

Organization Helps Save Labs

by Lisa Cheleza
Published Feb 10, 2007

According to a recent survey by the AKC, Labrador Retrievers are the most popular dog breed in the U.S.

Labs are prized for their loyalty and good nature, but they are also a very high energy dog and sometimes people buy them not fully understanding the commitment involved and the lab is given up and placed in a shelter.

We'll look at an organization dedicated to the sole purpose of finding good homes for abandoned Labrador Retrievers in this edition of Pet Pointers.

Gracie, the one-year-old Chocolate Lab was, at one time, only a few days away from being euthanized at a shelter in Louisiana. Gracie's days were numbered until Labs4rescue came to her aide.

Gracie's new mom Tara tells us how she found her, and how "Labs4rescue" is changing lives. "We found Gracie on Petfinders.com searching the Internet. "We were ready to adopt and we kept finding this organization pop-up called "Labs4rescue," said Tara McKenney, a rescued lab owner.

Labs4rescue relies on volunteers, who either work in shelters or regularly visit shelters, to notify them of labs or lab mixes that need foster homes or permanent families right away.

"She's brought a lot of love and joy to my husband and I," McKenney said. "We actually can't imagine our lives without her. We get a lot of enjoyment just watching her have fun."

Shelters are so overwhelmed across the country that if no alternative is found, these beautiful animals are euthanized in some Southern states using gas, an antiquated and painful method of euthanasia. But through this network, Labs4rescue has been able to connect homeless pets with loving families.

But there is always more to be done.

"Many people aren't aware that labs are gassed in the South," said McKenney. "They also need donations. Because they are a volunteer organization, they run strictly on donations. 4,917 labs have been rescued since July of 2002, which is quite an accomplishment since it's a volunteer-run organization."

Even though Labs4rescue runs tirelessly to place these dogs, they estimate there are hundreds more labs in danger of being euthanized each week and there are even more they will never know about.

If you love dogs, but can't adopt, you can volunteer, you can foster a lab, or you can sponsor a lab adoption.

ajl



Gracie was almost euthanized.