

Labs4rescue



www.Labs4rescue.com

"Save a Lab, have a friend for life!"



The Labbie Ledger

Summer 2011

Issue #11

QUARTERLY RESULTS:

Adoption Events

Avon, CT
Chester, CT
Clinton, CT
Lyme, CT
Waterford, CT

Info Tables

Barnegat, NJ
Mahwah, NJ
Quakertown, PA

Fundraisers

Our monthly expenses exceed the revenue brought in from adoption fees. We really appreciate the dollars raised to help fill a portion of this gap.

Three Scoops of
Vanilla Jewelry
\$2,250

Paley Book Signing
\$2,215

Ballou's Event
\$487

2nd Quarter Totals:

June \$400
July \$2,230
August \$2,730

Over \$5,360 was raised to help Labs in need!

225 LABS
Adopted Since
May!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

The Story Behind the Story of "Hooper Finds a Family" by Jane Paley

Our decision to adopt Hooper from Labs4rescue involved more than a simple need to save a dog. Indeed, rescue is the only way our family would ever acquire a dog. But it's important to tell you (as well as prospective rescuers) why we worked with Labs4rescue in particular.

Seven years ago, we lost our yellow-Lab golden mix, Hammer, to cancer. Hammer had been a drug-sniffer on Riker's Island, one of the largest jails in the United States. He lost his job when Labs were replaced with German Shepherd dogs, who were trained for drug detection as well as patrol work. In short, Hammer was downsized and left without a job or a home. Lucky for us, we got him!

Hammer became our beloved family dog; he was my protector, our son Brian's best friend and my husband Larry's neighborhood watch partner. In the difficult "tween" years, Brian confided in Hammer and we'll never know the secrets he shared.

Hammer's death ruptured our lives. Larry and Brian were too devastated to consider getting another dog. I watched as Larry sat listlessly at the breakfast



Hooper

table bereft of canine company.

A week after Hammer died, I went on-line in search of solace and advice. Was it disloyal to "replace" Hammer? Would a new dog suffer from negative comparisons? Was there a "right time" to get a new dog?

I typed away furiously hoping someone in cyberspace would come to my aid. Labs4rescue volunteers answered my S.O.S.

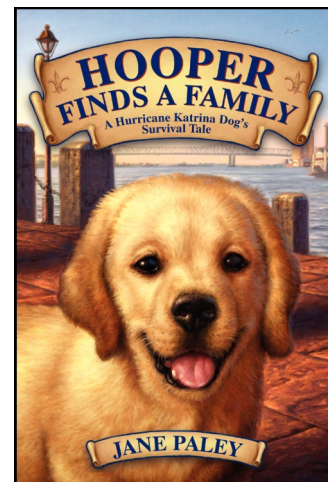
Their e-mails were compassionate and wise and best of all, liberating! I cried and wrote more. It was obvious our family needed a dog - and pronto! The volunteers understood the bewildering feelings of sadness, anger and longing. They knew from experience how scary it is to begin a relationship with a

new dog. And those messages of understanding enabled me to persuade my doubting husband and son that we could love another dog, albeit in a different way.

I cranked myself up so much I couldn't sleep. At 1:30 a.m., I returned to the computer to find a message from a Labs4rescue volunteer, who truly knew how to fill the terrible void Hammer had left.

"I think I have your dog," her e-mail began. One photo of Hooper said the rest.

My book is a tribute to Hooper's spirit and spunk. I imagined what might have been before he came home to us and how he became the dog we love so wholeheartedly today.



"Hooper Finds a Family" Book Cover

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Adoption Events:

Sat. 8/20

Your Healthy Pet
224 S. Main St.
Newtown, CT
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sat. 8/27

Pet Expo
Colchester Dog Park
89 Old Amostown Rd.
Colchester, CT
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sun. (various dates)

9/11, 10/9, 11/13
PETCO
Clinton, CT
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

10/8-10/9

CT Pet Show
CT Convention Center
Hartford, CT
Times TBA

Info Tables:

Sat. 8/20

"Because Your Dog is
Worth it Too"
Cranbury, NJ
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sun. 9/25

Dog Walk
Bergen Comm. College
Paramus, NJ
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

For More Event Information Visit:

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

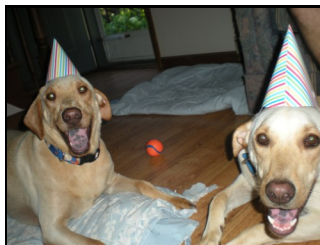
Happy Tails: Brothers Reunited by Meghan Foehl

On August 10th, two yellow Labs celebrated their first birthday - a birthday shared together, like the one a year before. But it wouldn't have worked out this way if not for Lab owner Calise LeMontagne. A year ago, Calise realized the house she shared with her family was too quiet. Used to the sound of pattering puppy feet, the house now only held her thirteen year old Lab, Miah.

Determined to find another puppy, Calise went to her local shelter, where she was put in contact with Donna, a volunteer who was fostering a yellow Lab puppy. Calise and her family adopted the puppy and named him Frenchy, after the former New York Met favorite, Jeff Francoeur.

Frenchy settled in to his new life with the LeMontagnes. Six months later, Calise contacted Donna, his former foster mom, to tell her how happy Frenchy was doing in his new life. Donna told Calise that Frenchy had a brother who was adopted through Labs4rescue. Even though they were brothers, Frenchy's beige coat and red spots brought him to an all-breed rescue, while his brother's lighter coat and more "labbie" appearance led him to Labs4rescue.

Intrigued to know if



**Frenchy & Murphy's
First Birthday**

Frenchy's brother shared his similar markings, Calise posted a photo of Frenchy on the Labs4rescue Facebook page. She hoped to hear of his Happy Tail story and to know how he was enjoying his new life. She quickly learned that he was still searching for a new home, and Calise immediately set up a visit in a neutral location to see if the boys got along. "I am positive the two recognized each other," wrote Calise. Both boys have the red stripe of fur on their backs that rises almost every time they see something strange, especially a new dog. Neither of them had the raised stripe when they saw each other."

That was enough for the LeMontagnes, and they decided to adopt Murphy. "It was not easy at the beginning but we are so happy that we have both these boys, they are such wonderful dogs," Calise wrote. Through the help of their foster mom, Labs4rescue and a determined owner, Murphy and Frenchy will live out their lives together as brothers.



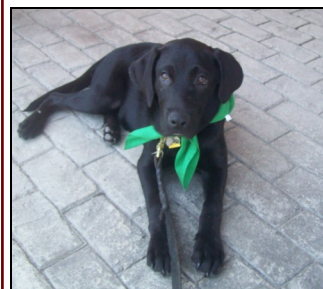
**Please Don't
Forget To Use
Monthly
Heartworm
Preventative
Sign up for a
Free reminder at:**

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

Adoption Event Photos



Bixby



Harlee



JB (a.k.a. Jelly Bean)

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

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A Kid's Best Friend: Living with Labs & Toddlers by Jenn Wiles

Most parents worry how their four-legged family member will receive a new baby into their pack. We make all the preparations – playing CDs of baby noises, bringing a blanket home from the hospital – so that we'll be one big, happy family when baby arrives. But then what?

Babies and dogs may co-exist peacefully for months, but soon the little one will be crawling, and then cruising, and then full on toddling, and life get a little more complicated! Here are a few tips to help them develop their relationship safely:

Eating

- Kibble can be a choking hazard and water dishes pose a risk for drowning, so take care to keep both out of reach of small children.
- Feed your Lab separately. Try feeding him either in his crate

or while your toddler is sleeping.

- Your Lab will become incredibly attentive during your toddler's mealtime, as sometimes more food ends up on the floor than in your little one's mouth! Teaching a solid sit-stay or using a baby gate or crate during mealtime will protect your child and your Lab.
- Please be especially careful with snack foods that are hazardous to pets.

Sleeping

- Give your Lab a quiet place where he can escape when he wants to curl up for a nap. A sleeping dog can easily be startled by an unsteady toddler, which could lead to a growl or snap. Teach your

child not to bother a sleeping dog.

Playing

- Set boundaries that will protect both your child and your Lab. Parental supervision is critical.
- Baby gates and dog crates can serve to keep toddlers and Labs safe from each other.
- Remember that to your Lab a toddler is a noisy, unpredictable creature that is not like an adult or another dog. Toddlers are still learning what it means to be kind to other people and animals, so they need constant guidance from an adult. By being both vigilant and patient, you will soon be on the road to having one big happy family!

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/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>



Henry Cooling Off on a Summer Day

What's For Dinner? Part 2: The Raw Diet by Elizabeth Sullivan

In part 2 of our "What's for Dinner?" series, we take a look at feeding your dog a raw diet. The idea behind this diet is that it mimics the food available to dogs in the wild before they became domesticated. In a sense it is a "back to basics" diet for dogs that completely cuts out commercial pet food. The raw diet gained a lot of momentum after the major pet food recalls in 2007. Proponents of the raw diet say their dogs have considerably improved health and appearance.

You may also hear the raw diet unappetizingly referred to as BARF (which stands for Biologically Appropriate Raw Food or Bones And Raw Food). The veterinarian credited with coining this term is Dr. Ian Billinghurst, author of [Give Your Dog a Bone: The Practical Common Sense Way to Feed Dogs for a Long Healthy Life](#).

So what is a raw diet comprised of? The majority of the diet is composed of the same food we humans eat, but uncooked. According to the literature, healthy dogs are able to digest raw meat due to a shorter digestive tract and stronger stomach acids than we humans have. This helps greatly reduce or eliminate the risks posed by bacteria like *E.coli* and *Salmonella*. Raw feeders advocate feeding your dog RMBs, or Raw Meaty Bones. **It should be noted that you should never feed cooked bones, as they run the risk of splintering.** For dogs new to the raw diet, it might be a good idea to begin by grinding up the bones for an easier transition. Most raw feeders use their local butcher, but you can now buy pre-packaged raw food. Some items that raw feeders use:

- Chicken (whole, or parts such as necks, wings and backs)
- Beef (any cuts)
- Turkey (whole or parts)
- Pork (any cuts)
- Rabbit
- Quail
- Cornish game hens

The key is to serve these types of foods on a rotating basis, as different foods contain different proteins. Raw feeders point out your dog should also have organ meat (also known as "offal") – such as liver, kidneys, or heart – as 10% of their diet. The offal can be very rich so only small portions are suggested once or twice per week. In addition to the RMBs and offal, some raw feeders add a small amount of vegetables, eggs, and even fruit and yogurt.

Adult dogs should be fed between 2-4% of their weight daily. This can be adjusted as needed.

Any change to your dog's diet should be done only after considerable research. The best advice on finding the right raw diet is to know your dog and to consult with a veterinarian that you trust. Raw diets require careful calculation of the various vitamins and minerals your dog consumes and should be supervised by a veterinarian.

There is an immense amount of information available to dog owners considering a raw diet. For further reference, check out Dr. Ian Billinghurst's book, or [Natural Nutrition for Dogs and Cats: The Ultimate Diet](#) by Kymythy Schultze.