



The Labbie Ledger

Fall 2010

Issue #8

QUARTERLY RESULTS:

Adoption Events

Clinton, CT
Hartford, CT
Oxford, CT
Rocky Hill, CT
Waterford, CT
Wethersfield, CT
Windsor Locks, CT

Info. Tables

Beach Haven, NJ
Medfield, MA
Monmouth Jct., NJ
Tuckerton, NJ

All Event TOTALS:

July \$1,567
Aug. \$88
Sept. \$737

277 LABS
Adopted Since
July!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Adoption Events:

Sat. 10/30
Horses & Hounds
Granby, CT

Sun. 11/7
Petco
Clinton, CT

For More Event Info.
Visit:

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

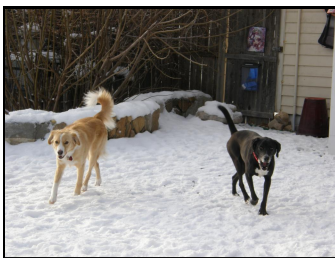
Happy Tails Times Four By Joan Vecsey

In the wake of the 9/11 in 2001, our family adopted a yellow Lab named Charli, who had been orphaned by the tragedy in New York. We had never owned a dog before, but Charli was an excellent ambassador for the breed and we knew he was meant to be ours.

By 2003, we decided he needed a four-legged sibling. We had no criteria, other than wanting another Lab. My search led me to Labs4rescue. I zeroed in on Molly because her description said, "Does not jump much for a young Lab." Charli jumped on everyone, so this would provide some balance in our home.

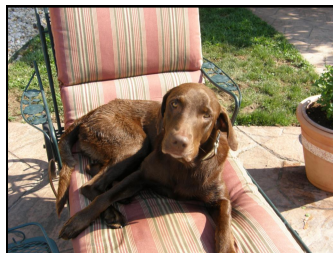
As a stray, Molly had been smart enough to find her very own Labs4rescue volunteer when she strolled up to Anne in the parking lot of the school where she worked. She had a wound from a collar on her neck and Anne immediately took her to the vet for treatment and then to her home. Undeterred by the fact that she was to be married in just two weeks and had dogs of her own, Anne simply had Molly spayed while the nuptials took place! From Anne and her parents we learned what dog rescue actually entails. The mother of the bride even cried when Molly left for her new home!

In spite of her injury, Molly was a happy dog. At seven months old, she walked into our house, tail in the air, and promptly took over Charli's bed, food and toys. He, in return, worshipped her. She is loving, loyal, and tough in a brave and good way. I like to think she is my assistant, but she may say otherwise.



Puppy Barl & Molly

Our next rescued Lab, Bro D, was bred as a hunting dog, but he



Bro D

injured himself as a 12-week-old puppy. He was considered "of no use" to the breeder, who wanted a vet to euthanize him. Dee, a volunteer who happened to work at the vet's office, took little Bro D home, cared diligently for his foot, and named him Brody James. After a year and a half with Dee, he was adopted to a home on Long Island. His adopter was not able to care for him properly, and Bro D was surrendered to Lab4rescue.

At that time our family felt complete with two dogs, several cats, and two horses, but Bro D and my husband Peter had an instant bond and we became a three-dog household. Bro D rarely leaves Peter's side.

In early 2006, we lost Charli to the sudden onset of bloat. We felt a building of bricks collapse on our wonderful little world.

That day a light went out for me. As someone who has battled depression, it was hard to do more than throw on a robe and take the dogs out for their morning routine. I needed something to make me come alive. Molly instinctively recognized death and I did not want to stress her. I wondered if a puppy would be a good fit for our family. We had never had a young puppy before.

Back to the Labs4rescue site we went! I found Puzzler, a 13-week-old, yellow Lab with a crooked stripe on his head, topped by frizzy puppy hair. He was in foster care with Donna of Labs4rescue. We renamed him Barley (after Charli - it had been one of his nicknames), but we call him Puppy Barl. He has never outgrown the moniker. Molly took him on like she was his mother, setting rules,

boundaries and limitations for him. To this day they tumble and rumble, but Puppy never disrespects her.

Puppy knew his job without being told. He has been my only dog to insist we start the day early and with much excitement. He takes life at 100 miles an hour and bounces from one great game, meal, swim, or catch to another.

One day, after Puppy had joined our family, Ray was brought to my attention by Labs4rescue. Ray was billed as a special needs dog because he is blind. Susan at Labs4rescue insisted that I look at poor Ray, whose owner had admitted to hitting him with a hammer and tying him to a tree. After hearing that, we knew we had to add him to our family.

Before he arrived, we were told that Ray didn't look exactly as he did in the photo; he had had one eye removed. That was okay with us, and I don't think I have ever felt as delighted as when I picked up RayRay.



RayRay

After a few weeks, he mapped out the entire property, including trees, the pool and all the steps. He even adjusts to furniture being moved. I wish I could take credit, but he taught himself! He has even trained me into giving him a nightly massage. His heart is special, not his needs.

As I remember Anne's wedding anniversary each year, I am especially grateful to her for guiding me through the process when I adopted my first Lab, Molly. Labs4rescue opened a wonderful door for us and has helped us bring these four wonderful souls into our family.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank You to our Volunteers, Adopters and Fosters who have helped us reach our Milestone of Over 9,000 Labs Adopted!



Please Don't Forget To Use Monthly Heartworm Preventative!

Sign up for a Free reminder at:

http://us.mental.com/pet_owners/reminder_services/index.asp



Holiday Safety Tips By Missy Garnett

The holidays are just around the corner. Please take a few minutes to review these important safety tips for your pets:

Halloween

- Keep candy out of reach at all times.
- Position a gate across the door to allow your dog to enjoy the trick-or-treaters, without joining them.
- If your dog is easily frightened, keep him inside and in a quiet room on Halloween night.

Thanksgiving

- Never leave the turkey or turkey bones unattended on counter or table.
- Secure turkey bones in the garbage once they're thrown out.
- Don't let your dog overindulge in "people food" or table scraps.

- A timid or shy dog needs a quiet place to retreat to when the house is full of guests.

Christmas

- Keep poisonous plants like poinsettias, mistletoe, and holly completely out of reach.
- Be careful with unattended glasses of alcohol, including eggnog, which is particularly enticing.
- Tie down your tree so that it stands firm or consider putting it on a table or barricading it.
- Unplug Christmas lights if you are not in the room to enjoy them.
- Use unbreakable ornaments on the tree from tail height down.
- Either omit tinsel from your tree or only put it on the upper branches.
- Never decorate your tree with food.



Tucker (L4R) & Déjà Vu

- Don't put any commercial preservatives in tree water, which makes a convenient drinking bowl.
- Never tie ribbon on your dog's neck. You can tie ribbon on his collar instead.
- Check any dog gifts carefully to remove choking hazards.

NJ Labs4rescue Events Photos Submitted by Leslie Houston



Merchant's Mart, Beach Haven, NJ



Von Thun's, Monmouth Junction, NJ



Ranger Taking a Break from Fundraising



WE HAVE REACHED 1,000 TWEETS!

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>

Aches and Pains by Debbie Midford

After owning dogs for about 25 years now, I should no longer be amazed at the number of diseases and physical ailments we humans share with our best friends. None are good, but living with the constant pain and discomfort of joint stiffness caused by arthritis is among the worst. It can change the personality and behavior of our companions from cheery and energetic to limping and lethargic.

Arthritis is the breakdown of the protective cartilage which covers and protects the bone joints. Labs and other large breeds have a tendency to develop it because of their larger size and higher weight. Older dogs are susceptible because cartilage deteriorates with age. Active dogs are more

prone to trauma which can lead to arthritis.

Can we prevent it? Probably not any more than we can for ourselves; it's an all too common condition. We can help stave it off by giving our Labs a healthy diet and keeping them fit. Labs can be susceptible to obesity and, just like people, overweight dogs put more stress on their joints, which can contribute to the development of arthritis. Regular exercise is helpful for both weight control and to keep the joints moving.

Common signs of arthritis you might see in your dog are limping, moving slowly or stiffly, having trouble rising, acting listless, or even yelping when touched. It's important to contact your vet to discuss treat-

ment because each dog, situation, and condition will be unique. Surgical options are available, and prescription options include pain relievers and anti-inflammatory drugs. There are also numerous homeopathic remedies to explore such as joint formula foods, supplements, orthopedic dog beds to relieve stress on joint and bones, and even the application of moist heat with a heating pad.

Some alternative therapies include acupuncture or chiropractic treatment as well as herbal, magnetic or even laser treatments.

As my "kids" age along with me these days, I'm glad to know there are a lot of resources to answer my questions. To con-

duct research before seeing your own doctor, you might want to check out the following websites:

<http://www.vetinfo.com/septic-arthritis-in-dogs.html>

<http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/guide/arthritis-in-dogs-symptoms-and-causes>

**Editor's note: This article provides an overview of arthritis in dogs. Future articles will explore this topic more in-depth. As always, contact your vet if you think your Lab might be suffering from this condition.*



Pretty Boy

Choosing a Kennel by Elisa LaDue

Traveling this holiday season? If your Labs cannot join you in your travels, perhaps you will be taking them to a kennel. Here are some tips to make their stay an enjoyable one:

- Make an unannounced visit to the kennel you are interested in so you will get a more realistic view of the facility. Check that it is ventilated, clean and sanitary.
- Ask to view where your Lab will sleep, eat and play. Make sure those areas are safe, comfortable, and free of chemicals or small objects that could be ingested.
- Talk to the kennel staff and be sure that they will provide the proper supervision.
- Don't be afraid to check on-line or with friends for referrals.
- Make sure employees are trained and able to handle any physical or psychological issues that may occur with your Lab.
- Be sure your Lab is up-to-
- date on all vaccines and flea and heartworm preventatives.
- Make a reservation once you are satisfied with the facility.
- When you drop off your Lab let him meet the staff and get comfortable with the surroundings.
- Bring familiar blankets and toys from home.
- To avoid stomach upset, consider bringing regular food, rather than feeding the food provided by the kennel.
- Provide staff with necessary medications and instructions, as well as your Vet's phone number.
- Always leave your contact information.
- Keep calm when you drop your Lab off so they do not pick up on your emotions.
- Don't forget to bring your Lab a special treat when you pick them up.



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: <http://www.causes.com/Labs4rescue>. Members will be asked to vote for their favorite photo. The winner will be in the upcoming newsletter.



Henry Enjoys a Sunset in Nantucket, MA

Dog Agility Fun by Trish Cage

Lightning-fast dogs running through an obstacle course, jumping through tires, scrambling up wooden structures and weaving around poles with single-minded determination...dog agility is a sight to see! I've enjoyed watching agility trials for years, but up until recently I only thought of it as a competitive sport for compact, fast dogs like Border Collies. Could my silly, gregarious Labs enjoy this sport, even if we never intended to compete? My husband Rusty and I wanted to find out.

I started my search online and it didn't take me long to find a local organization, Long Island Agility. They provide a service to people just like us who were interested enough in the sport to pay ten dollars for a Sunday morning class at a local park. Their only other requirement was that our dogs be at least one year old, to make sure they weren't overworking growing bodies. We brought our Labs, Ginger and Brinkley, who were eager to get started.

We learned from our instructor that although our dogs are doing the physical work, the handler also has a big responsibility. Most dogs, and Labs in particular, look to their owners for verbal cues and body language even when we're not paying attention to them. When you apply that skill to a fast-paced sport like agility, every move can count.

As beginners, we started out very slowly, learning how to speak to our dogs, resolving challenges along the way, and celebrating our victories. We learned it's important to keep pace with your dog, to encourage them to finish the task and not stop or jump off midway through.

Although our dogs are different in personality and athleticism, they both enjoyed learning something new. Even at the end of the class, visibly tired, their tails were wagging and they showed that great Lab personality with smiles on their faces.



Brinkley & Ginger (L4R)

Besides the physical exertion, agility also provided a workout for their minds and they were soon fast asleep in the car on the way home.

We recently purchased some basic agility equipment online and now have a mini-course in our backyard. If you can't find a beginner class in your area, there are many resources online to watch videos and learn and many places to purchase equipment. You and your Lab can make a great team and have fun in the process!

Fostering as a Family by Meredith Adler

After months of grieving the loss of our beautiful black Lab mix, Harley, our family needed a cure. We wondered, "Perhaps a new dog to snuggle?" But how would we integrate a new dog into our full family of a Sheltie, three cats, two human adults, and, most importantly, two human children? We found our solution with Labs4rescue when we decided a foster dog would be a temporary member of our family.

We were buzzing with anticipation in the weeks leading up to our first foster's arrival. Our boys, five and three years of age, were amazed that Wally, a one and a half year-old black lab mix was coming to live with us. We started using the phrases "foster family" and "forever family" and we taught the boys that we were "borrowing"



Wally with his foster friend Isaac

Wally, like we borrow library books. Our job was to find him a good forever home. We would be his helpers and his teachers.

From the day Wally arrived the kids loved his frisky antics and the three of them regularly tired each other out.

A few weeks later a young,

athletic couple came to the house to meet Wally. It was love at first sight for both dog and humans - Wally had found his forever family.

The parting was tough for a day or two, but Wally's new family soon sent us a picture of him destroying a soccer ball, which we proudly hung on the fridge.

We had done it! We were a foster family, all four of us helpers and teachers, and we had found our wiggly friend his forever home.

Within a week, we were back on the Labs4rescue website looking for our next foster dog. This has been the most rewarding activity our family has been able to share together. We love being a foster family!

The Holidays are Coming!

Search, Shop and Help Labs4rescue

Want an easy way to help Labs4rescue while doing your holiday shopping?

Check out the 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>



Don't Forget To Visit Our Affiliate Shops

Check out the affiliate shops on our website, where a percentage of your purchases will be donated to helping a Lab in need. Visit:

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



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