

Pet Stories: Alana's Family

Frankie and Grizzly...

I met Frankie six years ago on a very cold December weekend at a highway rest stop in Red Bluff. He was cold, hungry, and frightened, and I couldn't catch him. I left some food behind, then called all the after-hours emergency numbers trying to find help for him. Running out of ideas, I finally called Cal-Trans and left a message about a little black-and-white cat abandoned at the rest stop. Monday morning, a wonderful woman—June—phoned to tell me she would get help for him. Her gardener tried for several days and finally trapped him. They thought he might be feral, and were taking him to Red Bluff Animal Services.



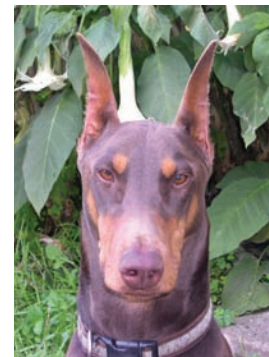
Frankie



There was a small problem, though: when someone else tried to rescue Frankie, the cat bit her, so if he was not adopted he'd be euthanized. I wasn't willing to let that happen, so I called Animal Services and told them I'd adopt the kitten. After his successful quarantine, I made the five-hour round-trip to pick him up. In August, 2007, a Good Samaritan brought a tiny, 10-day-old kitten to CCVEC. His mother had left him behind in a shed. I took him "just to foster" until the right home came along...but it never did, so add Grizzly to the family!

...and Savanna & Cyrus...

My friend Amy told me there was a 10-month-old male Doberman on the Napa Humane Society web site. I went online and there he was! I called my husband to tell him we were headed for Napa accompanied by Savanna—our other Dobie. All I can say about Savanna is that she knew we were on the—her—waiting list for a year, and she truly believes she is permanently in charge. When we first saw Cyrus, who'd been abandoned, he was very shy, skinny, and sad. We were up against five other potential adopters, and we went through a required screening process— and we were chosen!



**I'm Savanna,
and I was
first.
The very first.
You may want
to remember
that.**



MOM SPEAKS

My name is Alana Moirano. I am a Registered Veterinary Technician who has worked at Contra Costa Veterinary Emergency Center since 1999, and in the veterinary field since 1989. I've lived with all types of animals my whole life and grew up riding horses and showing dogs. Now I own the two Dobbies, Frankie, Grizzly, and Calliope the cats; parrots Icee, Toby, and Jujubee; and several chickens. I love to spend time at our house in Burney, with my husband Mark, playing with the dogs at the lake, riding around in the Jeepster or on the ATV. My family and pets are very important to me.

**Why did the chicken
cross the ... oh,
have ya already
heard that one?**



It's an exhausting, fun, full-time job being us!