

Labs4rescue



www.Labs4rescue.com

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

The Labbie Ledger

Summer 2009

Issue #3

QUARTERLY RESULTS:

March, April, May, June Adoption Events

S. Windsor, CT
Avon, CT (3 events)
Southington, CT

Info Table
Manchester, CT

2nd Annual Labs4life Event
Cheshire, CT
\$3,220 Raised

Chico's Fundraiser
Saratoga Springs, NY
\$350 Raised

PA Info Tables and Fundraisers
\$1,585 Raised

All Event TOTALS:

March \$600

April \$260

May \$1,750

June \$3,270

**480 LABS
Adopted Since
February!**

**THANK YOU
Volunteers!**

Heroes to the Rescue by Susan Ekaireb and Amy Bender

The Labs4rescue family knew that Mark and Heather Shipley were heroes right from the start. They had already opened their homes and hearts to one dog, Jeep, a Boxer/Lab mix, when they made the decision to add a second rescue dog to the family. Mark and Heather searched for three months before they found their new love, but they knew the minute they saw Elphie, a Labs4rescue dog, that she was the one. She looked 100% Lab, and most important, she seemed like a happy dog.



Elphie

The Shipley's commitment to Elphie was tested right away. Elphie had tested positive for heartworm, and she needed to undergo the treatments and periods of rest that would be required to return her to health. For many, the prospect of nursing a dog through this type of health crisis would be too overwhelming, but Mark and Heather were undaunted, wholeheartedly committing themselves to the newest member of the family.

Elphie was soon on the road to recovery under their loving care,

and with the attention of her new brother, Jeep.

As it turns out, heroism comes naturally to Mark Shipley. He comes from a long line of men and women who have served and protected our country – his grandfather served in the Army, his father the Marines, and his sister is in the Navy. Mark followed in this legacy of service, and joined the Navy eight years ago. He now holds the rank of First Class Petty Officer. Over the last eight years, Mark has been deployed twice, both times on the

nuclear powered submarine, the USS Philadelphia.

And now, once again, Mark and Heather Shipley are proving themselves heroes. On May 31st, Mark left for training for his next deployment, this time for his first tour in Afghanistan. While Mark is serving his country, Heather will be holding down the fort at home. "I have a strong wife, Heather, who will be taking care of everything while I'm gone," Mark says. It will be a long year apart, and Heather and Mark will be relying on e-mails and Skype to stay in touch.

Please feel free to drop Mark and Heather an e-mail at:

bubblehead208@yahoo.com

Words of thanks and encouragement for Mark's service and the sacrifice this young couple is making would surely be appreciated.

Come home soon, Mark. We will all be waiting for your safe return, and so will Elphie and Jeep.

You Can't Hide Fido from Heartworms by Jessica Bacon

Heartworm is a risk to any dog, anywhere. Fido isn't safe even in your own backyard – all it takes is one bite from an infected mosquito to infect your dog. Heartworm is a potentially deadly condition, and treatment is painful, expensive, and time consuming. Some dogs never show any symptoms so you may not even realize your dog is infected until it's too late.

The good news is that just one pill a month can prevent your furry friend from contracting heartworm and suffering any of the side effects, such as heart and lung damage, 4-6 months of treatment, hospitalization, eight weeks confined to a crate, or even death.

The great news is that heartworm prevention is nearly 100% effective. Medicines like

Heartgard®, Interceptor®, and Sentinel® kill the larvae before infestation occurs. You can buy them as pills, tablets, liquids, or injections and dispense them either monthly or up to every six months. Talk with your veterinarian about which preventative would be most effective for your pet, and be sure to read and follow the directions closely to ensure your dog is protected. Your veterinarian may also want to do a blood test each year to make sure your pet is heartworm free.

You can buy heartworm prevention directly from the veterinarian's office, or you can ask for a prescription and buy it for less online. However, if you do go online, double check that you are using a licensed Internet pharmacy or there's no guarantee you're getting the actual product.

With everything that you need to worry about for your pet, just a few dollars a month will ensure that heartworm isn't one of them. Don't forget to sign up for a monthly reminder at:

<http://us.merial.com>



Romeo during heartworm treatment

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bikers Against Animal Cruelty Info Table
Sat. July 18
East Hartford, CT

For More Event Info Visit:

<http://labs4rescue.com/events/month.php>



The Animal Rescue Site and Petfinder.com are offering 60 grants and 15, \$1,000 weekly awards to rescue groups and shelters.

Voting ends July 26th, so hurry and cast your vote for Labs4rescue. The more votes, the better the chance of winning one of the cash awards.

For more details visit:

<http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/shelterchallenge.faces?siteid=3>

Artist Lends a Helping Hand by Amy Lovett

"Big Dogs Are Great." "Love Is Give And Take." "Dogs Have A Soul." These are just a handful of the messages artist Stephen Huneck shares on his iconic woodcuts and giclees featuring Labrador Retrievers. Now he has added to that list "Lend a Helping Hand"—something Huneck is doing by raising money for Labs4rescue.

A self-taught sculptor, Huneck's life and work were irrevocably changed when he fell down a flight of stairs in 1994. He remained in a coma, near death, for two months. With the help of his wife Gwen, the 45-year-old made a full recovery, re-learning how to do everything from walking to signing his name.

Prior to the accident, Huneck had been inspired to do a

series of woodcut prints based on his black Lab, Sally. He woke up from the coma determined to carry out the project. The first woodcut he carved, "Life Is A Ball," celebrated his newfound life.

Huneck also was inspired to build a chapel "that celebrated the spiritual bond we have with our dogs." Dog Chapel—located on the mountaintop farm he shares with Gwen and his three dogs in St. Johnsbury, VT—is open to people of all faiths and beliefs. "Dogs, of course, are always welcome," he says.

For the "Lend A Helping Hand" project, Huneck's gallery will donate to Labs4rescue 50% of the purchase price of original woodcuts and fine art giclees and 10% from purchases of any

other items, including furniture, books and frames, made through his website:

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

Visitors can click on the "Lend a Helping Hand" link on the lower right of the home page and select "Labs4rescue" to jump to the organization's page. Then click the "Labs4rescue" logo again to add it to your shopping cart. From there you can start shopping!



"Love is Give and Take"
by Stephen Huneck

Is it Bloat? By Missy Garnett

Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus (GDV), commonly known as bloat, can kill your dog in less than an hour. Bloat occurs when a dog's stomach distends with air, sometimes twisting. Pressure obstructs veins in the abdomen, leading to shock, heart arrhythmias, damage to internal organs, and without immediate treatment, death.

Keeping an eye out for the symptoms of bloat and seeking veterinary care immediately can mean the difference between life and death. Symptoms include: change in personality, drooling, gagging without vomiting, restlessness, repeated stretching, heavy panting, a spread-eagle stance, whining, repeatedly looking at abdomen, membranes of mouth become cold, repeated attempts to defecate, and a stomach which looks inflated. If your dog is suffering from just some of these symptoms, it could be bloat.

Originally, it was thought that eating a large meal of dry food and drinking a lot of water, followed by strenuous exercise, produced bloat. However, opinions on this vary. There are some characteristics that have been linked to being susceptible to bloat, including:

- Large dogs with deep, narrow chests
- Older dogs
- Males
- Underweight dogs
- Aggressive or fearful dogs

Other risk factors include stress, hereditary (having a first-degree relative who has bloat), and dietary issues such as rapid eating.

The best way to ensure your dog's safety is to plan ahead. Get the number of a 24-hour emergency service. Keep a

product like Gas-X on hand (anything with simethicone) to buy yourself some time. Discuss concerns with your vet, who may recommend gastropexy, a surgical procedure in which the stomach is tacked to the abdominal wall.

There are also several things currently recommended for reducing your dog's risk for bloat, including feeding your dog smaller, more frequent meals, avoiding heavy exercise before and after meals, and limiting water intake immediately following meals. Above all, learn how to read your dog so you can recognize the signs when he's in distress.

Author's note: Please be aware that this article is an attempt to summarize information about a serious medical condition and the writer cannot attest to its accuracy. Always consult with your veterinarian for medical information.

Source: <http://www.petplace.com/>

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To Join the Newsletter Staff or Submit Article Ideas E-mail: newsletter@Labs4rescue.com

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Successful 2nd Annual Labs4life Event! Contributed by Michelle Stevens

We held our 2nd Annual Labs4life event at the Paws Pet Spa & Resort in Cheshire, CT. Many of our volunteers lent a helping hand to make it a special day.

Jane and Laura Klemba handled the reunion event area. Jane also provided us with photos from the event which are featured in the photo gallery on our website. Betsy Adams and several of her friends did a wonderful job selling merchandise, raffle tickets and collecting funds. Terri Basile and Donna Coro were able to sign up

some great vendors who donated money and raffle items. Terri's husband and son-in-law were kind enough to handle the grill and sold hot dogs and burgers to all of our hungry guests. Ann Hilchey was on hand to speak to potential adopters and provide general information about the organization. Kate Skaff, Elisa LaDue and Gwen Ashbaugh handled the adoption area, making sure all of the Labs were on their best behavior and potential adopters were guided to Labs that would be a good match to their criteria.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who transported or escorted Labs to the event. Our appreciation also goes out to the *Paws Pet Spa & Resort* for allowing us to use their facility. They could not have been more accommodating to us.

There were 15 Labs in the adoption area, so keep an eye on the Happy Tails section of our website, the success of this event is sure to show up!



Did You Know We Have a Volunteer Group in PA? Contributed by Jane Zeolla

Jane Zeolla and Jacqui Hartranft have been setting up fundraisers and info tables in the PA area. During April, their info tables raised over \$125 and in May they raised \$75 for the *Dollars4Collars* initiative. But the most impressive accomplishment was their participation in the "Annual Drama Club Penny Auction & Minstrel Performance" which raised **\$1,547** for Labs4rescue. The Minstrels entertained the

audience with their singing and dancing performances. This talented group of youngsters are coached by our own Labs4rescue volunteer, Lisa Eskin.

A BIG APPLAUSE!

To our PA volunteers and the students at the Perkiomen Valley Middle School East in Campville, PA! Our Labs will surely benefit from your efforts.



Students at the Perkiomen Valley Middle School East

Laura Klemba "Volunteer of the Year" at Liberty Bank by Laura Klemba and Elisa LaDue

Congratulations to Laura Klemba who was inducted into the *Liberty Bank Volunteer Hall of Fame* on May 13, 2009. Laura received a \$1,000 award to donate to her favorite charities and was kind enough to give a portion of the money to Labs4rescue. She also made donations to the Sisters of Mercy of Portland and the Portland Library.

Harvey Wiener accepted the donation on behalf of our organization and

brought his Lab Tucker, who was adopted from Labs4rescue, to the photo shoot. We hear that Tucker was quite a hit at the loan office; bringing smiles to everyone.

This story was also featured in the *Middletown Press* the week of June 8th.

WAY TO GO LAURA!

We appreciate your generosity and dedication to helping Labs in need.



Laura Klemba (red jacket), Harvey Wiener & Tucker



**HELP A LAB
FOR ONLY A
FEW DOLLARS**

Click the link
below for more
details:

<http://labs4rescue.com/d4cflier.pdf>



CHECK US OUT!

Click below and
join our cause on
Facebook:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/205372?m=9ba1f9c6>



**FOSTERS
WANTED:**

Fostering can
make all the
difference for a
Lab that is waiting
for its forever
home. Fosters are
needed in CT and
throughout the
Northeast. Please
click the link
below to find out
how to foster a
Lab:

<http://labs4rescue.com/fosterfaqs.pdf>

Ferocious Foliage by Elisa LaDue

We all know Labs can spend an entire day sniffing the yard for new smells, and all too often new tastes. Some common plants, fruits and vegetables can be hazardous or deadly. Here is a list of the most common toxic plants:

- Almonds
- Aloe
- Amaryllis
- Azalea
- Birds of Paradise
- Black-eyed Susan
- Bleeding Heart
- Boxwood
- Buttercup
- Castor Bean
- Cherry Laurel
- Chinaberry
- Clematis
- Cocoa Mulch
- Cyad
- Daffodil
- Day Lilies
- Delphinium Plants
- Dumb Cane
- English Ivy
- Flower Bulbs
- Foxglove
- Holly Berries
- Kalanchoe
- Jack-in-the Pulpit
- Jasmine
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Jimsonweed
- Larkspur
- Laburnum
- Lily of the Valley
- Locoweed
- Lupine
- Mistletoe
- Mountain Laurel
- Mushrooms
- Oleander
- Onion
- Peaches
- Philodendron
- Pokeweed
- Potatoes
- Privet Bush
- Raisin/Grapes
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Sago Palm
- Skunk Cabbage
- Tiger Lilies
- Tomato Vines
- Virginia Creeper
- Wandering Jew
- Wisteria
- Yew

If you are unsure about the safety of any plant, fruit or vegetable for your pets, you may search by name at:

<http://www.aspcapetcare.com/poison-control/plants/>
or contact your veterinarian.
Source: ASPCA and Dog Breed Info
<http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/hazards.htm>



**THE "DOG DAYS" OF
SUMMER ARE HERE!**

Hot, sunny weather can be dangerous for your pets. Please be sure they have adequate water and shade.

Beware of leaving your pets in the car. Within minutes, temperatures can become over 20 degrees higher than the outside air, turning your vehicle into an oven.

Also keep in mind that some animals are afraid of loud noises, like fireworks and thunderstorms. It is advisable to give your pets a quiet, comfortable place to relax so they feel safe.

For more information visit:

<http://www.mydogiscool.com/>

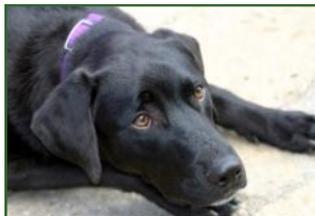
Is Your Contact/E-mail Info Up-to-Date? Contributed by Harvey Wiener

Have you moved recently?
Changed your home or cell
phone number?

When you adopted your Lab it came with a numbered tag from Labs4rescue. That number is assigned to your contact information so it is important that our records are up-to-date.

Just recently a lost Lab was reunited with its owner, but it took some research to find them, as our records were not up-to-date and their old phone number was not in service. Please help us help you, by updating your information. This can be done by clicking the link below and filling out the address change form:

<http://labs4rescue.com/forms/change/changeform.php>



You have probably received e-mails from Labs4rescue with various types of information. We maintain four different e-mail groups: an "applicant" group focusing on potential adopters; after an adoption is final the "applicant" is moved to the "adopter" e-mail group. If a person submits a volunteer form they will be added to the "volunteer" group. If a foster application is submitted they will be part of the "foster" e-mail group. Each group is sent

messages that are pertinent to their group. We make every effort to keep e-mail messages to a minimum. In addition, our mailing lists are moderated to prevent spam and we do not share these lists with other organizations.

You may opt-out of receiving mailing group e-mails at any time by following the instructions provided on the bottom of every message.

