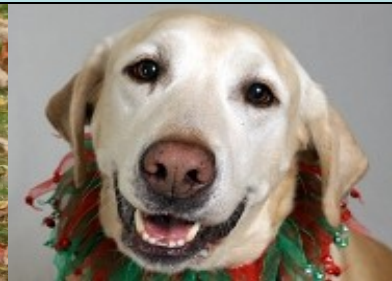
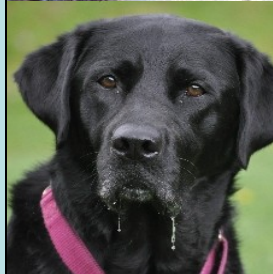
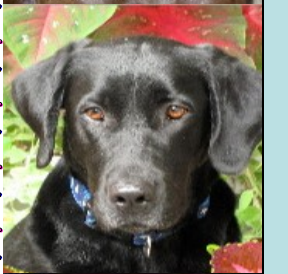




*Labs4rescue has Reached
A Milestone of*
10,000 LABS SAVED
*Thank You to our Volunteers,
Fosters and Adopters...
You Made the Difference
We Look Forward to Working Together
to Save More Lives in 2012!*





The Labbie Ledger

Winter 2012

Issue #12

QUARTERLY RESULTS:

Adoption Events

Clinton, CT
Colchester, CT
Hartford, CT
Newtown, CT
South Windsor, CT
Waterford, CT

Fundraisers

Holiday Photos
Cheshire, CT
Middletown, CT
Car Wash
Southington, CT
Holiday Gift Wrapping
Manchester, CT

Info Tables

Cranbury, NJ
Medfield, MA
Paramus, NJ
Tuckerton, NJ

4th Qtr. Totals

September	\$ 390
October	\$2,694
December	\$ 975

\$4,059 was raised to help Labs in need!

233 LABS Adopted Since September!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Therapy Dogs: Animals Improving Human Health by Meaghan Foel

When Buddy, a Great Pyrenees, was first adopted, his owner Susan Johnson was unsure of how he was ever going to break out of his shell. Rescued from a shelter in Tennessee, Buddy would often bolt and cower, and was terrified of new situations. To socialize him, Ms. Johnson frequented stores like AGWAY, PetSmart, and Petco, hoping that patience and support would help bring out the real Buddy. On one such trip, she found Buddy's calling. When they entered the store, Buddy immediately began to pull her through the aisles. She feared being dragged by the large dog, until he quietly came to rest amongst a group of people, some of whom had developmental disabilities. The scared and skittish dog boldly approached a wheelchair, sat silent while being petted, and wasn't fearful of a cane. After the incident, she began to consider therapy work for Buddy.

She began with basic obedience classes, building up Buddy's socialization and basic command skills. With the reassurance from her instructor that Buddy had potential, she began to take him to therapy dog classes.

The Delta Society is one of the most rigorous pet partner teams in the nation. Their course certifies dogs for work in therapy situations, beginning with a controlled environment, such as hospitals and schools.



Thabiso Helping a Young Student

Only half of the pet partner team is the dog. Human handlers must constantly monitor the surroundings and body language of their dog. Certification evaluators judge how well the handler interprets and manages the dog's behavior, and how well the dog responds to the handler.

Any breed can make a good therapy dog, as long as the dog has the right temperament for therapy work. Allison Smith, owner and handler of Thabiso, a yellow Lab adopted from Labs4rescue, believes that "doggie charisma" plays a big part in Thabiso's success with Therapy Dogs International (TDI). "We watched him interact with lots of people and he was both happy to see them and calm about letting people pet him and give him attention. We noticed he was especially tolerant of children - he just seemed to soak up the attention and people seemed to enjoy giving it to him." Along with his handlers, Thabiso makes over fifteen visits at five different locations each month. With TDI, Thabiso and his owners went through a similar certification as Buddy,

after participating in obedience and therapy training classes. Currently, Thabiso works with children in library and elementary school reading programs.

If you are interested in pursuing a therapy dog certification for your dog, first consider whether your dog has the temperament to enjoy therapy work. Some organizations provide temperament checks before you begin training. The next step would be to locate a therapy dog class and perfect your dog's set of skills. With the right amount of patience and training, many rescued dogs can find a place within the therapy dog system.

Thabiso's unique name means "Bringer of Joy", and as a therapy dog, he certainly lives up to his namesake.

For more information on the Delta Society course, including sample skills and aptitude tests visit:

www.deltasociety.org

For further information on Therapy Dogs International, including a complete list of testing elements visit:

www.tdi-dog.org



Thabiso Helping at the Assisted Living Center



Merlin

Calling All Labs4rescue Alumni

Labs4rescue's Got Talent! We know we have some stars out there - therapy dogs; Labs that have excelled in obedience/agility training or accomplished something out of the ordinary.

If your Labs4rescue dog has done something remarkable please send your story to us at:

newsletter@labs4rescue.com



Our Labs4rescue Volunteers and Adoptable Labs With Santa at the Clinton, CT Petco Event

A Flawless Love by Amy DiLeo

Sometimes dog lovers are drawn to a pet because of his imperfection. Kathy and Mark of Middletown, CT surely were.

Cooper was heartworm positive, emaciated and headed to a high kill shelter in 2008 after his family apparently abandoned him. The "goofy" yellow lab was rescued from the street and nursed back to health by his Labs4rescue foster mom, Helen. But tragedy struck when, just as Cooper was regaining his strength, he was viciously attacked by another dog. As a result, Cooper lost his ear.

Even with his flaw, Kathy fell in love. "It was the story behind Cooper and his one ear that called to me," she explained. As his adoption coordinator, Jenn, shared, "A wonderful family in Connecticut looked past his cosmetic differences and adopted him into their family."



Cooper & Friends

Anyone who has saved a rescue animal may relate to the words in an essay by Kathy, published in 2009, "I don't know his story, but I can tell his life was less than happy. I've done nothing to deserve this trust and devotion, and can't even claim to have redressed any wrongs his former owners inflicted on him before they abandoned him. But I find his hopeful enthusiasm for another good day inspiring."

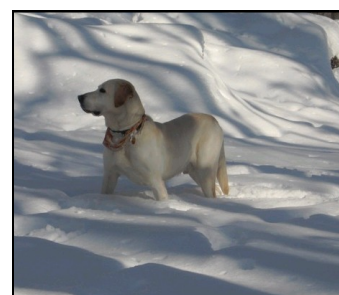
Kathy says shortly after they adopted "slobbery" Cooper, he developed incontinence, but that didn't make them love him less. Their children and grandkids loved to roll around with him, play fetch with a Frisbee, and they all enjoyed his "silliness" and didn't even mind his goobers.

Sadly this fall, two years after they welcomed him into their home, Cooper developed osteosarcoma (OSA), an extremely painful

form of bone cancer and the prognosis was not good. OSA accounts for only 5% of all canine cancers. The tumor had broken Cooper's shoulder and caused him to limp. In September, after just 26 months together, Kathy and Mark had to make the painful decision to say goodbye to Cooper.

It has been a few months now and Kathy says the holidays are particularly difficult. Losing a pet is surely like losing a member of the family. But, like losing a member of the family, time and memories can help with the pain. Today Kathy says she'll likely adopt again from Labs4rescue and she's even thinking of fostering.

Because, as she wrote two years ago of the slobbery, incontinent, one-eared, adorable pup she loved, "... animals are a rich source for learning how to live life better."



Cooper Enjoying a Winter Snowfall

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

New Year's Resolutions For You and Your Best Friend by Debbie Midford

Does your dog ever sit and stare at you like she's trying to tell you something? It seems to be happening to me a lot lately and random thoughts sometimes pop into my mind.

Just the other day while we watched TV, it occurred to me that I should walk her every day – we certainly both need it.

While brushing my teeth the other morning, I looked over at her and had the urge to give her a dental chew so her teeth would be cleaner and her breath fresher. I should probably pick up a toothbrush too, and maybe make an appointment for a thorough dental cleaning with her vet.

Doing housework is never fun, but it seems to go faster when Buttercup follows me around. I always promise myself a treat after but somehow we end up at the dog park with all of her friends.

Mornings are busy with her underfoot. As I swept up the ever-present dog hair, I realized my best friend needed a bath and nail clipping.

She's not a willing pill taker and didn't enjoy the monthly heartworm and flea and tick preventatives, until I had the bright idea to use a little cheese as a disguise and reward. After a long, tiring day at work, sometimes an extra

little dance (sort of a downward dog, butt wiggle, sit pretty routine) is required for me to realize that she was alone all day and needs some one-on-one time.

I'd better be paying attention to the clock, or at the stroke of 5 o'clock I get VERY strong vibes that it's dinner time. I don't mind that, but I usually have to fight the urge to give her more treats than she should have.

She loves to get the mail with me, and today we received a reminder card that it was time for her physical and shots. When I picked up the phone to make the appointment she ran out of the room, of course.

As we ring in 2012, may you also resolve to: exercise, promote oral hygiene, socialize, schedule regular grooming, protect against parasites and other nasty bugs, take time to play, maintain a healthy weight, and get a checkup. Happy New Year!



L'Oreal "Because Your Dog is Worth it Too" by Elisa LaDue

On August 20th, L'Oreal held its 8th Annual "Because Your Dog is Worth it Too" day to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Over 5,000 humans and 2,300 dogs attended the event in Cranbury, NJ. The day included many activities such as the NJ state puppy limbo championship, a costume contest, dock diving, a bone stacking contest and a life size "dog-o-poly" board game.

Over 100 pet industry manufacturers and vendors as well as 60 non profit/rescues were in attendance, including Labs4rescue.

I was lucky enough to attend this year's event. It

was by far the largest pet event I have ever experienced. It was a pleasure to finally meet the NJ volunteers in person, since we normally only communicate on-line. We distributed brochures, collected donations and sold tennis balls and merchandise - raising over \$150 to help Labs in need.

A big thank you to our NJ volunteers that made this event a success: Judy Howard, Cynthia Hoen, Deb Tumpak, Angelica Cuddy and Arianna Cuddy. Hope to see you next year!

To see more photos from the event visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.2284971012107.135302.1483841753&type=1&limit=5d7a4420ea>



NJ Labs4rescue Info Booth

Check Out Upcoming Events at

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



DO YOU TWEET?

For the latest updates, follow Labs4rescue on Twitter:

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

Don't Forget to Join our Cause and our Group Pages on



<http://www.causes.com/labs4rescue>

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



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

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

What's for Dinner? Part 3: Commercially Prepared Raw Diets by Elizabeth Sullivan

In our previous edition, we took a detailed look at the benefits and complexities of feeding your dog a raw diet. Some raw feeders prepare meals on their own and use ingredients obtained from their local butcher. This can be difficult to do without having a solid background in nutrition. In the final part of our "What's for Dinner?" series, we will investigate another option for raw feeders: the commercially prepared raw diet.

The most important aspect of feeding raw is to keep the diet balanced with proper ratios of meat, bones, fat, organs, fruits, and vegetables. The benefit of using a commercially prepared raw diet is that it takes the guesswork out of ensuring you are providing a balanced diet for your dog. By feeding raw food, the meal retains the high quality proteins and nutrients that would be depleted if the food was cooked. Dr. Ian Billinghurst, one of the leaders of the raw diet movement, has his own line of prepared meals for raw feeders. His BARF diet (**B**ologically **A**ppropriate **R**aw **F**ood) is shipped frozen to the customer in the form of patties. By visiting his website www.barfworld.com you can learn more about the different menu options.

Another popular choice for raw feeders is Darwin's Natural Pet Products. This company offers two types of meals, Natural Selections or ZooLogics meals. Menu



Nickolas

options include chicken, duck, turkey, beef, and bison. Each choice also contains the necessary vegetables, offal, and nutrients to provide a balanced meal. Similar to Dr. Billinghurst's products, these meals are also shipped frozen to the consumer. You can learn more by visiting their website at www.darwinspet.com.

The general rule of thumb is to feed dogs getting average activity 2% of their body weight per day. Each website has detailed information on planning the appropriate menu for your dog, as well as helpful tips on how to transition your dog to this new form of feeding. As always, it is imperative to consult with your veterinarian before transitioning your dog to a new diet. Every dog is different, and careful consideration and research should be done beforehand. Good luck and happy eating to our furry friends!

The products mentioned in this article do not constitute an endorsement by Labs4rescue. Please consult your Veterinarian regarding any changes to your pet's diet.

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/photoalbum/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>



Zoe

