



**QUARTERLY RESULTS:**

**Adoption Events**

Cheshire, CT  
 Clinton, CT  
 Cromwell, CT  
 Enfield, CT  
 Haddam, CT  
 Hartford, CT  
 Lyme, CT  
 Manchester, CT  
 Old Saybrook, CT  
 Rocky Hill, CT  
 South Windsor, CT  
 Wallingford, CT

**Info. Tables**

Beach Haven, NJ  
 Madison, CT  
 Plattsburgh, NY

**Fundraisers**

Cenicola's Cookout  
 Chloe & Isabel Jewelry  
 Christmas Ornaments  
 Isabel's Bat Mitzvah  
 Pampered Chef  
 Photos with Santa  
 Pub Crawl Fundraiser  
 Puppy Up Walk  
 Staten Island Brunch  
 Training Event  
 Yankee Candle

**513 Adopted Since May 2014!**

**\$6,868 Raised Since May 2014!**

**THANK YOU Volunteers!**

# The Labbie Ledger

Winter 2015

## Keeping Your Senior Healthy & Happy by Missy Garnett

With puppyhood and the crazier adult dog antics out of the way, having a senior dog as your companion can be one of the most rewarding times for both you and your dog. Just as people can plan for their retirement, you can improve your Lab's later years with some minor adjustments in routine.



Noah

- Keeping your senior Lab healthy usually means watching his weight. Excess pounds put stress on the joints, which can lead to or aggravate arthritis. Since many Labs live to eat, consider offering vegetable treats, like carrots or asparagus stalks, to cut down on empty calories from regular dog treats. Research has shown that overweight dogs are at a higher risk for a number of health issues.
- Dental care, while always important, becomes critical as your dog ages. The bacteria from infected gums can sweep through the body, potentially causing organ damage. If you haven't kept up with the tartar build-up on your senior's teeth, schedule a cleaning with your Vet.
- Trimming your dog's nails regularly (and scissoring the excess hair between the pads) is another thing you can do for your senior dog. Trimmed nails give the foot better traction. If climbing stairs becomes an issue, you can improve the situation by adding rubber-backed treads, or eliminate the risk altogether by using baby gates to block stairs.
- There are Lab owners who swear that their seniors are enjoying "selective deafness" – hearing commands to come eat but not to get off the furniture! However, senior dogs may experience hearing loss and will need help coping with the loss of that sense. Be sure to use a leash when out and about and in unfamiliar areas to prevent your Lab from wandering off.
- One product that can be a huge benefit to a large older dog like a Lab is a portable ramp or dog stairs for the car. It is only natural to avoid taking your dog for rides if it's a struggle to get him in the car, but with steps or a ramp he won't have to give this up.
- Another necessity for a senior is regular Vet care. Many Vets now offer specific senior wellness screenings, with added features geared toward the older dog, such as thyroid testing and urinalysis. Having these tests run regularly will allow your Vet to monitor changes over time.
- It is normal for dogs to sleep more as they get older and to be less tolerant of strenuous activity. However, a senior still needs regular physical exercise. Even a gentle walk to check out the latest smells will help maintain muscle tone, stimulate your dog's brain, and keep him engaged in what is going on around him.
- One additional way to interact with your dog as she ages is to initiate a regular brushing routine, if you don't already have one. Besides the usual health benefits of brushing and the chance to indulge your dog, it gives you the opportunity to check for lumps and bumps. While common and often benign in older Labs, they should always be monitored and checked by a Vet.



Hopefully these tips will help you make the best of the time you have with your senior Lab. Remember that every minute you have with them is a gift; their lives are just too short.

*Editor's note: As always, you should speak with your Vet if you have any medical concerns about your senior Lab.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Adoption Event**  
**3/15**  
**PETCO**  
**Wallingford, CT**

**3/28**  
**JACKSON**  
**CHEVROLET**  
**Middletown, CT**

*For More Event Info,  
Visit:*

[http://labs4rescue.com/events/  
month.php](http://labs4rescue.com/events/month.php)

## CRATES NEEDED

**If you have a crate  
you'd like to donate  
please contact:  
Suzanne Latimer**

[sue\\_labs4rescue@yahoo.com](mailto:sue_labs4rescue@yahoo.com)

**Check out  
Labs4rescue on  
Facebook & Follow  
us on Twitter:**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
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<https://twitter.com/labs4rescue>



## New Year's Resolutions By Sharon Goldstein

Every year, most of us make resolutions that are supposed to help us live better, healthier lives. Every year, most of us break those resolutions within a month (or sooner!) of making them.

If our Labs were to make resolutions, what might they look like? If I understand the psyche of my four-footed family, I know that they do think, plot, and plan. I think these should be the resolutions our furry ones might make:

1. I promise not to make puppy eyes at guests at the dinner table.
2. I promise not to make squirrel-watching my sole hobby.
3. I promise not to hunt rabbits while walking on the leash. Some human parents are too old to chase rabbits. Exercise is good, but leash manners are important!
4. I promise to go out to do my business even if it is raining – or worse, snowing!
5. I will go to the Vet willingly. It doesn't ALWAYS hurt and I know it's necessary to keep me healthy.
6. I will remember that a door opening is NOT an invitation to run outside (and I know my family will remember to check all doors and gates to make sure I'm not tempted!).
7. I will remember that my place in the car/van is the BACK seat, secured in a crate or with a seat belt.
8. I will try not to bark at every sound, real or imagined.
9. I will continue to love children. They are why we exist. They laugh with us, play with us, and give us lots of good exercise.
10. I will be forever grateful to the wonderful fosters who made sure that I found my forever home.

## Saying Good Bye by Jenn Wiles

Two months ago, the morning after Christmas, my husband woke me up with a sentence that froze the blood within my veins: "Something is wrong with Ned."

Ned was our 12-year-old black Lab. He wasn't our Labs4rescue dog, but he is the one who inspired us to start rescuing and shepherded nine foster dogs (ten, if you count Betsy, our foster failure) through our home. The "something wrong" was very serious, and, with our Vet, we made the very difficult decision to let him go that morning.

It's likely that if you're reading this, you've either experienced the loss of a dog or you will someday in the future. As much as we love them, our

Labs cannot live forever. My struggle has been how to best honor Ned's memory. I have his ashes, but can't find just the right urn. I want to get a tattoo as a tribute, but I can't decide on just the right image. I plan to put his collar in a shadow box, but I'm not sure which picture to choose to go with it. Or perhaps I should do a collage?

As time passes, I know that these decisions will work themselves out. Ned will always be remembered and I'll be able to think of him without tears welling up in my eyes. But it was when I came across the poem

"A Dog's Last Will and Testament," I finally knew the most important legacy that Ned had left behind. In the

poem, the unknown author writes, "So, when I die, please do not say, 'I will never have a pet again, for the loss and the pain is more than I can stand.' Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope, and give my place to him. This is the only thing I can give. The love I left behind."

This is what rescue is all about – creating a legacy of love that lives on long after you say goodbye. I have no doubt that this is what Ned – and all of our Labs – would want.

*Link to poem:* [http://  
www.lifewithdogs.tv/2014/07/a-dogs-last-  
will-testament/](http://www.lifewithdogs.tv/2014/07/a-dogs-last-will-testament/)

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## Keeping Dogs and Kids Safe Together by Amy Lovett

“Great with kids.” These three words are magic to parents looking to open their home to a rescue puppy or dog, but it can be dangerous to bring together even the best-behaved dogs and the best-behaved kids without taking some necessary precautions.



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 4.5 million Americans suffer from dog bites each year. Half of these cases involve children, with the highest rates among those ages 5-9. One in five dog bites are serious enough to require medical attention and most bites occur in households that have one or more dogs.

Dog bites can be prevented. And there are many excellent resources to help keep dogs and kids safe together.

**Children should never be left unsupervised with ANY dog.** Dogs and children are unpredictable. Don't ever assume a dog is good with children or that a child understands how to behave around dogs. Especially when interacting with a child toddler-age and younger, an adult should have his or her hands on the dog at all times.

**Children need to learn important rules about dogs, including:**

- Never hug or kiss a dog.
- Never stare at a dog or put your face up to a dog's face.
- Never try to take

something away from a dog.

- Never approach a dog that is eating, drinking, chewing on or playing with something.
- Never approach a dog that is on a bed or furniture, tied up or in a vehicle, or in a crate or cage or behind a fence.
- Never play games that involve chasing, tug-of-war, wrestling or biting.
- Never approach a dog without a parent's or trusted adult's permission.

**If a trusted adult determines it's OK to approach an unknown dog, follow the ABCs:**

- ASK a parent/trusted adult and the dog handler before petting a dog.
- BE a tree if the dog is loose or too excited. That means: 1) Stop moving; 2) Fold in your branches" (arms) by clasp your hands in front of you; and 3) Look down at your "roots" (feet) and count in your head until the dog goes away or help comes. Be a rock if the dog jumps on or knocks down the child. That means: curl up in a ball face down, protect

your face and neck with hands and arms, and call for help.

- “Coochie-Coo” on the side of the neck – not the top of the head – to pet the dog.

After bringing a new dog home, it's a good idea to enroll him or her in an obedience class. Everyone—parents, children and pet—can learn good manners.

Sources: The CDC's dog-bite prevention website <http://1.usa.gov/1EvpmZi> [www.doggonessafe.com](http://www.doggonessafe.com) [www.safekidssafedogs.com](http://www.safekidssafedogs.com)

*Editor's note: A child who is bitten by a dog should see a doctor, no matter how minor the injury. The bite should be reported to the proper authorities (many hospitals are required by law to contact the police in the event of a dog bite). Parents should keep an eye on their child immediately following the bite and in the longer term; if the child shows signs of trauma, he or she may need counseling.*

## PHOTOS OF THE SEASON



Fenway



Riley

## UPDATE ON EMMETT OF STONEY HOLLOW

Emmett's owner, Jacqui Hartranft, shared the story of his accomplishments in the last issue of *The Labbie Ledger*. Jacqui wanted to give an update to our readers:

"Sadly, not long after the article was published, Emmett broke his right hind leg running along our fence. It was due to osteosarcoma—bone cancer. His leg was amputated the next day and he has adjusted better than I could have ever imagined. He had chemo and is on chemo pills. He is happy and healthy at this point. I wanted to give other owners of dogs with cancer hope."



**Check Out the Latest Labs4rescue Videos:**

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