

NEWSLETTER



THE DOBIE TIMES

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Inside This Issue

Page 1 – Hello

Page 2 & 3 – Meet Trustee Julie Maddock & Cora

Page 4 – Looking back at 2023 and Looking Forward to 2024

Page 5 – Santa Paws Grotto December 2023

Page 6 – From Golden Oldies to a Young Pup

Page 7 - Home to Home Rescue – December 2023

Page 8 – Contact Information

HELLO 🙌

Welcome to 2024. The new year has started, it is a time for looking forward to the exciting year ahead but also a time to look back at the successes of 2023. Our cover pup this month is not a spotted Dobermann, but a Dalmatian named Cora. So why is a Dalmatian on the cover of The Dobie Times? Some people will know, for everyone else read on to find out. There was an exciting event in December called Santa Paws Grotto that was hosted at DNA Pet Supplies. This event helped raised money for Lincs Dobermann Rescue, while allowing some very happy pups to whisper their wishlists to Santa Paws. There is also a heart-warming story about a home-to-home adoption and a tearful one about adopting golden oldie Dobermanns with a smile at the end.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE AT LINC'S DOBERMANN RESCUE



Introducing Trustee Julie Maddock



I grew up in rural Cheshire; as a farmer's daughter I was brought up around livestock and some fabulous Border Collies. One set of grandparents had a couple of Dalmatians to compliment the shire horses they bred, they were unruly and so I didn't much enjoy being around them, the other set of grandparents had a Cairn Terrier, and it was this poor pupster that first got a taste of my training skills as I dragged it around the garden over homemade jumps - lol!

I left home and moved around the country forging a career in food manufacturing, firstly in operations and then switching to compliance, during this time it would have been unfair to own a dog.

Fast forward about 18yrs to 2019, I moved to Shropshire and loved it and was settled with my position at work, so it was time to get a dog. Along came Cora, yep, a Dalmatian, a dog I knew I would have to put some time and effort into because unruly I didn't want! She changed my life, I found a love of walking and discovering fabulous places throughout the UK (with more to find and experience), a passion for dog training and because of her I became a foster carer for the Lincs Dobermann Rescue (LDR).

First, I went to The Dogs Trust and applied to be a foster carer, but I was refused because of my inexperience and because Cora was still only 7mths old. It was around this time I bumped into Morag Moreton (LDR Treasurer) at Cora's puppy school, she mentioned a fun dog show LDR were putting on in a nearby village and so off we went. 2mths later a huge brown Dobie boy was delivered to my door.

I won't lie, I cried on and off for two weeks, I had no idea what to do with this small brown 'donkey' but my pride wouldn't let me be anything other than determined, and here we are today 60 foster Dobie (and a one-off XL Bully) later!

My understanding of dog behaviour and how they learn had to improve in order for me to cope with some of the dogs that have passed through my home and the rescue and so I've done what I can to learn. I've completed on-line courses (not very good ones I now realise), an on-line conference 'The Aggression in Dogs' with Michael Shikashio, listened to many dog training podcasts, and attended training workshops with Chad Makin (USA trainer) and another with Jo-Roise Haffenden (UK trainer), and taken opportunity to train Cora or foster dogs with some other great trainers. I'm booked to go on a dog training workshop with Jay Jack (USA trainer) later in the year and can't wait because his training is predominately play based.

Fostering has presented 'highs' and 'struggles', but even the 'struggles' I now look back on either fondly, with amusement, and/or a sense of achievement. One of these was a very sick dog which I begged Paula Devries (founder of LDR) to let me help with, I could tell she was reluctant, and once delivered I realised why! He was on a high dose of steroids and so drank loads of water and needed constant toilet breaks (very sleep limiting), and his stools were loose and of nose peg quality, and at the time I'm not sure anyone really knew what was wrong with him or how we were going to get him back on track, until one day he took a turn for the worse and so I rushed him off to an emergency vet. The vet suggested a change of diet and so he was changed to a hydrolysed kibble and from here he went from strength to strength, he was slowly weaned off the steroids and eventually moved onto a normal diet...and then he moved on to a new home. This was the first time I had accompanied Paula on a rehoming expedition and for Cora the first time she tasted ice-cream. I've been locked out of car parks with Cora and a foster dog in tow wondering how we are going to get home, I've been bitten, I've had ribs broken, I've had many a sleepless night, I've had my car chewed, door and seat belt chewed, and I've had to walk home with hurt

pride; covered in mud after being dragged around a muddy field at the end of a long line...I think the Cairn Terrier was getting his own back!



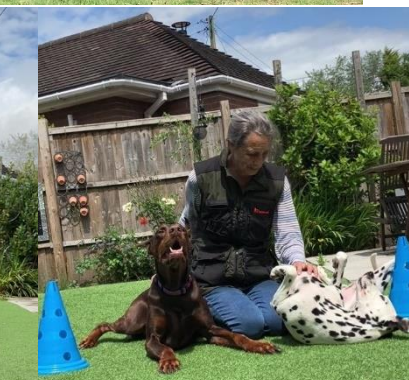
When Paula became poorly, I took on another volunteering element with the rescue by taking over as the Dog Trustee in 2021. Another step that caught me off guard and left me again in a position of needing to learn and learn quickly to ensure that the beautiful Dobies that come into our care have found the best forever homes.

I was honoured when the Trustees, unbeknown to me, put my name forward for the 2023 Petplan Awards in the category 'Volunteer of the Year', to have been nominated felt very special to me and of course it was a fantastic accolade for such a small Charity, of which we were all very proud.

Throughout all my time volunteering with LDR I've been fortunate with, and often had to fall back on, the support of the other trustees and volunteers; there are some truly amazing selfless people giving up their time to ensure Dobies are safe and happy. However, there is one who puts up with me, and forgives me, more than any other and that's Cora.

Cora:

- she is my test dog for new training techniques
- she is my stooge and guide when checking how Dobies in our care are around other dogs
- she's a teacher and mentor; setting boundaries for dog-on-dog play
- she sits patiently and with trust in me when working with an unsociable dog
- she keeps order when a foster is out on walks with us...except when they fall in the canal which just sends her into a zoomie frenzy...can't blame her they are Doberdorks after all!
- she travels round the country with me, to rehome or collect Dobies and attend training workshops – she settles anywhere – hotel rooms, tents, crates
- she's a loyal companion, a fun 4-legged bestie, a cuddle monster and at times a comedy genius



Look Back at 2023 and Looking Forward to 2024



2023 was a resounding success for Lincs. Lots of fun was had by all, with two successful fundraising events; Dobiefest in September and Santa Paws Grotto in December (more on that later in newsletter). Both events were well attended, with greater numbers than was anticipated. But success isn't only measured by fundraising and fun events, though those are not a bad way to succeed, it is the rescuing, rehoming, and helping of Dobermanns. After all that is what it is all about. We have some numbers about all the Dobermanns helped in 2023 by Lincs to show what all the fundraising is for.

- 🐾 Total dogs rehomed 65
- 🐾 60% male / 40% bitches
- 🐾 68% black & tan / 26% brown / 6% - Blue or Isabella
- 🐾 Ages have ranged from 12wks to 8yrs / 61% under 2yrs old
- 🐾 The dogs have been rehomed across 31 counties
- 🐾 Ruby has been the most popular name (at the time dog was surrendered)
- 🐾 Total kennel days = 914

This year, although transport costs have risen, the team have successfully managed to reduce the time dogs are spending in kennels firstly because Dobies do not do well in kennels and secondly because of the costs. How have we achieved this:

- 🐾 We've got some new foster carers on board who have been amazing – thank you
- 🐾 We have managed to do a lot more direct rehomes (the dog has gone straight from the surrenderer's home into the adopters' home)

2024 is looking bright and beautiful, despite the rainy weather that is creating havoc with flooding. Unfortunately, the need to continue to help rescue and rehome Dobermanns will continue in 2024, if looking on some of the websites listing pets for sale and rehoming are anything to go by. That just means that Lincs will continue to be busy helping as many beautiful souls as possible. So, what can we look forward to in 2024, well please see the list of planned events. More details to come as and when we know more. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

🐾 **Fun Day Dog Show – Sunday 31st March (Easter Sunday) in Bury.**

- There will be tea, coffee, cakes, and sandwiches available (I know which one I would choose) for purchase.
- There will be a selection of stalls.
- The Dog Show is open to all breeds.
- All funds raised will be donated to Lincs.
- Being held in memory of Steve Wood.
- It is being held at The Brown Cow, Burrs Country Park, Woodhill Road, Bury, BL8 1DA.

🐾 **All About Dogs Show Newark – Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st April in Newark**

- Lincs will have a stand at the All About Dogs Show in Newark
- Opening times 9:30am to 5:00pm
- Tickets can be purchased online.
- Free Parking
- It is being held at Newark Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark, NG24 2NY

🐾 **Dobiefest – Date and Timings to be confirmed.**

Santa Paws – December 2023



As the festive season starts, there is so much to do with the family or by yourself. Malls are decorated, so are workplaces, garden centres have trees and decorations, and of course taking the kids to meet Santa so they can whisper their Christmas wishes to him. So, what about the dogs? What do they look forward too? Who will listen to their wishlist of squeaky toys, treats, chew toys, and blankies? Santa Paws, of course. Last year one of the owners of DNA Pet Supplies, Mary-Ann, thought that dogs needed a place to go in the festive season. A place that would welcome any dog, even the reactive ones. That was the beginning of Santa Paws Grotto, and this is a proper grotto built in the store with Santa Paws there to listen to all the good girls and boys.

This year saw a huge number of dogs attending with their humans, travelling from near and far. Last year there were 250 dogs, this year it was 320. This just proves that we want to include our pets in celebrating the festive season. Nate and Mary-Ann, the owners of DNA Pet Supplies, have supported Lincs Dobermann Rescue in a variety of ways, one of which became Santa Paws Grotto. All the proceeds from the Santa Paws Grotto were donated to Lincs Dobermann Rescue to support their continuing work to rescue Dobermanns.

So, what could you expect when visiting Santa Paws Grotto? There were treats provided for those waiting in line, you wouldn't want any grumpy good girls and boys because they are hungry. Photos with Santa Paws were available and of course, presents from Santa Paws. The Grinch even made an appearance at the Grotto this year. There was a raffle and puppucinos. Overall, a good day out for the whole family, including the furry ones. If that is not enough, there is no need to worry if your dog is reactive, Santa Paws wants to hear from them too. The owners of DNA Pet Supplies, having experience with reactive dogs, ensured that those reactive dogs were able to enter the store through the back door, and then cleared the store to allow the dogs to have a calm environment to speak with Santa Paws about their Wishlist. This event was aimed to include all members of the family, include those not comfortable in busy, noisy places and it was a resounding success. With everything in the news lately about the ban on XL Bullies, it was made known that XL Bullies were welcome at this event before the ban and restrictions came into place.

Events like Santa Paws Grotto don't just happen, it takes volunteers to help out. This year had 9 volunteers dressed up to entertain. The leaflets for the Santa Paws Grotto were kindly donated by the store's designer and some suppliers for the store donated treats. The cost of the photography and presents that Santa Paws handed out were covered by DNA Pet Supplies. Andy, one of the Lincs Trustees, came with pumpkin biscuits for the dogs. The day saw a variety of breeds come to visit and many comments saying how wonderful the Grotto was, even better than some that had been visited for humans only.

The Grotto was held over Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December raising a staggering £2,170.85 over the two days. A huge thank you to everyone who attended the event, the volunteers that made the event happen, and DNA Pet Supplies for the location, organising the event, and all the donations. A final special thank you to Santa Paws, in particular the volunteer who dressed up as Santa Paws. Despite being quite poorly leading up to the event, the volunteer was determined to be Santa Paws for all the good girls and boys.

From Golden Oldies to a Young Pup



So many times, older dogs are not adopted due to a variety of reasons, like they won't live long or can be expensive due to a greater risk of health issues that will need treating.

Jayne had had Dobermanns before with a partner but when it came time to adopt her first Dobermann on her own, she wasn't sure she could handle a young, energetic dog. So when a friend called to let her know that there was a Dobermann available at the local RSPCA, an 11-year-old male named Dobby, Jayne thought she would be able to help give Dobby a home for his final years. Dobby was a cruelty case and came to the RSPCA severely underweight. Jayne cared for Dobby for 15 months, giving him the home he truly deserved, before sadly he passed away. By then Jayne had joined Lincs Dobermann Rescue in November 2019. Following Dobby's death, Jayne needed time to grieve the loss, a feeling too many pet owners know.

In September 2020 Jayne felt ready to give another Dobermann a home, and due to her previous experience with older dogs, beautiful Monty was thought to be a good fit. Sadly after only 9 months with Jayne, Monty passed away from DCM (a disease far too common in Dobermanns).

Next came Girlie Girl, a 9-year-old Dobermann. Another golden oldie finding a restful, loving home with Jayne. Just 14 months later Girlie Girl passed away with heart arrhythmia.

After having taken in 3 golden oldies, Jayne was ready to have a younger Dobermann to care for. Not 2 weeks later Caesar arrived. At 7 years old, Caesar had some good years ahead of him with Jayne. Caesar would break Jayne's heart harder than the previous 3 Dobermanns. Just 7 months after Caesar joined Jayne he was diagnosed with lymphoma and 12-hours later went to sleep forever.

Jayne learned a lot caring for older Dobermanns. They came with routines and were calm, just needing to relax in their final years. Jayne having previous experience as a nanny knew all about routines, and learned to look for signs of health issues that most owners would miss.

After the heartbreak of Caesar, Jayne would adopt another young Dobermann. This one is 4 years old and a little overweight. Ted has now found his forever home with Jayne. Due to being overweight, Ted has brought his own challenges to Jayne's life and the routine is back. Ted is now on a strict diet and exercise routine (That sounds familiar as the New Year is upon us, most people will have a resolution to lose weight through diet and exercise. I guess if it is good for a Dobermann than it is good for a human.). With that being said, Ted's exercise must be strictly managed to ensure that he doesn't hurt himself while trying to lose weight. Jayne and Ted are having an adventure learning basic obedience and how to walk on the lead with a trainer as well as doing crate training to help with Ted's separation anxiety. Ted has proven to be a positive addition to Jayne's life, keeping her entertained with sniffing out things that Jayne hides for him to find, squeaking his toys, and cuddling with his blankie.

Every Dobermann, every dog, no matter how young or old, deserves a loving home with all the comforts they need until it is their time to sleep forever. Jayne has proved there is joy in adopting older dogs, as well as a different set of challenges.



Home to Home Rescue – December 2023



Katy grew up with Dobermanns and want the same for her family. Last year the family lost their 2 Dobies, Maddie and Jet. Both were rescue Dobies and had fit in with the family well. Sadly Maddie was lost to DCM 😞, and Jet seemed to slowly fade after Maddie's death. The loss of their beloved Dobies left the families hearts broken.

When time came to think about getting another Dobie, Katy and her family wanted to adopt a rescue again. This brought with it some issues as Katy now had to young children and rescue dogs can have issues not suited to families with younger children. The previous rescue where Maddie and Jet came from had closed their doors but Katy kept in contact with some of the volunteers. The volunteers suggested Katy speak with Lincs Dobermann Rescue to find a Dobermann that might fit with her young family.

Lady came up for adoption, through no fault of her own and seemed like a good match for Katy and her family. The epic journey to bring Lady, soon to be renamed Freya, to Katy's family would begin. Lady would be rehomed from her old home to her new one. The journey would see Lady travel from Northumberland to the south coast via 3 different cars and a lot of co-ordination. Home to home adoptions are ideal for Dobermanns, as Dobies are known to have difficulties staying in kennels. For those who don't know Lady's new name Freya means Lady in Old Norse. Katy and her family wanted to honour Freya's old family, whilst enjoying a fresh start with a new name.

Freya has proven, at just 14 months old, to be really chilled and really good with Katy's young children. That doesn't mean that Freya is not energetic but seems to know to quiet down around the children. With Freya being a big girl at 40 kgs and having lots of energy, Katy intends to do CaniCross with Freya but only when her bones have developed fully, at around 18 months old.

The future looks bright and busy for Katy, James, her children, and Freya full of fun activities and lots of love.



ADOPTION TIPS

1. Do your research on the breed you want to adopt. Dobermanns are a large breed that require exercise and lots of attention. They also take up lots of space.
2. Get your application in early. By the time you see a post on a Dobie that is ready for adoption, it is likely a match has been found from the existing waitlist.
3. Be patient. The right Dobie is out there for you but it may take some time for them to find you.



The 3-3-3 Rule of Adopting a Rescue Dog (This is a general guideline; all dogs are unique and will adjust to their new environments in their own time.)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1	2	3

In the first 3 days, your new dog may feel overwhelmed, be scared and unsure of what is going on, not comfortable with themselves or their surroundings, they may not want to eat or drink, shut down and want to curl up in their crate or hide, and finally may test the boundaries.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

After 3 weeks, your new dog may start to show signs of settling, feel more comfortable in the environment and with the people of the house, understand the routine, start showing their true personality. At this point any behavioural issues may start to show up.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

After 3 months, your new dog should feel settled in their new home, have built a bond with the people of the house and be showing signs of trust in the surroundings and people, feeling secure with the home and family, and be settled into a routine.

Ways to Help:

1. Go to the website and click the Donate Now button.
2. Join the Lincs Dobermann Rescue Fundraising Group on Facebook.
3. Become a Dobie Mate by making a monthly donation.
4. Gift in your will.
5. Volunteer to Foster Dobies that come to Lincs Dobermann Rescue.
6. Volunteer in other ways. There are plenty of opportunities to help.

Remember no amount is too small. Every little bit helps all the beautiful Dobies that come through Lincs Dobermann Rescue.



Lincs Dobermann Rescue Website

<https://lincsdobermannrescue.com/>



Main Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/lincsdobermannrescue>



Dobies @ Lincs Dobermann Rescue (Adoption page)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/720348868349681>



Lincs Dobermann Rescue Fundraising Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/378819317147099>



X (Formerly Twitter)

<https://twitter.com/LincsDobermann>



Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/lincs_dobermann_rescue

Fun Facts:

Following on from last month's fun fact, Dobermanns are lap dogs.

Or so they think....

That usually means being squashed by a Dobie that can range from about 32 to 45 kilos.

That is quite the lap dog.

