

DOBERMAN *DISPATCH*

DOBERMAN PINSCHER RESCUE OF PA, INC.

Spring 2016

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Dominance Debunked

By Laraine Mocenigo

I frequently hear dog owners talk about their "dominant" dog or how they have to be the "alpha" in the household to ensure the dog listens and behaves. It has brought me to the realization that a large number of dog owners are not aware of how this theory got started and why it has been refuted.

The alpha myth was an approach to canine social behavior established in the 1930s and 1940s from a study by Swiss animal behaviorist Rudolph Schenkel. But did you know that the conclusions of this study and subsequent studies were based on the behavior of zoo wolves in captivity? Mr. Schenkel concluded that the wolves in the pack fought to gain dominance and the winner was the alpha wolf. These observations of captive wolf behavior were extrapolated to wolf behavior in the wild and also domesticated dogs.

Dominance is not a personality trait. To be dominant is to aggressively control access to resources and to keep control by winning out over competitors of the same species who want the same resources. This contributed to the belief that a dog's behavior is driven by its desire to be dominant over humans to get what it wants, and it led to training methods based on humans commanding compliance by exerting force. The problem is that the observed aggression in captive wolves in small enclosures is not normal wolf behavior in the wild. Nor should dogs be characterized as socialized wolves since our pet dogs have been set apart from wolves by about fifteen thousand years of domestication.

In reality, most problems humans see in dogs are misinterpreted and often are merely normal canine behaviors, many of which are rooted in over-excitement, anxiety, and boredom. Rather than dominance, it is a lack of clear interspecies communication, and it is the human's responsibility to teach our dogs appropriate behaviors if they are to cohabitate with us. A dog acting up is

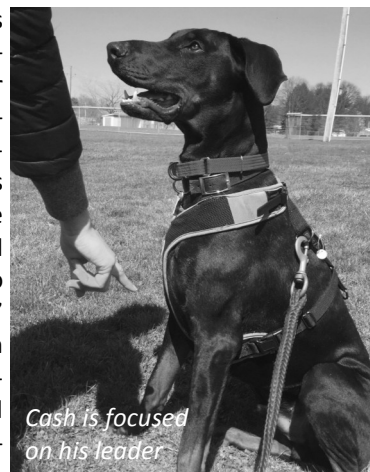
not one who is trying to attain a higher rank; it's usually a dog being a dog. As humans, we do not need to try to "dominate" our dog with physical corrections and "alpha roll-overs," which

tell the dog that we are dangerous creatures to be avoided. These techniques may seem to calm the dog, but in reality that calming behavior is a dog who has shut down, making him more fearful and anxious. This can have unintended consequences such as making a dog react with aggression, not because he is trying to be dominant but because the human threatening him makes him afraid.

So what is the acceptable solution? We owe it to our dogs to try to see the world from their point of view. Owners should be a leader but not the *alpha* leader. This means you do not have to be big and aggressive with your dog or assert a battle of wills. Leadership is the basis for mutual respect, non-confrontational messages and positive reinforcement. You want your dog to abide by a structured set of rules; and as the leader, you can teach him with consistent high-value rewards when he responds to a rule being taught (i.e., sit to get dinner, wait to go out the door, etc.).

Positive reinforcement training methods focus on preventing undesirable behaviors and rewarding the dog for desirable behavior. For example, if you have a dog who jumps, be alert to when it is about to occur and ask the dog to sit and reward with a treat, toy or praise, thereby avoiding the unwanted behavior. If you

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organization
www.dprpa.org*

DOBERMAN UPDATE

For Adoption



Angus

Still looking. Follow Angus at <http://Imocenigo.wix.com/angus>.

Lily

Lily is a beautiful red female who loves people and other dogs, too! We are looking for a home with a solid physical fence where she won't see neighbor dogs, children or strangers as they can make her anxious until

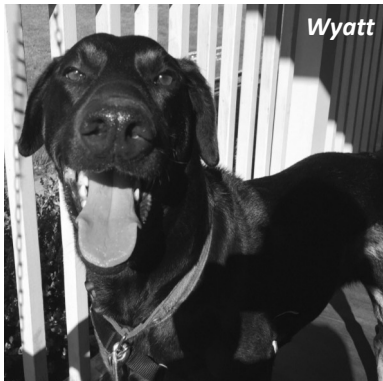
she gets to know them.

She is very playful and despite being 7 years old, she acts like a puppy. In her foster home, she lives with three other dogs of practically every variety and gets along with them all. She is very well behaved in the house.

Lily was adopted to a family with young children but returned as we found her to be insecure around them. Teenagers are fine for this common sense type of dog who is a very nice companion.



Please check our website for the most current information and more photos of dogs available for adoption. www.dprpa.org



Wyatt

Wyatt celebrated his 7th birthday on October 10. Some might call him a senior dog, but he still loves to play and be loved. He's very experienced at that. He is very confused right now as his life was turned upside down as his owner died and he ended up in a shelter. The best way to describe Wyatt is "easy"! He is housebroken, polite, gentle, quiet and just loves to be petted. He has not been cat or kid

tested so we are recommending no cats or young children.

Wyatt is about 84 pounds and has a stocky, Rottweiler looking build. But we have his AKC papers that prove he is 100% Doberman, in more ways than one! He is a lover with the Dobie lean.

Tess

Tess is a southern girl who made her way to PA in search of her forever home. Actually her first REAL home. We discovered



this very sweet-natured young lady has a great

(Continued on page 5)

If interested in adopting, please complete an application at <http://www.dprpa.org/applicationform.html>.

Adopted

Addie

Sheila and Darren Raup

Luke (formerly Duke)

Sheryl Wilson

Aldrich

Kenny and Trish LaBelle

Demi (formerly Gretchen)

Eve Nelson-Barry

Diesel

Anthony & Colleen DiRienzi

Destro

Jason and Melinda Blohm

Cash (aka Sheldon)

Christine Haverkate and Ben Bulishak

In Memorium

Impi

Kim Graver

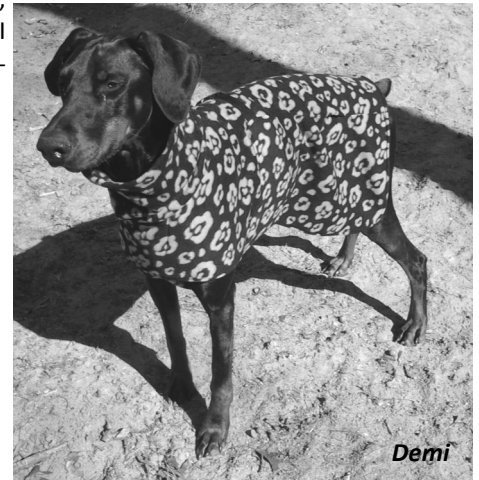
Savannah

Jack & Barbara Robinholt

MAILBOX



Lois,
Thank you so much for emailing back in February asking if I'd foster a 2-year-old female Doberman named Gretchen. Demi (aka Gretchen) is exactly the dog I was looking for. She fits in our household beautifully; sweet, spoiled, brat girl. Dillon and I adore her... — Eve Nelson-Barry



Demi



Hi Lois

Just wanted to let you know that Addie is doing great and she seems to be a very happy dog along with her parents. She continues to get better every day with her training. The only thing we are still working on is the nipping, but it is getting better. She is filling in very nicely and getting a lot of muscle on her. She loves those long walks every day. We love her so much and can't imagine not having her with us. Thanks for finding our baby girl for us! — Sheila & Darren Raup



Sheila & Addie

Lois,
Sheldon is a great guy so far, absolutely no issues (knock on wood). He's doing really great on leash and even learning to heel nicely. Still working through his biting the leash and jumping but he's gotten better at that too. He's gotten really good at sit, down, paw and wait commands. Really a quick learner although he has his stubborn moments when he just kind of ignores you.

Still going very slowly with the cat introduction. He doesn't seem to care about them too much, but they are of course taking the presence of him very slowly and cautiously. They seem to finally be used to his smell and occasional bark. We're working up to the big day when they "formally meet" but until then trying to take every precaution to make the introduction a successful one. — Christine Haverkate & Ben Bulishak

Via Facebook:

We lost Savannah after a long fight with bone cancer; she gave us 4 loving and fun years. She will always be in our hearts — John Robinholt



An all-time favorite photo of Savannah

Congratulations to Lewey!

Lewey earned his AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate. In less than a year, Jack and Donna Burns gave Lewey a home, a new name and excellent manners. The basic training achieved by completing the CGC program enhances the bond with you and your dog and provides intellectual stimulation, something a working dog benefits from tremendously. Thank you, Jack and Donna!



Lewey

Write us:

You can contact all members of the board by sending an email to contacts@dprpa.org or using any of the individual email addresses found on page 7. We like hearing from you!

HEALTH NOTES



Living with CCD Dogs

By Linda Dulak

CCD? What's that? It's called Canine Compulsive Disorder and it's similar to the human disorder called Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. I'm sure you are familiar with someone that has certain compulsive tendencies such as frequently washing their hands, checking multiple times that the door is locked when leaving the house or other types of repetitive behaviors. Our Doberman Pinschers have a similar disorder resulting in repetitive behaviors such as licking a specific spot on their bodies (usually the flank), and/or sucking on blankets or towels. We know from recent research that this is a genetic disease affecting about 30% of Dobermans.

Over the years, my husband and I have had 12 Dobermans, most of them obtained through rescue or a shelter. Of those 12, four have shown repetitive behaviors that would classify them as having CCD. My first experience with this disorder was with Soldier. He sucked on towels. When he sucked on that towel, he got

this amazing calm, trance-like expression that showed how it comforted him. Aside from frequently washing that towel, we did nothing to dissuade him from the behavior as he didn't chew and swallow parts of the towel.

After we lost Soldier to DCM we went to DPRPA and adopted a male that we named Bacchus. He licked his body, specifically a hind leg. That produced an acral lick granuloma. We tried numerous things to stop his licking: Bitter Lemon spray, injections of long acting local anesthetics below the skin (suggested by our vet), behavioral training. Noth-

ing worked to stop the behavior. Then I talked to the vet about using a generic Prozac. The dose to completely stop this behavior, though, was high and the side effects made us reduce it to a level that decreased but did not eliminate the behavior. We managed to cover the site with a sock with the toe cut out and that worked well. It was a constant challenge, however, to handle his obsessive behavior.

Currently we have two Dobermans with CCD, Silas and Ruby, both DPRPA rescues. Ruby sucks on towels or pieces of clothing that she can steal; but she also will lick obsessively on various parts of her body. Silas is a typical flank sucker. He will grab on his flank and sucks as if he is nursing. He also will suck and squish balls in his mouth for long periods of time. I've included pictures of both of them to show their typical behavior. They always appear to be so relaxed and comfortable when engaging in this sucking behavior. I'm not sure if the behavior is brought on by



stress, boredom or both. Exercise is the best way to stop these two dogs from their obsessive behaviors. Having a good walk or a game of fetch will leave them calm for the rest of the day.

I've not given either of these dogs any anti-anxiety medications which might help reduce the behavior. They are not harming their body and the behaviors are not of serious concern for their health. Sucking on a towel is okay as long as pieces aren't chewed off and eaten. Research has shown that anti-anxiety drugs might help to reduce the behavior, much like it does in humans. The thing that should NOT be done is to try to stop the behavior by interfering or any negative behavioral training or yelling every time they start this repetitive behavior. This can cause stress in the dog and result in increasing rather than decreasing the behavior. It is recommended that only positive reinforcement be used in training dogs with CCD. Distracting them with a treat can be used to stop these behaviors as well.

There is a lot of research being conducted on CCD

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Doberman pinschers since they are the only breed which is known to have this genetic trait. More research has revealed that the disease is almost the same in people and Dobermans with the same parts of the brain activated during the repetitive behaviors. Currently, vets may prescribe drugs to help relieve these symptoms such as generic Prozac or Paxil or a drug developed for animals, Clomicalm. Ask your vet which might be best for your CCD dog but be aware that it may take some time as dogs, like people, may respond to one and not the other. Additional drugs are being developed to try to control these behaviors better than what is now available for both people and dogs, some of which may be used in clinical trials in Dobermans. We are finding that our Dobermans are more like us than we ever thought.



(Continued from page 2) - **Doberman Update**

sense of play, curiosity, and gentleness underneath the timid shell she displays to the world. Tess is about 3 years old and weighs about 57 pounds. A pretty red Doberman mix, she has classic Doberman coloring with full ears and a natural curled tail. She has the average energy of a dog her age, loves to run around and play but chills out nicely at home; needs some good exercise each day. She enjoys playing with other dogs as long as they are not too rambunctious otherwise she is intimidated. She currently lives with a pet bird and a cat, but she harasses the cat regularly. So unless a cat doesn't mind being tormented by dogs, then everyone would be happier if Tess lived without them.

Bruiser's Best Friend

May 1 is recognized by some as May Day, a springtime festival or an international day honoring workers. At DPRPA it is a day to celebrate our hospice foster dog's birthday and honor his amazing foster mom and best friend, Rhonda Bieber. This year, Bruiser celebrated his third birthday on May 1.

When DPRPA took in Bruiser two years ago at only 11 months old, he was diagnosed with kidney disease and given only 3-6 months to live. Rhonda offered to foster Bruiser knowing she would have to face an emotional loss.

In typical fashion, Rhonda stepped up to take care of his special needs, losing lots of sleep, finding a dog walker who could take him out during the day, making sure he has his special renal food, and more. She and the rescue have been rewarded with a dog who has beat the odds. Rhonda may deny it, but we think she is a miracle worker.

Not only has Rhonda fostered Bruiser, a special needs dog, she is always a devoted volunteer who makes the rescuing of dogs her priority. When she's not working, she is hiking with our foster dogs, transporting dogs, fundraising by collecting and shipping shoes through the shoe drive, and almost anything else we ask of her. Thanks, Rhonda!

are walking your dog and he sees another dog approaching, ask him to sit and distract him with treats while the other dog passes, which associates other dogs with something good. These techniques promote a human-canine relationship based on trust and respect instead of conflict and uneasiness. Creating a trusting, less subservient relationship with your dog and treating him as a companion will put him on the right path to become a confident and content family member.

The Internet is full of information on positive reinforcement training methods and I hope you will continue to research and try it with your own dogs if you are not already. Let's say goodbye to dominance, punishment, and fear.

Read more about the debunking of dominance theory by searching the internet. Informative sources used for this article are listed below.

wholedogjournal.com/issues/14_12/features?Alpha-Dogs_20416-1.html.

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dogtime.com/dog-health/dog-behavior/1273-cesar-millan-and-ian-dunbar.

Content.time.com/time/health/article/9,8599,2007250,00.html.

apdt.com/pet-owners/choosing-a-trainer/dominance.

Dogs: A New Understanding of Canine Origin, Behavior and Evolution, by Raymond Coppinger and Lorna Coppinger



PayPal

Want to make sending your donation easier?

We accept donations through PayPal via our website! Clicking on the "Donate" link takes you right to the PayPal site.

Registering is quick, easy and convenient, at no additional cost to you!

Also, you can now use PayPal to shop online. Look for the "**Shop**" link on the website at www.dprpa.org.

Thank you, donors, for your continued support. More often than not, our costs per dog are considerably greater than the adoption fee. Some dogs come to us a sorry sight. Each Doberman leaves for his/her adoptive home neutered and medically up to date, whatever it takes! Your gifts make our work possible. If your giving records and ours are different, please contact Sherrie Robinson at 610-255-0623 or treasurer@dprpa.org

DONORS

Bethel Animal Hospital
Michelle Artinyan
Anita & Allen Dengler
Kenneth Darby
Gail R. Kennison
Robin Sanford—hoping Tess arrived safely
Bruce & Linda Obegenski

MEMORIAL DONORS

Greg & Nancy Janoch—IMO Elizabeth Bengston
Helen Godshall—IMO my boy Chance
Larissa O'Malley—IMO Sasha O'Malley
Joanne Bugai—IMO my mother, Shirley Carnaroli
Paul & Virginia Rucci—IMO Pudge, Lady, Angel,
CoCo, Misty & Autumn; IHO Piper & Rambo

FOSTER!

More **foster homes** are always needed so that we can help more Dobes. Our goal is that no adoptable Doberman is euthanized in an area shelter because DPR of PA had no space for temporary home care. If you can help, please contact Rhonda Bieber, 610-850-2018. rbieber68@verizon.net

A Big Thank You to Special Needs Dobermans

Special Needs Dobermans (SND) provided two substantial donations to help with the cost of extensive dental work for our senior rescue Cody and for Leba's upcoming heartworm treatments. DPRPA has been inundated with vet expenses this year due to an extraordinary number of special needs dogs being surrendered. SND's generous support allowed us to save two very needy Dobermans we may have had to turn away.

Thank you also to our phenomenal volunteer, Trish LaBelle, for connecting with SND and getting DPRPA on their list of beneficiaries for special needs dogs. Her efforts have truly paid off.

Thank you Anne Schauer for your donation of medications!

BLUE RIBBON CLUB



(Donations of \$100 to \$999)

Barbara Evanofski
Doberman Pinscher Club of America
Margot & Barry Wickes
Lois & John Katchur—IHO Baron
Four Foot Press, LLC c/o Carol Hilliard—best wishes for Stryker and all dobies
Courtney Ducey—IHO Allie Graver
Lucretia Guyness—for Tess from Anson County Animal Shelter, NC
John & Laraine Mocenigo—IHO Kim Graver & Tess
Helene Jorgensen & Dean Baker—IHO Laraine Mocenigo
Lois & John Katchur—IHO Eve Nelson-Barry & Demi
Anne Schauer
Beverly Stehman

Thank You for fostering!

Rhonda Bieber
Kim Graver (Riverhill Dobes)
John and Laraine Mocenigo
Diane Buhl (Charwill Kennels)
Eve Nelson-Barry
Pam Coath
Ann Miller
Marni Schiavo
Denise Lesko
Gene Sweeney
George Lansidel
Angela & Andy Slitt
Janna Weil

Thank you Partners

Thanks to the following for providing their veterinary services at a reduced rate:

Oley Valley Animal Clinic
Animerge, P.C.
Dickinson-McNeil Pet Clinic
Rush Veterinary Center
South Branch Veterinary Services
Willow Run Veterinary Clinic
Adamstown Vet Clinic

Unused Medications

If you have medication that you no longer need for your pet, please consider sending what's left to DPRPA. Contact Linda Dulak at (410) 810-4032, lhulak@gmail.com to arrange delivery.



Board of Directors

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Laraine Mocenigo, Editor and Production, **Doberman Dispatch**

Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc.
Membership: \$20 per year includes quarterly newsletter. All contributions directly help needy Dobermans.

President: Pam Taylor, ingeplay@gmail.com

About our dogs: For Adoption info or If your Dobe needs a home: Lois Katchur, daxdob@aol.com

Behavior, Training Tips: Pam Coath, CPDT-KA
610-688-2277, pamrose777@verizon.net

Doberman Dispatch: For a courtesy copy, or to submit material for publication: Laraine Mocenigo, 15 Bunnvale Road, Califon, NJ 07830, lmocenigo@me.com

Doberman Health Concerns: contacts@dprpa.org

Donations, financial inquiries, to subscribe to Doberman Dispatch:
Sherrie Robinson, Treasurer, 9203 Hickory Hill Rd, Oxford, PA 19363, 610-255-0623, treasurer@dprpa.org.

To Volunteer: Lois Katcher, 570-437-2587, daxdob@aol.com,

Website: www.dprpa.org

Webmaster: Nicole Dorio, nmdorio@yahoo.com

When "please" doesn't work.... "beg"!



Todd, the Doberman

Join Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc. and receive **DOBERMAN DISPATCH** quarterly.

Annual Membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal \$20.00 per year includes **DOBERMAN DISPATCH**

☐ **Donation for rescue work Amount:** \$ _____

Your Name _____

☐ In Honor of _____

Address _____

☐ In Memory of _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Share **DOBERMAN DISPATCH** with a friend:

☐ \$20 Gift Membership, includes recognition of your gift in our newsletter \$ _____

Friend's Name _____

Address _____

☐ To send one free copy to a friend, complete information at right and mark it "Free Copy."

City/State/Zip _____

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E-Mail Address _____

Comments: (Interest in volunteer opportunities, foster care training, events, questions and comments about **DOBERMAN DISPATCH** or DPR of PA)

Make check payable to **DPR of PA** and mail to: Sherrie Robinson, 9203 Hickory Hill Rd, Oxford, PA 19363

If your giving records and ours are different, please contact Sherrie at 610-255-0623. Thank you.

Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc. (EIN 23-2583446) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

All Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.



Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc.
Laraine Mocenigo, Editor
15 Bunnvale Road
Califon, NJ 07830

Check your address label.
The first line tells the status of your membership.
If your renewal is due, please use the Membership form on page 7.

SATURDAY, September 10, 2016

11:30 am — 4:00 pm



2016 Doberman Jamboree

Rain or Shine

Join the Party at this Year's Doberman Jamboree!!

**Lancaster County Central Park,
Pavilion #1
East Strawberry & Chesapeake Streets
Lancaster, PA**

**Admission is free to members. ★
Non-members: \$20 per family**

Directions to Lancaster County Central Park, Pavilion #1

From Philadelphia/King of Prussia: Rt. 202S to Rt. 30W to Rt. 462W/Lincoln Hwy. Left onto S. Broad St. which becomes Chesapeake St. Left into park.

From Harrisburg: Rt. 283E to Rt. 30E to Fruitville Pike/Rt. 72S to N Prince St./Rt222/272 S. Left onto W. Andrew St. Right onto E Strawberry St, across Chesapeake St. into park.

From York: Rt. 30E toward Lancaster. Right onto Harrisburg Pike. Right onto N. Prince St./Rt. 222/272 S. Left onto W. Andrew St. Right onto E. Strawberry St. across Chesapeake St. into park.

From City of Lancaster: Take Duke St. south through the city. Turn right onto Chesapeake St. Go .2 miles and turn left into park.

From all directions: Once in park, follow E. Strawberry St. Pavilion #1 is first pavilion on right across from Main Office (Brick Building).

—Saving Doberman Pinschers since 1989—

Annual fundraising event of Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc.

- Fundraising auctions, tricky tray, 50/50 raffle, & vendors
- Door prizes, contests, games and awards
- Main dish and beverages will be provided
- Please bring a covered dish
- Water and biscuits will be available for our canine guests

Note: All dogs must be on leash, exercise pens, crates, and lawn chairs are optional

Make your reservations now!

Contact to RSVP:

**Sherrie Robinson, treasurer@dprpa.org,
Phone 610-255-0623**

★ **Donations requested for our foster dogs: Large dog beds, durable toys, collars and 6ft. leashes, treats, pet store gift cards**



WANTED

Jamboree Donations

Donations for Jamboree auction/fundraiser being sought. Please send donations, preferably before Jamboree, to Renee George. Her contact info to arrange pick up or delivery is

dobiegirl13@hotmail.com
or
phone 717-738-4189.

Donations can also be brought the day of the event if you are unable to get them to Renee in advance.



2017 Calendar Photos

The 2017 calendar is under-way. If you would like your rescue dog to appear, please send a high-resolution photo before July 15 to

Trish LaBelle
tlab88@comcast.net.

"Don't forget to bring your gently used shoes for our ongoing shoe drive"

Drawings pages 2 and 4 courtesy of Dobie Doodles, Doberman Rescue Concern, Inc.