keeping him comfortable and giving him the best possible quality of life.

I'm pleased to say that, over 12 months later (and with everything crossed!), Gus is doing so much better. He's no longer taking medication, his exercise is carefully managed

and stairs are off limits. Most importantly, he's happy in himself, and that's all we could ever ask for.

Once we'd got Gus into a better place, I decided it was time to set myself a challenge. With our long walks together no longer possible, I wanted something to focus on that would help improve my own fitness.

So, I signed up for the Warrington Half Marathon and I knew that I wanted to use the opportunity to raise money for DRUE Dobermann Rescue.



Although Gus isn't a rescue himself, we've followed DRUE on social media for years and have always admired the work they do for Dobermanns in need. We'd love to give a rescue Dobermann a home one day, so it felt like the perfect charity to support.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of family, friends, work colleagues and supporters connected to DRUE, I managed to raise £650 in donations, plus £142.50 in Gift Aid – a fantastic



£792.50 in total!

A special thank you also goes to the DRUE team for their lovely messages of support and for sending me a running vest to wear on the day.

I really hope the money raised goes some way towards helping Dobermanns who haven't yet been lucky enough to find their forever homes.

Our world might look a little different these days, with shorter walks and a slower pace of life, but as long as Gus is happy, we're happy.

He's my best friend, and if running 13.1 miles can help a few more Dobermanns find the love and happiness they deserve, then every step was worth it.

ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT DRUE, THANK YOU, ELEN FOR THE AMAZING WORK YOU HAVE DONE TO RAISE AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND AWARENESS FOR US.

SENIOR DOGS



While puppies and younger dogs may attract plenty of attention, our grey-muzzled friends have just as much love to give – and sometimes, they need us more than ever.

At DRUE, we regularly see senior dogs come into our care for all sorts of reasons. Sadly, some are surrendered when their owners can no longer care for them due to ill health, changes in circumstances or financial difficulties. Others arrive following the loss of their beloved owner, leaving them not only without a home but without the person they have spent years loving and trusting.

Imagine spending a decade or more with your family, knowing your routines, your favourite sleeping spot and the sound of your person's voice, only to find yourself in unfamiliar surroundings. For an older Dobermann, this change can be particularly unsettling. They may need extra time, patience and reassurance to feel safe again.

Older Dobermanns can make wonderful companions. They may be past the whirlwind puppy stage, but they still have plenty of affection and life to enjoy. Many appreciate a comfortable bed, gentle walks, a predictable routine and simply being close to their people.

Of course, senior dogs can have additional needs, including arthritis, mobility difficulties or other age-related health conditions. They may need veterinary care, medication, different bedding and a little extra help getting comfortable. But with the right support, they can continue to enjoy a happy and fulfilling life.

Adopting a senior Dobermann is a special kind of love. You may not have their whole lifetime together, but you can make the time they have left safe, peaceful and full of affection.

At DRUE, we believe every Dobermann deserves a loving home, regardless of age. Our older dogs are not past their best – they are deserving of the same chance at happiness as every younger dog who comes through our doors.

Please spare a thought for the older Dobermanns waiting for their forever homes. Share their stories, ask about our golden oldies, or consider whether your home could offer a comfortable retirement to a dog who has so much love left to give. They may have grey faces and slower paws, but their hearts are still full of love.

DOBIE DETECTIVES

After some highly scientific investigation (sort of), countless sofa observations and an entirely unnecessary number of trips to the kitchen, we can finally confirm what Dobermann owners have known all along...

Dobermanns are Velcro dogs.

For the uninitiated, a Velcro dog is one who likes to be very, very close to their human. And by close, we mean physically attached if at all possible.

Go to the kitchen? They're coming.

Go to the bathroom? Obviously.

Sit on the sofa? There is suddenly a Dobermann attempting to occupy the available lap.

Stand up to make a cup of tea? Congratulations, you've activated the Dobermann tracking system.

The evidence

Our investigations have uncovered several tell-tale signs of Velcro-Dobie behaviour:

The Shadow: Wherever you go, they go. You may think you're walking around the house alone, but your Dobie knows your every move at all times.

The Foot Follower: You stop. They stop. You move. They move. Occasionally, you discover that you have somehow walked directly into your own dog.

The Personal Space Invader: You may have purchased an enormous sofa, but your Dobermann will choose the tiny space directly beside you.

The Bathroom Supervisor: No explanation required.

But why are they like this? Dobermanns are intelligent, social dogs who tend to form very strong bonds with their people. They were developed as working dogs and are often happiest when they're involved with what their humans are doing. And let's be honest, Dobermanns don't particularly care whether the activity is exciting.



Training? Brilliant.
Going somewhere interesting? Wonderful.
Folding laundry? We'll supervise.
Sitting quietly doing absolutely nothing? Perfect. We'll sit on you.
For a rescue Dobie, that attachment can sometimes be even more significant. Once they've found someone they trust, being close to that person can provide reassurance, security and companionship as they settle into their new life.
Of course, every Dobermann is an individual, and not every dog will want to be glued to their human 24/7. Some are more independent than others, and it's important that all dogs have opportunities to relax, rest and enjoy their own space.
But for many Dobie families, the discovery is inevitable:
You didn't adopt a Dobermann.
You acquired a very large, very loving shadow.

THE DOBIE DETECTIVE'S CONCLUSION
Finding: Dobermanns are Velcro dogs.
Evidence: Overwhelming.
Likelihood of your Dobie following you to the kitchen: 100%.
Likelihood of using the bathroom alone: Under investigation.
Case closed.

Have you got a Velcro Dobie? We want to hear about them! Send us your funniest “my Dobermann followed me...” stories for a future edition of The Dobie Detective.



KEEPING DOGS HAPPY DURING FIREWORKS

- Create a safe, cosy den for your dog
- Play calming background noise to mask fireworks
- Stay calm and act normal, comfort without fuss
- Don’t punish fear, pacing, or indoor toileting
- Walk and toilet before dark/fireworks start
- Check ID tags and microchip details are up to date
- Some owners use calming plug-ins/herbal remedies

DRUE DOBERMANN
RESCUE

WANNA FEATURE IN DRUE LIFE?

We know that every Dobermann has a story to tell, and we'd love to hear yours!

Whether it's a heart-warming rescue journey, a funny Dobie habit,a special achievement, a memorable adventure, or simply why your Dobermann means so much to you, we'd love to consider it for a future edition of our newsletter.

Get in touch with us via social media or info@dobermannrescueuk.co.uk

Feel free to include photos, we always enjoy seeing the dogs behind the stories!



Thank you,

Darcy

07511 869881 | info@dobermannrescueuk.co.uk |

DRUE DOBERMANN RESCUE