



The Labbie Ledger

Winter 2009

Issue #5

QUARTERLY RESULTS:

Adoption Events

Cheshire, CT
Clinton, CT
E. Haddam, CT
Norwalk, CT
Wallingford, CT
Willimantic, CT
Windsor Locks, CT

Info. Tables

Columbia, CT
Manahawkin, NJ
Middlefield, CT
Monmouth, NJ

Special Events:

Pet Expo
Hartford, CT

Gift Wrapping
Barnes & Noble
Manchester, CT

Surfin' Safari
Christmas Parade
Long Beach Island, NJ

All Events Total:

October \$144
November \$1,214
December \$431

237 LABS
Adopted Since
October!
THANK YOU
Volunteers!

Gentle Souls by Amy Lovett

The first time Joanie Jones laid eyes on Newman, the 8-month-old black lab she'd agreed to foster, she thought, "This dog must be mixed with Great Dane. He was a big, lanky and goofy boy."

It wasn't long before Newman settled into Joanie's bustling household. Joanie knew the puppy would benefit from a routine. During the day, Newman and Joanie's other dogs were gated in the kitchen while Joanie was at work. A neighbor would take him on walks. At night, Newman slept in a crate, just like the other dogs. He stayed on a leash under Joanie's supervision the first week but was treated to the same snacks, car rides to nearby fields and home-cooked meals as the other dogs.

"It's tempting to just cuddle them up," Joanie says of new arrivals. "But I try to keep all the dogs involved so the 'pack' stays balanced and no jealousy develops."

In addition to working on good behavior and house-breaking with her foster dogs, she also serves as a "matchmaker," talking to potential adopters to determine whether they and a particular dog would be a good fit. Most of the time, they are.

But when Brother Christopher Stephen Jenks contacted Joanie about adopting Newman, she had one initial concern - location. Brother Chris lived in Yonkers, N.Y., where he is Executive Director of Fessenden House, a residence for men recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. Newman was flourishing in the country. Sending an



Newman

energetic lab into the city didn't seem like the best idea.

Brother Chris quickly put Joanie's concerns to rest. Not only was Fessenden House dog friendly, with a large, fenced-in yard and close proximity to a nature trail, but it also would provide Newman with the near constant companionship of the men living there.

"In his new home, Newman has already bonded with many of the residents," Brother Chris says. One man, a Gulf War vet with bipolar disorder and severe post-traumatic stress disorder, "hardly says a word." But when he and Newman first met, the puppy jumped up, put his paws on the man's shoulders and started licking his face. The man "got this big smile on his face and started scratching and petting Newman," Brother Chris says. "In two years of living with him, I had never seen the man smile. ... It was like the sun breaking through the clouds."

Another resident, a Native American in his mid-40's who spent most of his life in

Texas, says of the puppy, "Newman fits in perfectly here. He's as nuts as the rest of us."

Joanie says that Brother Chris himself couldn't have been a better choice to adopt Newman. "My impression is that he is a gentle, calm soul," she says. "I thought Newman would settle right in. He has a calm, gentle soul about him, too, once he gets the energy out."



JOANIE'S ADVICE TO FUTURE FOSTER PARENTS:

1. Routines are important.
2. Treat all the dogs in the household equally.
3. Observe the foster dog's behavior and listen to potential adopters closely. It will help you evaluate potential matches.
4. If you become emotionally attached to a foster, remember that helping him or her to find a home makes room in your house and heart for other dogs in need. As Joanie says, "The matches between the dogs and the people have been so good that it makes me really happy that I could help both of them."

For information on fostering visit:

<http://labs4rescue.com/foster.shtml>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Adoption Event:

Sat. 2/13
Uberdog
West Hartford, CT
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Toys, Leashes and Collars...Not Flowers Collection

Fundraiser:

Fri. 1/15
Corey's
Catsup & Mustard
(Burger Bar)
Manchester, CT
15% of proceeds
donated after 5 p.m.

For More Event Information Visit:

<http://Labs4rescue.com/events/>

SHOP ON-LINE TO HELP LABS

Need holiday gifts? Don't forget to check the affiliate shops on our website, where a percentage of your purchases will be donated to helping a Lab in need. Visit:

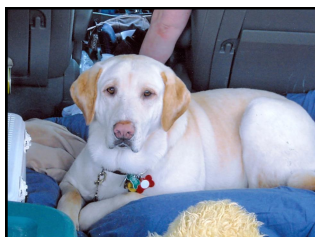
labs4rescue.com/affiliates.shtml



Kota Comes Home by Missy Garnett

When it comes to living in a shelter, dogs react in different ways. Some fight it, a few try to adapt, while some are sad and lose their spirit. Kota was one of the sad ones.

About 5-years-old, Kota's body showed signs he'd led a difficult life - a missing toe and signs he'd suffered a broken leg at some point. He was also about 30 pounds underweight, had chronic ear infections, and didn't have that zest for life that Labs are known for.



Kota

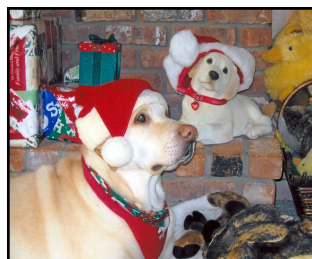
Time at the shelter was running out when Kota was taken into foster care. His situation seemed grim as potential adopters came and went, and then his foster mom had to give him up. It was at this point that Kota's luck changed - Frank and Andrea LaMond stepped into his life and decided to make him part of their family. Of their first days with Kota, Andrea and Frank say, "He seemed so lost. He never played with toys, never wagged his tail, walked without any spirit, and was extremely skittish and unsure of everything."

Kota gradually came to realize he was a member of the family. There were

romps on the beach, balls to chase (and people to throw them), and joyous rides in the car.

Most importantly, he was included in all the day-to-day activities. If nothing was happening, he could nap next to Andrea or Frank. If there was a trip planned, travel arrangements were made for Kota. And always, he was given careful and consistent direction in a soft tone of voice. Andrea and Frank also made it a point to touch him—stroking the big head, giving him a good scratch—making the most of human contact.

Now, two years later, Kota is the dog he was meant to be—with a cream-colored coat that looks like cashmere, a proud stance with tail held high and wagging, and calm and peaceful ways. He is friendly to other dogs and greets children with gentleness.



Kota has his forever home. Frank and Andrea rescued a dog with some "baggage" and tell us, "Kota was our first rescue and it has been beyond rewarding to see his spirit and happy gentle ways revealed in him, in addition to the fulfillment he has brought to us." Put like that,

it's obvious Frank and Andrea's time and unfailing patience have paid off for all members of family, both two and four-legged!

Healthy Holiday Dog Treats

Contributed by:
Missy Garnett



1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease cookie sheets.

2. Combine 2 cups whole wheat flour and 1 tbs. baking powder. In

separate bowl, combine 1 cup natural peanut

butter (or substitute cottage cheese, canned pumpkin, or meat-flavored baby food) with 1 cup nonfat milk.

Combine all ingredients until dough forms a ball. 3. Knead dough on a lightly floured surface for about 1 minute, and then roll or pat dough into ¼-inch thickness.

Cut into holiday shapes (or dog bones).

4. Place 1 inch apart on baking sheets and cook for about 20 minutes or until lightly browned.

(If they are not crunchy, turn the oven off but leave the biscuits inside to dry as they cool.)

5. Store in an airtight container. Treats may be frozen, but allow to thaw completely before use.

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To Join the Newsletter Staff or Submit Article Ideas E-mail: newsletter@Labs4rescue.com

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NJ Volunteers Go the Extra Mile by Elisa LaDue

Hats off to our NJ volunteers who marched in the 30th Annual Christmas Parade in Ship Bottom, NJ on December 5th.

This year's theme was "Surfin' Safari," but the weather was far from the surfing type; it was rainy and windy.

Despite the bad weather, Leslie Houston, Judy Howard, Jean Gundling, Tom Walsh, Andrea Bonette and Katy Fay ventured out into the rain with their Labs - Zeus, Finn, Rose, Chloe, Ranger and Remy

and marched in support of Labs4rescue. Plenty of literature and Lab love was delivered throughout the parade route.

Special thanks to all of the NJ volunteers who never miss an opportunity to promote Labs4rescue. We appreciate all of your hard work!



Showing off Labs4rescue in a Big Way!



All Colors are Created Equal by Tara McKenney

Dumb blondes. Angry red-heads. Boring brunettes. All stereotypes we've heard before. Most of us will agree these statements are as inaccurate for us as the labels given to Labs based upon the color of their coat.

The most common stereotypes about Labrador Retrievers are:

- Black Labs are better hunters
- Yellow Labs are lazy
- Chocolate Labs are stubborn, stupid or hyper

These stereotypes have falsely evolved over the years, and while most of us know that color is irrelevant, many still choose a Lab based on coat color rather than temperament. An animal's personality, much like yours and mine, is developed through genetics

and the environment - nature and nurture. And while people are unlikely to choose a mate in order to produce a specific looking child (okay, there might be a few people who do that, but I think they all live in L.A.), dog breeders can manipulate genetics to produce a dog of a desired color without any affect on the dog's personality.

Lab owners can attest to the fact that each Lab possesses a unique personality while typically maintaining the breed traits. According to the American Kennel Club, the Labrador Retriever's temperament is "kindly, outgoing, eager to please and non-aggressive towards man or animal." I have seen a contradiction to this description when my dog, Gracie, was the victim of the attentions of an overly exuberant Yellow Lab in a

dog park. If the myths are to be believed, he should have been lazing in a patch of sun rather than making this kind of effort. Was the Yellow Lab simply having an off day, or was his exuberance part of his personality? Either way it had nothing to do with the color of his coat (and Gracie was not appreciative).

So whether you live with, are thinking of living with, or just vicariously enjoy the company of a Lab, remember their individuality and uniqueness, regardless of color. Don't engage in dog discrimination!

Disclaimer: This article was written by an even-tempered redhead who shares her life with a Chocolate Lab who is intelligent and compliant!

Photo of the Season

In each newsletter we will showcase a photo. Please submit your photos to the Labs4rescue photo gallery: <http://labs4rescue.com/forms/photogal/photoform.php>

Four photos will be chosen by the newsletter staff and featured on the Labs4rescue Facebook cause page for voting: <http://www.causes.com/labs4rescue>



Zinny



DO YOU TWEET?

Labs4rescue is on Twitter. Keep up-to-date with new adoption listings, events and much more. Follow us at:

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Don't Forget to Join our Cause on



<http://www.causes.com/labs4rescue>

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

