

NEWSLETTER



THE DOBIE TIMES

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Cover photo: Athena (top left) and Nyla & Taz

HELLO 🙋

Summer is here and warm weather is on the horizon. With summer here there are some real things to look out for, from ticks to hay fever and much more; but it also means longer days with ever more time to get out and enjoy time with family and the fur babies. This month's issue includes some fun times at All About the Dogs Show in Newark where Lincs had a stall, some information on hay fever and its effects on dogs, and some insight into Canicross, challenging dog sport. As always there is a wonderful adoption story about Athena (nee Cleo) who found a loving home with Billie, Ben, and Helo the Malinois.

Don't forget we are just 55 days to Dobiefest and counting. This year Dobiefest will be held in Newark at Oakridge Arena, a brand-new venue that is enclosed. So, whether the weather is hot and sunny, or rainy and cool, everyone can have a good time.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY FROM EVERYONE AT LINC'S DOBERMANN RESCUE



Athena the Dobermann Goddess

Current age: 2yrs 11mths / Adoption date: 16.05.23



Billie and Ben had always wanted a dog, but life had been hectic, with developing careers and the need to relocate. Then their time arrived, they were settled in one location, so now all they needed to do was choose what breed to have. Ben was a fan of German Shepards and Billie wanted a Dobermann...mmm, tricky! They ended up choosing a gorgeous Malinois that they called Helo (short for Helios, Greek god of the sun). Time marched on and Billie and Ben decided they wanted to adopt another dog. This time Billie would get her wish, adopting a Dobermann. They searched around, looking for Dobermann specific rescues and found a few including Lincs Dobermann Rescue (LDR).

Having a male Malinois limited their adoption options, particularly as there seems to be more male Dobermanns available for adoption than females. Billie and Ben found a neutered male Dobermann at another rescue that might have worked but after a conversation with LDR it was determined that it would not be a good idea to adopt a second male to live with Helo. Helo being the resident dog it was important that he got on with the new addition.

Then Billie and Ben received that fateful text from LDR asking them to give them a call, about a female Dobermann named Cleo; it was thought that she just might fit what they were looking for. Cleo was in short term foster care with Julie (an LDR volunteer), and so a meet was arranged at her home. Julie told me that at first Cleo was not impressed with Helo but that wasn't a showstopper, Billie and Ben proved to be competent dog handlers and so although the meet was not as straightforward as some, it was clear they would work hard at overcoming the challenges between the two dogs and so Cleo had found her new home. Cleo had found her new home and with it a new name Athena (the Greek goddess of wisdom, war and the crafts), sticking with the Greek god theme already in place with Helo.

Athena initially was afraid to go anywhere new or be left alone with Helo. It was all new and a bit terrifying. Three months in** and some challenges along the way, Athena had settled into the routine with Billie, Ben, and Helo and started to show her true personality, quickly becoming a member of the pack. Billie and Ben would learn that all dogs are unique and special in their own way, needing different things and have different ways of showing love. Now, Athena loves to go everywhere, including volunteering, and just loves everyone she meets; in stark contrast to Helo who seems to dislike most people and is generally unsociable. And then there was her first night at home in which Billie slept on the sofa to help Athena settle, and now Athena wants nothing more than to cuddle on the sofa.

Billie and Ben are grateful to Lincs Dobermann Rescue for allowing them to adopt Athena and in doing so join the warm and welcoming LDR community. One year on with Athena happily settled in, ruling the household and Helo, and cheekily stealing Ben's socks and shorts; it is safe to say that Athena has found her forever home. She might have been a bit chubby when she arrived at Billie and Ben's home, earning her the nickname Cubby Princess, but Athena is now the lovely Miss August in the Lincs Dobermann Calendar 2024.

**when adopting a dog remember the 3-3-3 rule for rescue dogs. You can find a copy of this at the end of the newsletter.



Athena and Helo

Getting Active with Billie



Don't forget about me

I am just resting

Hay Fever in Dogs

by Ellen Hearn



Yes you read that correctly, dogs can suffer with hay fever. They may sneeze, have itchy eyes and a runny nose but the most common symptom is itchy skin. Whilst this is likely to occur in spring and/or summer, it might be difficult to differentiate an allergic reaction to pollen in your dog as opposed to an allergic reaction to say, fleas.

The three main types of pollen are tree pollen (March to May), grass pollen (May to July) and weed pollen (June to September) although these are guides rather than exact timings.

To be truly sure if your dog is allergic to pollen, an allergy test would be needed by a qualified vet.

Various treatments can help your dog which could include medicated skin sprays and creams, medicated ear or eye drops, antihistamines and various other medication. In severe cases, immunotherapy may be an option.

To help ease any symptoms, you could consider the following:

- ✿ walking your dog early in the morning or later in the evening to avoid high midday pollen counts
- ✿ wiping your dog's paws, fur and skin (where possible) with a damp cloth after a walk to help remove any pollen
- ✿ washing bedding regularly
- ✿ keeping any flea or worming treatment up to date to reduce itching

As with all potential conditions or illnesses, please seek advice from a qualified vet.

Sweet Girl Nyla

Current Age: 2yrs 9mths / Date adopted: 30.08.22

Nyla has had quite the journey to find her way to John's home. At just 11 months old when she came to Lincs Dobermann Rescue (LDR), Nyla had already been in a rescue in Ireland, and transferred to a rescue in Hertfordshire. Both rescues were unable to place Nyla in a home. The question remains as to why it took two rescues before Lincs was able to place her as she is such a lovely girl. Enter John and Taz.



John had previous experience with Dobermanns and had sadly lost a Dobie in March 2020. Not wanting to be on his own, John got Taz a Rotterman (Dobermann/Rottweiler cross). The after 9 months John decided he could fit a second dog into their lives and went looking to rescue a Dobermann. He knew that adding another male into the mix was not a good idea and, as Taz was entire, he would need a neutered Dobie girl. He noticed that rescues have lots of male Dobermanns available but very few neutered females so John expected a long wait, but as fate would have it about a week after submitting his adoption application to LDR, John would get that all important call; they thought they had the right one for him...but would Taz be ok with her? That is always the question when you already have a resident dog, will they get on with the dog you are trying to rescue?

John and Taz would make the drive over 300 miles to meet Nyla. On arrival there was just time to say hello and introduce Julie, the LDR volunteer charged with the meet and greet, to Taz. This proved a valuable meeting as Julie gave some valuable insight into Taz's behaviours. This information and understanding would be useful going forward for both John and Taz. All that way and not even meeting Nyla! Then it was day 2 and time for first meetings. Would Nyla get on with Taz? Would Nyla take to John? The meeting field was cleared of all doggy toys and the introduction made; there was no need to fret as Taz and Nyla took to each other immediately, that is until a doggy toy was introduced! When a ball was thrown, Taz had a disagreement with Nyla about who should possess it. Not willing to give up, John and Taz stayed another night. The second meeting on day three brought with it the knowledge that there could be some friction if a ball was introduced and so this was carefully managed to allow for success. In the end a ball was introduced successful, allowing both dogs to play ball without any further disagreements. Nyla had found her family with John and Taz; it was time to go home. The vehicle was full with two large dogs, particularly Taz due to his x-large dog dad (his dad could look through the kitchen window above the sink with all four paws on the ground). Taz and Nyla were given their own separate secure space in the vehicle to relax in for the drive home.

As Nyla settled in, she started to show her true personality that included a strong guarding instinct that would prove to be a bit problematic. No one was allowed near John, not even Taz. But with a little patience and re-education, Nyla has relented, allowing Taz to be near John for some much needed TLC but still keeping a watchful eye on the proceedings. And what is a home without a little bit of barking, or a lot in the case of Nyla. She does love to hear her own voice. Nyla also has no problem play fighting with Taz and telling him off when needed, despite his size. Taz, of course, gives as good as he gets shouting back at Nyla when he wants to. This can be quite scary to look at, for people who don't know the breed, but is really harmless fun, all talk and no bite!

Enter Hugo, John's son's Goldador (Golden Retriever/Labrador cross), and John has a very full house. Nyla has taken it upon herself to educate Hugo on the rules of the house, telling him off as needed. Amazingly all three dogs get on really well together. A house full of love and lots of fur.

Adopting Nyla has been the best decision John has made, and although John would love to adopt another Dobermann logistically it just wouldn't work. It is ok to have a temporary boarder with Hugo but three big dogs all the time would just be a bit too much.

The time spent with LDR volunteer Julie assessing Taz and having two days of meet and greets with Nyla has undoubtedly ensured that Nyla's adoption was successful. It was time well spent to ensure a happy and healthy relationship between John, Taz, and Nyla with a greater understanding of everyone's needs and behaviours.



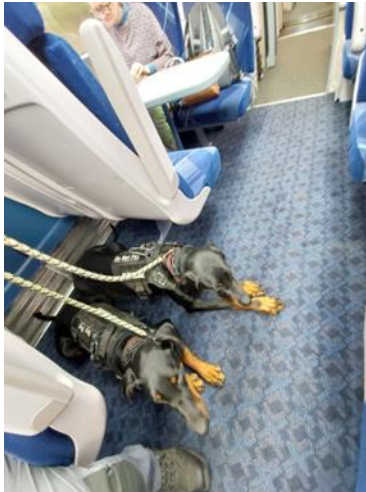
Sweet Nyla



Meet and Greet



We are waiting



Just about fit



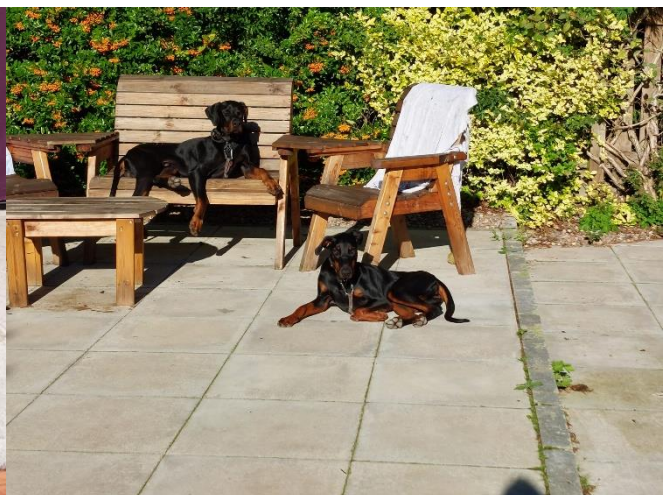
A trio of dogs



You start seeing Dobies everywhere



Snuggle time



Suntanning

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



There was hustle and bustle, and some very good boys and girls....oh and the dogs were well behaved too. The weather was beautiful and the event was well attended. There were dogs of all shapes and sizes, including more than a few Dobies in the crowd. In amongst it all was a stall setup by Lincs Dobermann Rescue. While it wasn't right at the entrance, it was not far away so got loads of visitors and really put the Rescue out there for all to see.

At the stall, there were items to purchase, a raffle, and some fun games for both dogs and humans. And flyers to remind everyone that Dobiefest is just around the corner, with July fast approaching. With loads of people seeing the stall and over £600 raised, the two days were a resounding success.

The stall had some all-important guests with Duke and Eddie the Dobies, and Cora the Dalmatian. Naya, one of the Lincs Dobie girls, also stopped by for a bit on Sunday to enjoy a few hours in the sun. Then there was a visit from a beautiful young brown Dobie boy who got fitted with his first harness by the volunteers on the stall, to the delight of his human parents. And many more pups stopping by to try their paws at getting some treats from the game setup. What a fun day with Lincs getting some publicity and much needed fundraising. Thank you to all the volunteers over both days who manned the stall and entertained the crowds.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/craftycharlysaunders/videos/809618071025079/?idorvanity=527459614111199>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6BTDIkg2Lc/?igsh=MXUzNXZuMnl2c3Zv>

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6COSNtLag2/?igsh=MW1scmx6d3g2OWRmZA==>



Dog Sport - CaniCross

So what is CaniCross? It is a dog sport born out of off-season training for the lead sled dogs by mushers. Harnessing the dog to a human and encouraging the dog to pull. This might seem like a bad thing to teach a dog to pull but it is meant to happen in harness only and to provide valuable training for sled dogs, who spend their winters pulling sleds. From this early start, CaniCross has developed into a recreational and competitive sport for all humans and most breeds. Keeping in mind that CaniCross is meant to challenge both human and dog, dogs must be fully grown (at a minimum must be 1 year old). Outside of that there is no restrictions as long as your dog is fit and healthy, oh and the human too. If there are any concerns about participating in CaniCross, please check with qualified vet first.



There are loads of clubs and races to join worldwide to motivate you into taking part in the CaniCross community and getting active with your Dobermann. Dobermanns being a working breed can excel at a variety of dog sports including CaniCross.

Some tips from CaniCross.org.uk for beginners are below:

1. Make sure the harness fits your dog comfortably. This is a key piece of equipment for your precious dog so it is one of the most important things to get a harness that fits just right.
2. Get to know the equipment you will need to participate in CaniCross. This includes the dog harness, a belt for the human to wear, and a bungee line to connect the two of you. Having the right equipment in good work order, no visible damage, will make CaniCross enjoyable for both you and your dog.
3. Keep the running short and exciting by trying to find an exciting trail such as a single track in the woods so your dog has a clearly defined path to encourage pulling. It is advisable to avoid hard or gravel pathways as this can be hard on both dog and human when running.
4. Make sure to reward your dog for pulling into the harness. Some dogs will do this naturally, while others might need a little encouragement. Positive reinforcement with verbal cues once your dog is pulling correctly is recommended. Rewarding your dog after a good session will ensure the experience is enjoyable for both your dog and you.
5. Finally, once you have gotten into CaniCross, it is important to teach directional cues to your dog. These are vocal cues, often using terms that are used by mushers such as:
 - 🐾 Gee – right
 - 🐾 Haw – left
 - 🐾 On by – ignore keep going
 - 🐾 Hike on – use more pulling power to carry forward
 - 🐾 Lets go – speeding up or starting to go
 - 🐾 Steady – slow the pace
 - 🐾 Whooa – stop
 - 🐾 Stand/line out – stand still facing forward

These words are just suggestions. You can use any words you want as long as both you and your dog know what you are asking for.

For more information please see <https://www.canicross.org.uk/canicross>



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

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.