



# The Labbie Ledger

Spring 2010

Issue #6

## QUARTERLY RESULTS:

### Adoption Events

Avon, CT  
Brookfield, CT  
Clinton, CT  
West Hartford, CT

### Fundraisers

Corey's Burger Bar,  
Manchester, CT  
Tails & Trails Dog Walk,  
Killingworth, CT

### All Events Total:

January	\$769
February	\$732
March	\$125

### SPECIAL THANKS

to everyone that participated in our first quarter fundraisers. Over 150 pet items were donated and \$700 was raised to help Labs in need!

**435 LABS**  
Adopted Since  
November!

**THANK YOU**  
**VOLUNTEERS!**

## Happy Tails - The Biggest Winner by Amy DiLeo

At 108 pounds, Griffen is a big boy. But not as big as when he met his forever family, Leah, Chris, Sophia and dog-sister, Emma, back in September of 2008.

"When we went to pick him up, and he slowly made his way out of the car, we looked at each other and truly could not believe how big he was," says Leah, Griffen's mom. Though she describes the now 6½-year-old chocolate lab as a "tall, large-boned" dog, she says his "massive size was just unreal; he was as big as a small chair."

At a whopping 179 pounds, Leah says, "my husband had to lift him in and out of our SUV."

Leah was supposed to adopt a different dog through Labs4rescue when Ann, an Adoption Coordinator, suggested Griffen (then called Grissom). He was in a NY shelter, given up by a family that could no longer care for him. Ann thought he would be a great fit for Leah, even though she was seeking what Leah described as, "the quintessential yellow lab - a sunny buddy."

Instead, Leah says, "I got something better, my muddy buddy, happy baby, 'follow you around cause I love you momma' best friend."

All Griff needed was lots of love and a program of diet



Griffen

and exercise. And that program started right away at Leah's Massachusetts home. At first just going into the backyard was hard work for Griffen. But by December he ran for the first time and he was thrilled. By May he was down to 138 pounds - a 41 pound weight loss!

Now Griffen Wilfork (nicknamed for football player, Vince Wilfork) enjoys his romps in the yard and playing with a ball; though he does still prefer lounging in the sun to running.

Because of Griffen's enormity, he was a lot of work - a sloppy eater, drinker, a drooler and an all around mess, but Leah says it only took two days for her to know she made the right decision. It clicked when her daughter, Sophia started to cry and, "Griffen slowly got up as fast as he could, and came over to her. He pushed his face into hers and started to lick her face over and over, until she started to laugh and stopped crying. And he wouldn't stop till she was clean and laughing! We

knew then and there he was going to fit in wonderfully!"

You can check out Griffen's amazing progress at the link below:

<http://s415.photobucket.com/albums/pp233/jgreencouch/>

## Search, Shop and Help Labs4rescue

We have something new and exciting we'd like to share with you!

It's the new **Labs4rescue** toolbar - once added to IE or Firefox, each time you shop at more than 1,300 stores (from Amazon to Zazzle!) a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to **Labs4rescue** - at no cost to you (and you may even save money as the toolbar provides coupons and deals as well!). The toolbar also has a search box and each time you search the Internet, about a penny is donated to **Labs4rescue**.

Visit the link below to download the toolbar:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/labs4rescue-labs4rescue>



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Adoption Event:

Sat. 4/17

Adopt a Pet Day  
Reynolds Garage &  
Marine, Lyme, CT  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sun. 5/16

Durham Pet Fair  
Coginchaug H.S.  
Durham, CT  
11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat. 5/22

Annual Pet Rescue  
Adoption Event  
Best Friends  
Avon, CT  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Info Tables:

Sat. 5/15

Barnegat's Pet Day  
Meadowedge Park  
Barnegat, NJ  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sat. 5/15

Annual Strut Your  
Mutt Walkathon  
N. Attleboro H.S.  
N. Attleboro, MA  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Save the Date:

Sun. 6/13

3rd Annual  
Labs4Life Walkathon  
Paws Pet Resort  
Cheshire, CT  
12 p.m.-4 p.m.

Sa-Su, 10/23-24

CT Pet Show  
Expo Center

## Sadie Six Years Later by Missy Garnett

A typical day in Sadie's life reads like a *Picking Your Forever Home* brochure. Like many Labs, Sadie loves the water: Valhalla, Mecca, and Katmandu all rolled into one. Ron and Kay Smith have a saltwater in-ground pool in their home in Virginia, and for Sadie, nothing beats a dip in the pool. She is not a brash jumper, but rather prefers to descend the pool stairs with dignity, as befitting her size. (Sadie is a big girl!)

And then there are the times when her humans join her. This is worrisome, because constant vigilance is required in case they need saving. Sadie will swim up to them, breathing in snorts, paws pumping, tail floating like an otter's—to check on their condition. (For the humans this can mean possible collision and even being run over.)

Sadie's second favorite activity is ridding the yard of borrowing varmints. She has dug more trenches than the U.S. Army, enthusiastically flinging the dirt into the air in search of moles and voles. When she does find one, she yips with excitement, lifts it out gently, and carries it proudly and with care to her humans for removal—still very much alive.

Riding in the pickup truck is always a treat for Sadie. Coming home, she will often refuse to get out of the front seat—much like a kid at the rides on the midway. "More! More!"

There was a trying time in Sadie's new life when Ron

and Kay adopted first one puppy and then another. Sadie graciously put up with the indignity of having ears chewed and her tail mangled and came to treat them as members of the family. Now grown, all three often sleep together in a heap.

Adopted in 2003, the only echoes of Sadie's earlier life show up when her humans are away from the house and she revisits some memory of abandonment. Sadie will comfort herself by finding an article of clothing with their scent—shirt, coat, or whatever—carry it to bed, and lie down on it.

Sadie's owners say they know she appreciates her situation. Being adopted and



Sadie

given a second chance has brought out the best in her. For Ron and Kay, they count on the happy barks, kisses, and wagging tails when they walk in the door. As they say, "No matter what our days may be like, there is always love waiting when we arrive."



## 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/photofom.php>

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



**Shadow Enjoying the Snow!**

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To Join the Newsletter Staff or Submit Article Ideas E-mail: [newsletter@Labs4rescue.com](mailto:newsletter@Labs4rescue.com)

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## Spring Cleaning for our Cause by Elisa LaDue

Your Labs had fun this winter, but how much dirt and salt have they tracked through your house? Or is your recently adopted Lab still working on their house-breaking? If so, Kevin and Stacey from New England Steam Clean can help!

They use quality products to eliminate pet odors and accidents from your rugs, carpet, carpet padding and sub-floor by using an effective process that targets the entire problem area, not just the surface. New England Steam Clean works with both residential and commercial property owners. Services include: carpet, rug, tile, grout and upholstery

cleaning. New England Steam Clean services all of CT and bordering towns in MA and are fully insured. Kevin has over 13 years experience in the business.

To mark the adoption anniversary of their Labs4rescue dog, Siana, Kevin and Stacey have been kind enough to offer a **10% donation** on all services booked now through the month of April when Labs4rescue is mentioned at the time of booking. Contact information: 860.454.8579 or info@nesteamclean.com, website [www.nesteamclean.com](http://www.nesteamclean.com).



### DO YOU TWEET?

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

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

### Don't Forget to Join our Cause on



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

## Congratulations Carla Brownell

Congratulations to Carla, who earned the *Community Service Award* at Salve Regina University.

Carla has worked with Labs4rescue since February 2009 as a foster parent. Carla and her family have fostered 11 Labs; offering each a loving, nurturing environment, while also working on training and socialization.

Thank you Carla for choosing Labs4rescue as your cause. We appreciate your generosity and dedication.

### Way to go Carla!



## 5 Tips to Keep Your Lab Safe by Amy Lovett

My Labbie boy has one snazzy collar. It's purple with green and blue swirls, and his tags jingle when he plods around on his giant Labbie paws. Beyond being a fashion statement, his collar is one important way to keep him safe and sound.

As much as we love our dogs and they love us, they sometimes wander off out of boredom or loneliness. They can also be stolen. But there are important steps you can take to keep your canine companion safe:

**1. Never leave your dog unattended outside.** Even if your yard is fenced, your dog may find a way to escape or someone may steal them. Don't leave your Lab in the car or tied up outside a shop. They are much safer indoors, at home.

**2. Spay or neuter your dog.** Female dogs are more likely to disappear when they're in heat, and unneutered males are more likely to roam.

**3. Make sure your dog wears a collar and leash at all times.** Their collar should be tight enough that it doesn't slide over the head but loose enough not to restrict breathing or head movement. Adjust the collar regularly, and make sure both the collar and leash are in good condition.

**4. Make sure ID tags are attached securely to your dog's collar and that all the information on them is current.** Include the area code with your home or mobile phone number, and include the city and state with your street address—especially if you travel with your dog. Some owners include an e-mail address. Make sure all information is easy to read, and replace tags when they become worn.

**5. Microchip your dog.** The chip, about the size of a grain of rice, is painlessly implanted between your dog's shoulder blades using a needle. Veterinarians and shelters use scanning equip-

ment to detect microchips, which contain unique codes linked to your registration information with the microchip company.

Sources: About.com, eHow.com, petfinder.org



## Remembering Stephen Huneck

On Jan. 13, 2010, friends of the artist Stephen Huneck received the shocking news that he passed away. Known for his iconic woodcuts and giclees featuring Labrador

Retrievers, Stephen created the Dog Chapel in St. Johnsbury, Vt., to celebrate humans' spiritual bond with dogs. He was featured in last summer's "Labbie Ledger" for his project "Lend a Helping Hand," which funneled proceeds from the sale of his artwork to Labs4rescue. Stephen's wife Gwen plans to keep the gallery and Dog Chapel open, and she has scheduled a memorial service for him on **Sunday, May 30, 1-3 p.m.** For information, visit <http://www.dogmt.com/>