



# dobermans

## TO THE RESCUE

FALL / WINTER 2007 | VOL. 2, ISSUE 4

The mission of Doberman Rescue of New Mexico, Inc. is to ensure the safety and well-being of Dobermans who have become lost or abandoned; to educate the public about the breed and proper general dog care; and to find good, permanent homes for Dobermans within our rescue network.

## Leaky Sierra

Sierra was surrendered to DRNM, Inc. because of an incontinence problem. She was just seven months of age. Sierra came from a backyard breeder who had advertised her "for sale" in a local newspaper.

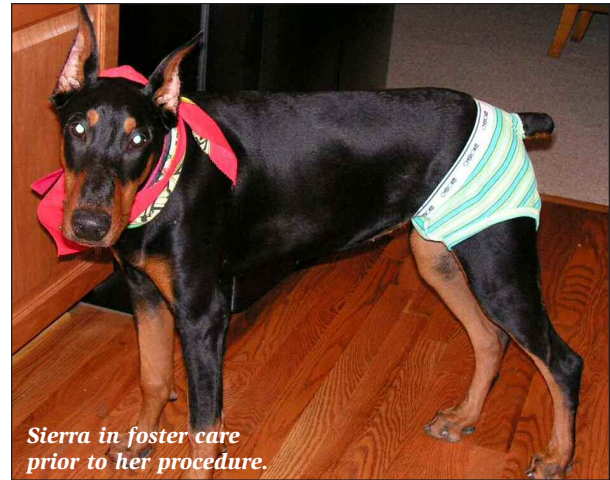
Sierra's original owner noticed that she was leaking urine during naps and overnight, even though she was housebroken during the day. Initially it was thought that this was a simple housebreaking issue and he used more diligence. But as the weeks passed, the problem worsened rather than improved. Each morning her crate would be totally saturated with urine.

She was checked for any type of bladder or kidney infection — there was none. She was prescribed a standard incontinence medication and it had no effect whatsoever. Hormone replacement was also tried — again, with no improvement.

Sierra was seen by specialists at the Albuquerque Veterinary Specialty Clinic. A dye x-ray was taken to try to determine if she might have a condition known as ectopic ureter. In layman's terms, this is when the tube that should connect the kidney and bladder is not attached properly, allowing urine to dribble outside the bladder. There is a sphincter muscle which controls the release of urine from the bladder; but if the urine is leaking outside the bladder, the sphincter can not control its release.

The x-ray was inconclusive. By this time, Sierra's owner had invested nearly \$2,000 in vet visits, diagnostics, and her incontinence problem was showing no sign of improvement. Sierra was beautiful to look at and had a magnificent personality — but she continued to leak urine constantly. He did not want to relegate her to the backyard — he wanted her to be his 24/7 companion. He was frustrated and emotionally and financially spent. He contacted DRNM, Inc. to see if they could get treatment for Sierra and eventually place her into a loving home.

Sierra went into foster care where she had an instant



Sierra in foster care prior to her procedure.

A huge thanks goes out to the incredibly warm and welcoming Dan and Jan Clark who "fostered" Boni and Sierra near Ft. Collins, Colo. while Sierra underwent tests and treatment for her incontinence. Dan and Jan are parents to Erin and Austin as well as the happy adoptees from DRNM, Inc., Ivan and Petra.

### Our Thanks

CONTINUED >>

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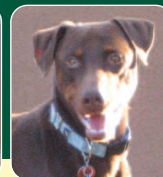
Some of our current adoptees...



Luna  
AVAILABLE



Lojak  
AVAILABLE



Phaedrus  
AVAILABLE



Nikki  
ADOPTED



Aragon  
ADOPTED

## Leaky Sierra

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

canine family of four. She loved to interact with the other dogs and was playful and full of zest. She was a typical Doberman puppy, just full of life. While inside the house, she wore panties with a pad to catch any leaking urine.

Sierra was taken to the Colorado School of Veterinary Medicine in Ft. Collins. Boni and Sierra stayed with Dan and Jan who adopted two Dobermans (Petra and Ivan) from DRNM, Inc. the year before and graciously offered to host them during their week in Colorado. Sierra met with a veterinarian at CSU who reviewed her records and examined her thoroughly.

A systoscopy was performed the following day. While under anesthesia, a tiny camera was inserted through Sierra's vaginal opening and threaded up to view her "pipes and waterworks." Although her kidneys were slightly misshapen, and both the kidneys and bladder were smaller than normal, both ureters were attached properly and there was no leakage outside the bladder.

A pressure test determined, however, that her urinary sphincter was not closing tightly enough to keep urine from dribbling out when she was relaxed or asleep. A collagen injection was recommended and given, along



Sierra (left) and Jazz (right).

with incontinence drug therapy of both Proin and DES (see story below). Two days later, Sierra was leak free!

Sierra returned to foster care where she was monitored closely. She was given her Proin and DES as scheduled and as she continued to remain leak-free, the dosages were reduced.

DRNM, Inc. contacted a great friend to our rescue group who had recently lost her female Doberman, Gypsy, to a heart condition and her male Doberman, Jazz, was in

## Urinary Incontinence

Urinary incontinence is a common occurrence in females, although males can develop it as well. If you have a female who suddenly starts 'wetting the bed' while she sleeps, or leaves a few drips of urine after she gets up from a short nap, you may have a dog who is developing urinary incontinence. This problem occurs more frequently in dogs who are spayed than those who are not. When dogs are spayed very young, under the age of six months the problem can show up at an even earlier age. Hormones are the culprit here. Please do not get angry if you think your dog is forgetting

her housetraining rules. She's not! She can't stop this, and truly has no control. Many dogs actually wake up, whip around and look almost horrified.

If you find that your girl or boy is suddenly leaving wet spots in the bed, have your vet check a urine sample to rule out the possibility of a urinary tract infection (UTI). The easiest way to collect a urine sample from a squatting girl is first thing in the morning. Keep her on a leash and have an oblong object with you. The George Foreman Grill kidney-shaped grease catcher, ladle or miniature bread pan are my personal favorites. If a UTI is ruled out, talk to your vet about treatment options for urinary incontinence.

Two inexpensive drugs strengthen the internal urethral sphincter tone, which controls the stop and start of urine flow. PPA or Proin (Phenylpropanolamine), the primary drug of choice, is dosed daily. The dosage is determined by the severity of the incontinence. If Proin does not work, consult with a vet who is willing to try DES (Diethylstilbesterol), which should only be used in spayed female dogs. DES is started with one dose per day for a week, then one dose every five to seven days. Each dog responds differently to DES, so if there is breakthrough leakage towards the end of a week, your dog may need to be dosed every five or six days.

Play around with the dosage for either drug for the first few months. Most dogs respond with one or the other, or sometimes a combination of both. Sometimes as a dog gets older dosages for either drug needs to be adjusted. That is okay. Be sure to keep an eye on your girl and

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a depressed and lonely state.

Sierra burst into Carole Baker's (hostess of our two Doberman Spring Flings) home and life like a Fourth of July extravaganza! She raced around the four acres exploring every nook and cranny, tree, shrub and of course, the pond. Sierra LOVES water! Jazz watched in amazement at Sierra's energy and looked at Carole as if to ask, "Is she staying?"

Jazz and Sierra are now inseparable. They have their morning romp and run through the property daily, enjoy naps, and are constantly playing and wrestling together.

Sierra is a wonderful success story. This is the first time we have provided extensive specialized medical care for one of our foster Dobermans — and the results speak for themselves. We are delighted that Sierra has a wonderful life ahead of her with her new family.

### You can help Dobermans in N.M.!

- I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to spay/neuter, help pay vet bills, or rescue a Doberman from a shelter.
- I WOULD LIKE TO FOSTER a Doberman in my house. I have a fenced yard, accommodating home and some experience with dogs.

MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:  
Doberman Rescue of New Mexico,  
1700 Indian Wells Rd.,  
Alamogordo, NM 88310

check her bed now and then to be sure a recurrence isn't developing.

Acupuncture is another option that may solve the problem with only a few treatments, and then following up with 'tune-ups' over a period of one to 12 months depending on the severity of the incontinence.

Remember that urinary incontinence is not uncommon and there are treatment options available. Your dog needs your love, patience and a correct medical diagnosis.



## Tale of Two Tobies, A Follow-up

In our last newsletter, we told you a story about two Toby's that came into our rescue group within weeks of one another with very different, but somewhat shocking stories. With mixed feelings we'd like to tell you how these stories turned out.

Toby number two, more conveniently renamed Cody, had been in an abusive, neglectful situation with a leg that had been broken, but not at all properly set. He was scheduled for corrective surgery, but as his physical health improved with TLC, good food and warmth, his behavior became increasingly aggressive and unpredictable towards humans and animals. DRNM, Inc. contracted two professionals to conduct behavioral assessments, which confirmed his aggressive tendencies and determined that Cody had a dangerous mental state. After the behavioral assessments, we tried to rehabilitate Cody in the following months, but our Board reluctantly decided that it was too dangerous to place him in any home that could provide him a safe and risk-free quality of life. Cody was euthanized in his foster home. We are deeply sorry to have to take this step, which is far from rescue. We are very grateful for the huge amount of financial and moral support that came to DRNM, Inc. surrounding Cody as well as Toby, whose story ends below.

Our first Toby has as happy an ending as can be written. As you may recall, Toby had been kept by an animal hoarder (over 110 animals on site) and lived in a cage too small for him to fully stand up in. Consequently, his front legs bowed inwards and deformed his wrists and feet. Surgery was contemplated for Toby as well, but it was decided after second and third opinions that his happy nature, age, and the uncertainty of efficacy for the surgery, that Toby would forgo the unpleasant procedure of having both front legs broken and re-set. Toby now lives in Las Cruces with Mike and Debra, and house-mates Molly, a shephard mix, and Ivy, a female Doberman adopted from DRNM, Inc. about one year previous to Toby's rescue. Toby is in an ideal home for any Doberman as his male valet, Mike, is virtually home 24/7 and knows just what's required to make a dog's life a dog's life.

1997-2007

## Basco Vom Mullenstrom

**B**asco Vom Mullenstrom crossed the Rainbow Bridge on August 31, 2007. He was a wonderful companion of Boni Galarneau and best friend of Abby, her female Doberman. Basco was born in Germany and won two trophies in conformation as a puppy there before coming to the United States at six months of age with his German family.

Basco was re-homed when his growing family discovered that he was not comfortable with small children. Abby and Boni drove to Alamogordo to meet Basco and it was love at first sight! Abby was just nine months of age and desperately in need of a playmate. Basco was a big hunk of a Doberman, at 3-1/2 years of age, and Abby became the apple of his eye.

Basco enjoyed romps in the mesa, chasing rabbits and flushing out quail. He loved tennis balls and would retrieve them endlessly.

A few days before he passed, Basco's appetite waned and he seemed to be full in the gut. He looked and acted



uncomfortable and began having difficulty breathing. Bloodwork revealed that his liver had shut down, probably due to a malignant tumor. Rather than put Basco through extensive uncomfortable procedures, Boni chose to allow Basco to gently cross the Rainbow Bridge as she held his head in her lap. She believes he is once again romping in the fields on the other side, waiting for the rest of his family to meet up with him someday in the future.

Ask your family for a gift donation to DRNM, Inc. in your name or send a gift in their name and we'll send a card in thanks. Send your donation to DRNM, Inc. 1700 Indian Wells Rd. Alamogordo, NM 88310. **YAPPY HOWLDAYS!**

**WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?**



[www.dobermanrescuemn.petfinder.com](http://www.dobermanrescuemn.petfinder.com)

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