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Group finding homes for Labrador retrievers

As part of a nationwide volunteer effort to save abandoned Labrador retrievers and Labrador mixes, they are being rescued by the all-volunteer nonprofit organization Labs4Rescue of Killingworth, Conn. Being transported by trailer from locations across Louisiana, battered by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the dogs were either abandoned or were rescued from overflowing kennels in animal shelters, where they were at risk of being euthanized.

Labs4Rescue has conducted an aggressive campaign to identify both foster families and permanent loving homes for these labs across the Northeast.

"There are so many Labs who have been abandoned and are starving or at risk of serious illness as a result of back-to-back natural disasters," said Cathy Mahle, who has found permanent homes for more than 3,000 Labradors with families from New Jersey to New Hampshire since creating the organization in 2002.

"We are now in a terrible position of turning dogs away because there aren't enough families or funds to care for them," she said. For those who are unable to foster or adopt a dog, Labs4Rescue is in urgent need of cash donations as well as supplies such as crates, collars, leashes and food.

Labs4Rescue screens all foster and adoptive homes to ensure appropriate placement. Labs4Rescue volunteers also evaluate each dog to ensure he or she has socially acceptable behaviors. "The Labrador is an extraordinarily friendly and adaptable family dog to begin with, but we make sure we understand the personality of each dog so we can find the best fit with a permanent, loving family," Ms. Mahle said. Even the most neglected Lab can be transformed with a good, loving home.

Labrador retrievers have been long overbred in the South and Midwest. As a result of this overpopulation, many purebred Labs and Lab mixes end up in "high-kill" shelters, where they are available for adoption for only a few days before being euthanized. Labs4Rescue was founded to identify and save these Labs from near certain death.

All Labs available for fostering or adoption have undergone a veterinary exam and have been vaccinated and neutered. Many have



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to a friend



already received critical veterinary care, such as heart worm treatment, before they become available for adoption. Those interested in fostering, adopting or making a donation can find information at www.labs4rescue.com. All donations are tax-deductible.

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