

Labs4rescue



SEASON'S GREETINGS

# The Labbie Ledger

Fall 2012

Issue #14

## QUARTERLY RESULTS:

### Adoption Events

Clinton, CT  
Glastonbury, CT  
Hartford, CT  
Manchester, CT  
Prospect, CT  
Wallingford, CT

### Info. Tables

Beach Haven, NJ  
Medfield, MA  
Millerton, NY  
Quakertown, PA

### Puppy Up Walk

Madison, CT

### L'Oreal "Because Your Dog is Worth it Too":

Cranbury, NJ

### All Event TOTALS:

June	\$ 148
July	\$ 150
Aug.	\$ 249
Sept.	\$1,111
Oct.	\$ 855
Nov.	\$ 717
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,230</b>

**424 LABS**

**Adopted Since June!**



Amos

## Happy Tails: Poppy by Jacqui Hartranft

We adopted Poppy from Labs4rescue several months after the death of our beloved black lab Barron. Poppy is a little chocolate girl and came with lots of gray hair when we got her at the age of six. We have never regretted adopting an older dog and she has done so much in the years we have had her and she is not finished yet!



Poppy

At the time of Poppy's adoption, I took her to beginning obedience classes just as I did with our first Labs4rescue dog, Emmett, to help with her self confidence. She passed without a problem but still was quite shy around a lot of other dogs and people.

We did this for about a year and she started to improve. It was then I decided to try her in AKC Rally Obedience. The first time in the ring in Rally Novice, she finished in first place with a score of 99 out of 100! We completed all her Rally titles the following year earning lots of blue ribbons along the way.

The AKC came up with a new venue in 2010 to encourage more dog owners to participate and get

that program and in February of 2012, having just turned 10 years of age, she got her UKC Novice title!

Right now we are doing obedience trials in the Companion Dog Sports Program which also is similar to AKC and UKC but more relaxed and the judging is not as strict. I find that CDSP is a fun way to get into obedience for young and old, as well as middle-aged dogs, and new handlers as well as experienced.

involved in obedience. It is a titling event and is called Beginner Obedience and is a mix between Rally and regular obedience. In September of 2010, at the age of eight, she got her Beginner Novice title.

In September of 2011, Poppy finished her Companion Dog title at the age of nine – pretty good for a little Lab who just started her obedience career at the age of seven!

After that accomplishment, I hated to retire her as she loved the training and the treats and it keeps her body exercised as well as her mind. I learned that the United Kennel Club has a similar obedience program but also has lower jump heights for senior dogs, meaning it was less likely that she would be injured doing a jump at her age. We entered

Poppy is proof that an older dog CAN learn and do lots of things. You may not want to do obedience to the extent that I do, but your Lab will benefit from regular exercise and learning new things. I really do think this keeps her active and healthy. She will be 11 years old this coming February and at this point we will be working to complete as many of the CDSP titles as we can. Who knows what this little chocolate girl with the gray face will do next. So do not overlook those gray faces and older ages – these dogs have a lot to give and a lot of living to do!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Adoption Event**  
1/13  
PETCO  
Wallingford, CT

*For More Event Info. Visit:*

[http://www.labs4rescue.com/events/view\\_entry.php?id=452&date=20130113](http://www.labs4rescue.com/events/view_entry.php?id=452&date=20130113)

**Fundraisers:**  
3 Scoops of Vanilla Scentsy Socialpakt Shirts



Check out the Labs4rescue Facebook Group Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/44758133480/>



Catie



Ozzie

## Hungry for the Holidays By Elizabeth Rountree

Every holiday, as we sit down at the dinner table with our families, it is hard to ignore the pleading looks from our four-legged friends. Most of us cannot resist sharing a few morsels with them – after all, they are family too! However, it is crucial to know which foods are safe and which foods are toxic to our dogs.

The following is a list of some of the most dangerous foods for pets:

- Nuts
- Chocolate/Candy
- Onions
- Caffeine
- Grapes/Raisins
- Avocados
- Cooked bones
- Dairy
- Alcohol

Cooked bones can easily splinter in your dog's mouth, causing a choking hazard. The other

items on this list contain toxic ingredients that can cause vomiting, paralysis, elevated heart rate, kidney failure, seizures, and even death.

We all know how quickly our dogs can steal a snack or two when we are not looking. If you notice any of the above symptoms or know that your dog has ingested one of the listed foods, immediately contact your regular Veterinarian, a Veterinary emergency clinic, or the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435\***.

If you want to share some treats from your table with your dog, here is a list of safe foods that pets can enjoy in moderation:

- Fruit (with seeds and pits removed: apples, peaches, melons, apricots, pineapple)
- Cooked, plain rice

- Peanut butter
- Potatoes (**cooked, no skins, green parts, or toppings**)
- Squash/Sweet potatoes
- Turkey/Chicken (**cooked pieces with no skin or bones**)
- Vegetables (**broccoli, cauliflower, carrot sticks, green beans, tomatoes - no greens or stems attached**)
- Canned pumpkin
- Bread (without raisins or nuts)

As with any snack, keeping things in moderation will help avoid gastrointestinal upset. Be sure to check with your Vet if your dog has any special health care needs. Happy Holidays and Bon Appétit!

\* The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center may charge a \$65 consultation fee for your call. You can visit their website at <http://www.aspc.org/Pet-care/poison-control/what-to-do-if-your-pet-is-poisoned> for more information.

## Stories from Super Storm Sandy by Jenn Wiles

*If you have a story to share about how you weathered Superstorm Sandy with your family, including your Lab(s), please write to us at:*

[newsletter@labs4rescue.com](mailto:newsletter@labs4rescue.com).

*We will highlight additional stories in our next newsletter.*

“Our family lives less than a block from the Hudson River and was forced to evacuate the weekend before the storm. We packed up the essentials: our 5-month-old twins, our two bunnies and our two rescue Labs. Our cars were full, but we had

everything that mattered most to us.

In the aftermath, the first floor of our house was destroyed. Family and friends offered for us to stay with them short term, but no one wanted to allow our pets in. I always responded, “I just lost my house; I am not losing my pets too.” So, we are sticking together for the long haul at our in-law's home.

During this tough time, I can't imagine being separated from my pets. They are such a comfort during all this chaos. We hope to

soon be back in our home and Soleil will once again swim happily in the Hudson.” ~ Gina Guadagnino



For pet emergency preparedness information please visit the FEMA website at <http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals>

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## How Old is Old? by Debbie Midford

Just like their owners, all dogs are unique and age differently. Generally speaking, when your Lab reaches age 6 or 7, it's time to realize that they are not a puppy anymore (no matter how young at heart they act!).

Dogs are very good at hiding their health problems, so keeping an eye on your aging dog will help you recognize potential issues more quickly. One of the most obvious signs is that they will start to slow down. Because this is generally a gradual change, be sure to notice any difference in interests or activities, like spending less time outside or ignoring favorite things (like chasing squirrels!).

You might begin to see signs of arthritis, like limping, trouble lying down or getting

up, or issues with stairs. Dogs can have some hearing loss and sense of smell deteriorates. Cloudy eyes can be normal, but you want to check with your vet to be sure there are no cataracts or other eye disease. Lumps and bumps are often benign, but should be examined and watched by both you and your Vet. Be on the lookout for dental disease, hair loss, itchy skin, changes in weight, appetite, thirst or urination, and note any changes in sleep patterns. Dogs, like people, can also suffer from cognitive dysfunction, with a loss of attention or wandering like they have forgotten something.

Of course, it's important to remember that the aging process happens slowly and any significant and sudden changes in your dog's behav-

iors or abilities could be something that requires immediate attention and a call to the Vet. Don't just chalk it up to "old age," no matter how old your dog is.

Senior dogs may require additional check-ups – going every six months instead of once a year – so that any problems can be diagnosed and treated before they become more difficult to manage. Check with your vet for their recommendation and to ask about any other concerns, such as:

- Should you change your dog's food/diet?
- Are changes in exercise warranted?
- How can you alleviate arthritis pain?
- Should you have blood work done more fre-

quently or change vaccination schedules?

- With my dog's history, what are some things I should specifically watch for?

Discuss any changes you notice to rule out anything serious. Your Vet can help you determine the best health care maintenance program for your dog so you can help give them a long, happy, and healthy life.



Noah

## Happy Tail: Maxx the Mountain Climber by Mark Stover

I agreed to foster Maxx in January of 2010 with the hope that he would be the right dog for me and I would permanently adopt him. Initially, I had a few doubts that he would ever learn to live peacefully with my cat, but I was told by everyone to give it time. Eventually I agreed to adopt Maxx and, sure enough, everyone was right – Maxx and Taz became tolerant roommates and now are even what you might call buddies.

Living on a busy street, I was always looking for places to take Maxx to let him run and play with other dogs. The nearby beach and parks became our hangout spots, but we both quickly

grew tired of that scene. At that point, I took Maxx into the backcountry with me on a camping trip in New Hampshire and he truly seemed to love everything about camping and hiking.

We had found his true calling – he was my hiking partner. Soon after, I learned that the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) has an official list of 48 peaks that are over 4,000 feet in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. I decided Maxx and I would try and complete the entire list. As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, Maxx had completed 38 of the 48 peaks, and on a picture perfect May 20<sup>th</sup>, Maxx stood alone on the top of

Mt. Washington, the highest point in New England. We still have 10 more peaks to go before he can apply for his certificate and patch from the AMC, but I know he can – and will! – finish his quest.



Maxx

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING REMINDER

Please turn your online shopping and searching into much-needed donations for Labs4rescue by visiting:

[www.iGive.com/Labs4rescue](http://www.iGive.com/Labs4rescue)

Lab4rescue's online shop has wonderful logo items as well as 2013 calendars -

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

Also don't forget to check our affiliate shops -

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



Happy Holidays



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For more great holiday photos check out Labs4rescue holiday tribute from our Facebook group—produced by Webgal Pat [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W\\_BQ3HMXFyI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_BQ3HMXFyI)