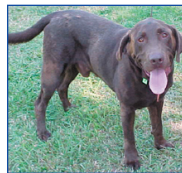


60 Seconds with Karin Roether...

Adopting Bo!



How It Started

Last summer is when I started seriously thinking about getting another dog, I was actually interested in a pug and would frequent petfinder.com as they have many rescue organizations listed within their website. However, I would occasionally "dog sit" for Clarisse Wood's Lab, Mal and I fell in love with his disposition, intelligence and eagerness to please; I also enjoyed the exercise that I got. And so began my search for the perfect lab.

www.labs4rescue.com

Labs4Rescue (L4R) caught my eye because they have a branch in Killingworth, CT. They rescue labs and lab mixes from the South and Midwest where there are many high-kill shelters that are full of perfectly adoptable dogs. I saw a dog that I was interested in and completed the online application—very simple. I was called back the next day about that particular dog already being up for adoption and I let them know what specifically I was looking for: age, size, color, disposition. They called me back two days later about a dog that they had in a shelter in her area—a big, block head, chocolate lab, 80 pounds, somewhat underweight, three years old that loves people, named Bocephus (Hank Williams Jr. fans will understand the name...). L4R emailed me some pictures of Bo and I knew that *he was the one!*

Adoption Day

Because almost all of the dogs are from outside New England, they have to transport them to this area. Before the dogs are sent up for adoption, all people are required to have a home visit by a L4R volunteer. All dogs are screened for heartworm, placed on heartworm meds, vaccinated for rabies and spayed or neutered. I was contacted with a transport date about two weeks later. I met the transport in Wallingford, CT on October 2, 2004, where I signed the adoption papers, received his veterinarian records, and brought my dirty dog home (*it's a long ride from Louisiana*). The adoption and transport fees were \$300. The transport that Bo came up on consisted of a F350 Pickup pulling a gutted camper full of dog crates and occupants. There were close to 20 dogs adopted that day.

It was quite an emotional sight to see and dogs and new owners meet for the first time.

Follow Up

I am now involved in the home visit program for the Labs4Rescue organization. They are completely staffed with volunteers who have jobs and families and can always use any additional help or funding to keep the organization strong and able to save as many adoptable dogs as possible. They also have a foster home program for anyone interested in temporarily housing a dog before adoption. Everyone I've dealt with has been a pleasure and they all share the same common goal to save homeless labs. Their website can provide any additional information that you might find helpful and pictures and descriptions of dogs for adoption.

Now, four months later, Bo is 90 lbs of health and vitality, and a loving, loyal moosh-head with his new family. We consider his adoption day, October 2, as his birthday because that's when he became a full-fledged member of our family, and when his life really began!

If you have any questions about adopting a lab, please feel free to contact Karin at x2216.



Bo poses with his new family—Karin, her daughter Lauren, and son James