



The Labbie Ledger

Spring 2011

Issue #10

QUARTERLY RESULTS:

Adoption Events

Clinton, CT
Middletown, CT
Newtown, CT
Wallingford, CT
West Hartford, CT

Fundraisers

Photos - Cheshire, CT
Photos - Newtown, CT

First Quarter Totals:

\$857 was raised
to help Labs in
need!

346 Labs
Adopted Since
February!

**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!**



Please Don't Forget
Sign up for a
FREE monthly
heartworm treatment
reminder at:

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

A Trio of Happy Tails by Elizabeth Sullivan

When it comes to the joy of owning a rescued dog, self-described "foster failures" Alan and Cheryl Campbell know a thing or two about the happiness these dogs can bring. Their family members include **three** alumni from Labs4rescue, and one adopted Golden Retriever!

Alan and Cheryl first became involved with Labs4rescue in May of 2006 when they adopted their first Lab, Blu. Despite his separation anxiety, Blu quickly settled into a happy rhythm of romping through the fields and snoring peacefully on his dog bed. "Like a ripple in the water, Blu's impact on our lives keeps expanding," says Cheryl. The love they have for Blu developed into volunteering to help conduct home visits. Blu is the dog that started it all!

In 2007, the Campbell's made the decision to add "foster parents" to their growing volunteer resume with Labs4rescue. Milly, another black Lab, became their first foster dog in March of 2007. Milly had been abandoned by her previous owners and it was clear that she was suffering from a broken heart. Independent and initially fearful, Milly did not appreciate physical contact unless it was on her own terms. However, the Campbell's report, "She had us at woof!" and they made the decision to adopt her.



Blu, Peach & Milly

Milly quickly became great friends with Blu, and the two still often share the same dog bed.

After officially adopting Milly, Alan and Cheryl felt guilty about "failing" as foster parents and vowed to try again. The Campbell's welcomed their second foster, Peach, a few weeks later. An older gal, Peach was a bit overweight and fatigued easily while walking. She also had a buckshot embedded under her skin. The weeks passed quickly, and Cheryl and Alan began making excuses to keep her close. Peach spent her days walking a little further in an effort to say, "This is my forever home." Much to her pleasure, the Campbell's finally got the message and adopted Peach that May.

Over time, Blu's separation anxiety evaporated completely but he still follows everyone around helping with chores any way he can. Milly's coat now shines, she slowly got over her fears and learned to appreciate the value of a good belly rub. Peach walks three miles a day, is fit and trim, and does the cutest breakfast dance you will ever see.

The Campbell's adopted their Golden Retriever, Andy, in 2010 to complete their family. Their dedication to their favorite breed – "rescued" – is an inspiration for all of us!



Photo of the Quarter

In each newsletter we will showcase a photo. Please submit your photos to the Labs4rescue photo gallery:

<http://Labs4rescue.com/forms/photogallery/photoform.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>



Fender Enjoying a Splash

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Adoption Events:

Sunday, May 15
PETCO
Clinton, CT
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, May 21
Best Friends
Avon, CT
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday, June 5
Chester Village West
Chester, CT
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Info Table:

Saturday, May 14
Pet Day
Barnegat, NJ
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Also additional
Sunday dates for
PETCO, Clinton,
CT:
6/12, 7/17, 8/14,
9/11, 10/9, 11/13

For More Event Information Visit:

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



DO YOU TWEET?

For the latest updates, follow Labs4rescue on Twitter:

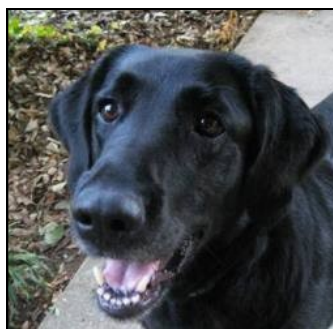
<http://www.twitter.com/Labs4rescue>

To Brush or Not to Brush by Meghan Foehl

Daily brushing and an occasional trip to the dentist are routine tasks in the life of a human. Why should it be any different for our pets? Dental cleanings for dogs help to protect against bad breath, gingivitis, inflamed gums, tooth decay and other oral diseases. To combat these issues and give your dog a healthy smile, the ASPCA advises daily brushing of the teeth for dogs, either with a home kit or one available through your veterinarian.

Brushing your dog's teeth at home should begin as early as possible in your pup's life to get him accustomed to the process. You can use a finger cloth to get your dog used to having his mouth inspected and opened. From there, you can work your way up to a doggie toothbrush, which are available at most pet supply stores. It is important to remember to use dog safe toothpaste, as human toothpaste is not meant to be swallowed and can result in digestive problems for your dog.

The tooth brushing process at home should never be a battle. Using a good tasting toothpaste and treating the process like a game help your dog to become used to regular brushing. Don't expect to do a perfect brushing job on the first try. Repeated attempts and patience will earn you the most success. In addition to brushing, toxin free raw



Jazzmyn

hide, nylon and rubber chew toys help clean the teeth by massaging the gums and removing soft tartar.

Much like a dentist visit for you, a dental cleaning at the vet will ensure a healthy set of pearly whites. The [American Animal Hospital Association Dental Care Guide](#) outlines the steps vets take in an oral cleaning. First, anesthesia is administered, then the vet will perform an oral evaluation, x-ray and polish the teeth, and finally apply an anti-plaque substance. The AAHA recommends a dental cleaning in addition to at home brushing and dental chews to help combat oral disease.

Overall, tooth brushing should become a daily part of your dog's life, much like your own. Creating a routine will help keep the process enjoyable for both you and your dog, and will help ward off the development of oral disease. Happy brushing!

(Editor's Note: Please consult with your vet to determine the proper schedule for professional dental cleanings for your Lab.)



Preparing For An Emergency

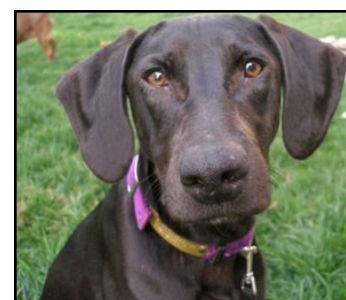
With the recent storms that have hit the U.S. we thought it would be timely to share information on how to prepare for your animal's safety should a natural disaster occur.

Here is a link to FEMA with information to help you develop a plan:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtml>

And a link to the AKC emergency planning list for pets:

http://www.akc.org/pdfs/news/are_you_prepared.pdf



Ebony

Labs4rescue, Killingworth, CT: info@Labs4rescue.com

www.labs4rescue.com www.causes.com/labs4rescue www.twitter.com/labs4rescue

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

Editor: Jenn Wiles Design By: Elisa LaDue

Arthritis: Diagnosis & Treatment by Debbie Midford

Our Ginger loves to be outdoors and on patrol for any pesky critter invading her territory. From time to time, she came into the house favoring one leg, though the limp wouldn't last long. Physical exams didn't identify any specific problem. At age 10, the incidences of limping became more frequent, more severe and lasted longer – and squirrel chases weren't always involved.

As discussed last quarter, stiffness in your dog's legs, limping, reluctance to jump or climb stairs, or noticeable pain are good indicators that it's time for a checkup. A history of the problem and physical exam are your vet's first steps to finding out what's going on with your Lab. They will check the range of motion of the joint noting any pain reactions and feeling for abnormalities. An x-ray or other imaging tool

can confirm the suspicion of arthritis.

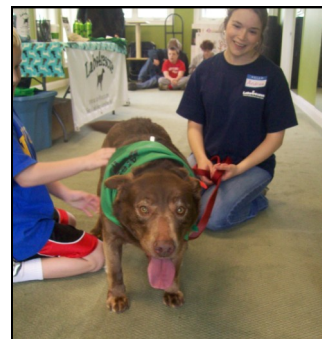
Then what? New joint diets along with dietary additives – vitamins and supplements (like glucosamine) and fish oil – that are used as preventatives are also options for treatment. Pain management might require the use of medications on a short or long-term basis. Depending on the severity of pain, a narcotic or even corticosteroids (pill or injection) might be in order.

Low-impact exercise is important, especially ones that provide for good range of motion and muscle building. Leash walking, slow jogging, swimming, and going up and down stairs are some good options. Even taking the leg and carefully working the joint through its full range of motion when your dog is resting can be helpful.

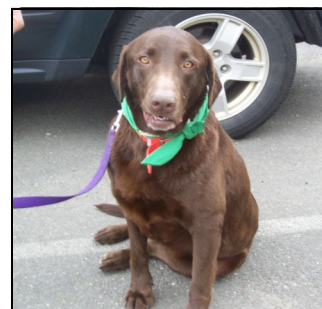
Additional homeopathic treatment can involve physical therapy, massage, chiropractic and even acupuncture. Other palliative care options include cushioning, which can help alleviate pressure on the joints (orthopedic beds are a popular choice) and keeping your dog warm. Applying heat might help, but use caution, as a dog's skin is thinner and more sensitive than ours. Ramps for your outside stairs or vehicle access along with elevated food and water dishes can ease the stress of daily activities.

Unfortunately, there's no way to reverse arthritis once it's set in, but it can be stabilized with treatment and managed with ongoing care.

(Editor's Note: All treatment options come with the potential for side effects, so be sure to work with a vet when deciding which option will work best for your dog.)



**Candie & Andrea Donigian
Newtown, CT Event**



Amber



**Jimmy Paws Enjoying a
Belly Rub**

Training Tips for New Adopters by Trish Cage

Our newly-adopted Ginger was an angel for a whole week. After that, the leash-pulling, counter-surfing, and selective hearing started! Although different dogs will present different training challenges, Ginger's is a common tale. A good plan goes a long way with training and once you know the basics, you can apply them to your dog's individual personality.

When training, keep these general guidelines in mind:

- **Set your dog up for success.** Keeping tempting items (like human food or garbage) out of your Lab's reach in a locked cabinet or behind a baby gate will go a long way to prevent problem behaviors before they start.
- **Thwart unwanted behavior, as it is happening.** The greatest success I've had with curbing Ginger's counter surfing was

when I caught her in the act. Your best window is extremely short – a few seconds at the most. Any more than that and she will no longer associate my reaction with the problem, no matter how guilty she looks. A quick, "Eh eh!" will get your dog's attention.

- **Praise for successes, even if you sound silly.** The better the accomplishment, the better the celebration!
- **Be consistent with your commands.** Decide on them ahead of time, so you know exactly what to say when the opportunity arises. Using more than one command for the same thing will only cause confusion. I use "down" for when I want them to lay down, so I don't use it for when I want to jump out of the tailgate of my car. Instead, I say "off."

- **Set aside fifteen minutes a day to train one command.** Any longer than 10-15 minutes may start to work against you if they get bored or impatient. We like to train just before mealtime because, let's face it, Labs will do just about anything for food!

We also practice the "Nothing in Life Is Free" (or NILIF) approach. Before we give attention, praise, treats or even meals, we give a command to reinforce our role as their leader. Rather than thinking of it as conditional love, consider how much they enjoy interaction with us. That includes training, which is quality time together that everyone benefits from.

If you would like more information on training, please visit:

<http://Labs4rescue.com/helpfulhints.shtml>



Labs4rescue Jersey Shore Reunion

Labs4rescue's NJ volunteers were featured in the *Sand Piper* publication, follow the link below to read the story:

<http://Labs4rescue.com/news/20101020sandpaper.pdf>