The Easton Courier Monday, April 28, 2008

Rescued dog 'reads' with children



A rescued pup became a reading buddy to a small group of Easton children last week.

Hooper, a yellow Labrador retriever, entertained a group of toddlers and young readers on Wednesday, April 16, at the Easton Library. Rescued in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina by a local family, Hooper is now a certified therapy dog and reading buddy. He has visited hospitals and schools in Manhattan and will visit the Easton Library again this summer.

Hooper's adoptive family, Larry Price and Jane Paley of Sherwood Road, read about Hooper online at Labs4rescue.com. One of many dogs who were lost or abandoned in the storm, Hooper was adopted by the couple and subsequently trained for therapy and remedial work with children.

Ms. Paley is writing a children's book about his experiences, and she and Hooper will be guests on "Pet Talk" on Channel 12 in May.

The library is hosting two other "Reading to Rover" events. On May 6 and May 20, children of all ages are invited to read to Maple, a purebred Leonberger. Children may bring a favorite book or select one at the library. The event runs from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on both dates. Parents are asked to register in advance.