



QUARTERLY RESULTS:

- Crate Escape
Wallingford, CT
\$200 raised
15 Labs adopted
- Info Table
Chester, CT
\$292 raised
- Holiday Parade
New Haven, CT
\$210 raised
- Brady's Place
South Windsor, CT
\$230 raised
14 Labs adopted
Toys Donated
Many Potential
Adopters/Fosters!

Special Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Upcoming Adoption Events:

- Sun., March 22
Petco,
Clinton, CT
12-3 p.m.
- Sat., April 25
Country Dog
Training's
5th Annual
Barking BBQ
Southington, CT
1-4 p.m.
- Sat., May 30
Best Friends
Avon, CT
10 a.m.-3p.m.
- Sun., June 14
Reunion/Adoption
Walk-a-Thon
Cheshire, CT

For details on events and info tables please click:

www.Labs4rescue.com/events

Hooper: A Story of Healing and Love by Amy Lovett

Whether he's visiting sick patients in the hospital, being "read to" at schools and libraries, or getting a shout-out as the unofficial mascot at a St. John's University basketball game, it's all in a day's work for Hooper. Not bad for a yellow lab who only three years before was wasting away in a shelter.

That's where Labs4rescue first spotted him. Though DJ, as he was called then, had dropped to a sickly 55 pounds and was infested with parasites, his sweet, soulful nature shone right through. Labs4rescue decided to give him a second chance.

Soon after, Jane Paley Price spotted him in an E-mail message she received from a Labs4rescue volunteer. Jane, her husband Larry and their son Brian, had lost their Lab/Golden mix, Hammer, to cancer only the week before. The family was reeling, and they knew it was too soon to get another dog, especially on the heels of Hammer, a retired drug-sniffing dog who worked at Riker's Island prison.

But there was a hole in the Price household, and as Jane explored the rescue Web sites, she was touched by the number of Labs who needed help. DJ seemed

like a good fit for the Prices' city lifestyle. So after some emotional discussions – "We were worried if he would heal; Katie (a Labs4rescue volunteer) believed he would heal us," Jane now says – the Prices drove to Richmond, VA to meet DJ. Larry gave him a new name to start his new life, calling him Hooper after Mr. Hooper from *Sesame Street*.

What they lacked in outdoor space, the Prices made up for in patience and love. This was returned to them tenfold, and they realized his eagerness to please made training Hooper easy. Jane decided to enroll him in a Delta Society (www.deltasociety.org) therapy animal training class, and it soon became apparent that Hooper, like Hammer, was an exceptional dog.

Hooper was also a natural for Intermountain Therapy Animals' Reading Education Assistance Dog program, (www.therapyanimals.org) in which children develop their reading and communication skills by reading to dogs. Hooper's merry, goofy side came through.

Hooper even won a following at St. John's. After hearing his story,

students in Jane's PR campaign seminar chose him as the face – Santa suit and all – of a holiday toy drive they were planning. With Hooper's help, the class blew past its goal of 500 toys for needy children, collecting 851. Jane expects to organize a second Annual "Hooper's Holiday Toy Storm" in the fall.

Last year the Prices moved to Easton, CT, where Hooper now has lots of space and a following – human and canine alike. He was featured on the local TV show "Pet Talk," and Jane hopes to publish a children's book about him in the next year. As she says, "When people say, 'Boy, he sure lucked out,' I correct them. WE lucked out. We found Labs4rescue and found a healing, loving lad."



Hooper



**FOR ONLY A FEW
DOLLARS,
YOU CAN HELP...**

During our April and May events, we will be promoting "Dollars4collars," a program that will encourage donations for new collars to help Labs4rescue dogs that are awaiting adoption. *For more info visit:*

<http://labs4rescue.com/d4cflier.pdf>

**NEED A NEW
COLLAR FOR YOUR
OWN LAB?**

Visit the Truman
Collar Web site:

www.thetrumancollar.com

In the checkout
screen choose:

Message to Seller and
type in: **Labs4rescue**
25% will be donated

TAX DEDUCTION?

It's Tax Season –
Please consider
making a tax
deductible donation

www.Labs4rescue.com/donations.shtml

Give Me Shelter: The Labs4rescue Building Fund

by Chris Rusack

Have you ever been on Petfinder (www.Petfinder.com) looking for your new best furry friend and think you found him or her? Next thing you know, you're getting geared up to take a drive down to Killingworth, CT, where the listing says the Labs are located. When you make an inquiry you learn they're not there. At the present time, Labs4rescue relies heavily on foster homes to house Labs waiting for adoption. Ideally, there would be a central location where people could meet multiple dogs at one time

instead of having to arrange individual meetups in various locations.

At one point, building a facility where all the dogs could be housed was a dream, but now it's becoming a reality. A building fund has been set up so once the fundraising goals are met, the hope is to build a facility to house the organization's Labs waiting to be placed, as well as offer a training facility.

Here's how you can help Labs4rescue help more Labs in need: donate your

architectural services, make a donation of at least five acres of land in Central Connecticut, make a financial donation, or donate your time to the Building Committee to help raise funds. To make a donation to the building fund click:

www.labs4rescue.com/portlet_buildfund.html

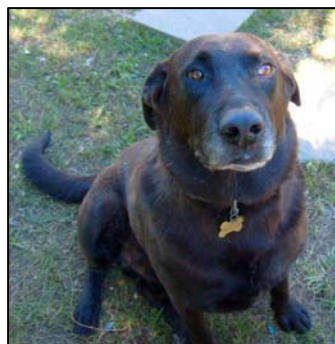
For more information, please contact Gwen Ashbaugh at ashbaugh-design@prodigy.net.



Happy Tails: Why I Adopt Senior Dogs by Missy Garnett

My first senior dog helped me recover from the loss of my long-time Lab companion. No, it wasn't the same dog. He didn't even particularly look like her. But I came to realize that there's a kind of majesty to every older dog. You give them a home, but you get something exceptional in return: Patience, devotion, and usually a bit of humor. Benjamin #4 is a one-time hunting dog with a chunk missing out of one ear, white on his muzzle, and a scar on his lip - but I got a good deal. When I was taking him home for the first time, I barely got the car door open and he was inside, thumping his tail against the unnecessary crate.

I've gotten to show him the ocean, where he initially stood in abject horror, watching the wavelets coming closer



Ben

and closer to his paws. He has learned to cool off in the water, but still gets a disgusted look every time he takes a drink.

When he gets crabby (as dogs sometimes do), he will drag his leash across the slate floor to his dog bed—with much clatter—and then fling it around (more noise). If I put it back, he will wait for me to sit down and then drag it out again.

Older dogs who have been

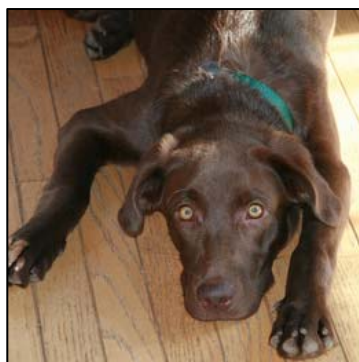
rescued are survivors. Ben had a mass removed from deep in his belly muscle (I feared the worst), only to find that it was harmless scar tissue formed around a now-dissolved "foreign object."

There's no sad ending to this story. Ben's only complaint is that the cat has taken over his bed, but that's okay—he has since taken over mine.

**Spring is the
Time for Flea &
Tick Defense...**

**Please Don't Forget
to Treat Your Pet!**





CHECK US OUT!



Click Below and Join
the Labs4rescue
Cause on Facebook:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/205372?m=9ba19c6>



Contributed By:
Amy DiLeo

Mix 1 cup flour and ½ cup milk until lumpy. Add 1 Tbs. peanut butter and 1 Tbs. chicken broth. Mix in ¼ cup grated parmesan cheese. Add 1 egg white. Mix well or until it has the consistency of pancake batter. Add 1 tsp. baking powder. Pour onto greased cookie sheet, making 2" drops. Bake at 400F for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. Cool.

Source: www.Kooldogkafe.com



Please Use
Heartworm
Preventative
All Year...

Sign up for a
Free reminder at:

<http://us.merial.com>

Baby, Come Back by Jessica Bacon

The statistics are frightening: more than 60,000 pets are lost or stolen in the U.S. every year. Fido Finder, (www.fidofinder.com), a lost dog database, reported that more than 84% of lost dogs never return home. The American Animal Hospital Association's 1995 survey revealed that almost one in every three pet owners have lost their pet at one point in time. With stats like that, what is a dog owner to do? Be prepared before your dog gets the urge to roam and follow these simple tips below:

1) Jot down phone numbers of local shelters,

neighbors, animal control officers, the police and Labs4rescue. Notify them immediately when your dog disappears and send them a photo.

2) Never leave your dog unattended. Labs are curious creatures who love to explore the neighborhood. They're also number three on Dog Detective's (www.dogdetective.com) list of breeds most likely to be stolen.

3) Please use a leash. Labs4rescue requires adopters to use a leash in any unfenced area. It may be a hassle, but it could save you lots of time and anxiety.

4) ID your dog. Use a collar tag with your contact info and a Labs4rescue tag. Each week, Labs4rescue receives calls from good Samaritans, and is often able to reunite a dog with its owner. (Microchips are helpful, too; though confirm with your local shelter/animal control that the chip is compatible with their scanner.) Labs4rescue adopters that need a replacement tag may contact us and it will be provided at no charge.

Unfortunately, even the best Lab can become a lost Lab. Have a plan in place so you can be reunited with your four-legged friend.

Tips for Saving on Pet Health Care by Jenn Wiles

Economic times have been tough lately, and families are looking for ways to trim their budgets – even for our four-legged family members. Here are some ways to make sure that you're maximizing the money that you do spend on your dogs, which will help save you money in the long run:

- **Don't skip preventative care!** Even if your dog seems healthy, don't be tempted to skip that annual vet visit. Preventing illness or treating it in the early stages is less expensive than waiting until your dog gets very ill. You'll also want to be sure that your dog is tested for heartworm annually and that you keep up with heartworm and flea/tick preventative year-round.
- **Feed a high-quality food.** Higher-quality foods can be more expensive, but they are more calorie-dense than cheaper options, meaning that you'll actually feed less using the healthier option. Helping your dog maintain a healthy weight will also prevent obesity-related diseases.
- **Brush your dog's teeth.** Tartar, gingivitis, and gum disease can lead to serious problems with the heart and kidneys. The simple habit of teeth-brushing is an easy and inexpensive way to protect your dog's health.
- **Shop smart.** Many times, local pet or feed stores will offer frequent buyer programs that give you a discount, or even a free bag of food, after a number of

purchases. Some dog food companies have coupons posted on their Web site, or send out monthly E-newsletters with coupons. Shop around to find the best deal!



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