

Labs4rescue



www.Labs4rescue.com

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



The Labbie Ledger

Summer 2010

Issue #7

QUARTERLY RESULTS:

Adoption Events

Avon, CT
Bethany, CT
Barnegat, NJ
Clinton, CT
Durham, CT
Lyme, CT
Quakertown, PA

Fundraisers

3rd Annual Labs4life
Event, Cheshire, CT

Tupperware Sale

Kasey's Lemonade
Stand

Trivia Night at Wags
Doggie Day Camp

Dress Down for
Charity

PETCO Spring a Pet

2nd Quarter

Totals:

April	\$50
May	\$2,453
June	\$922

Over **\$3,425** was raised to help Labs in need!

420 LABS
Adopted Since
April!

THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!

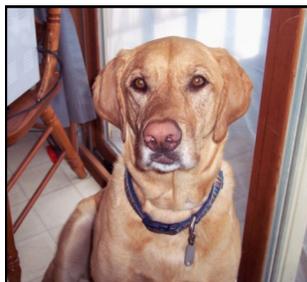
Happy Ending for Hurricane Rita Dog by Kathy Murtagh

When Hurricane Rita came barreling through Louisiana right on the heels of Hurricane Katrina, most people were focused on helping the displaced human residents. At first, I didn't realize the problems faced by the pets left homeless by the storms. That all changed on Columbus Day in 2005.

A story in my local newspaper reported on some of the canine survivors of the gulf hurricanes. When I realized the plight of these now homeless animals, I loaded myself and my 6-year-old son into the car and set out on the 2 hour drive to meet the Labs rescued by Labs4rescue. That's where I met Dow.

Dow was one of the dogs featured in the newspaper story, and the first dog that came out of the kennel building to greet us. He was running full-force, tail wagging, right to my son. At that moment, the three of us clicked, and I knew I had to adopt him. Within a week, Dow was a member of the family. But that's not where Dow's hardships ended.

Shortly after moving in, Dow developed pneumonia. He was in the hospital



Dow

for several days. Since we knew Dow's family had relinquished him to a shelter after they lost their home to Hurricane Rita, my veterinarian suspected Dow's illness was due to the conditions he was exposed to during the storms and their aftermath. Thanks to my veterinarian, Dow pulled through. We thought Dow's bad health was behind him, but that was not to be.

At Dow's annual check-up, my veterinarian ran the usual blood tests to check for Lyme disease and heartworm. To my shock, the results came back positive for heartworm and x-rays confirmed the diagnosis. He endured the arduous course of treatment, and thanks to my veterinarian and his wonderful staff, he was eventually given a clean bill of health.

Dow does, however, have some post traumatic

stress from what he has been through. When it gets very windy, he starts to pace and gets nervous. During a thunderstorm, he will start to shake and sometimes starts to whimper.

Dow is such a wonderful addition to my family. He has a great disposition despite having gone through all he has in his life. When we go for walks in the neighborhood, he greets everyone with a wagging tail. He is wonderful with kids. When we wait for the school bus in the morning, Dow waits with us. Once the bus arrives, he gets on and greets all the kids and the driver.

My one wish is that his first family could know that he is okay, healthy, and in a very loving home. I know that they were a good family to him, and it must have been so hard for them to give him up. I am so thankful that Labs4rescue saved his life and the lives of so many other dogs. I hope that the other survivors of the gulf hurricanes of 2005 are as happy and content as Dow. My family is truly blessed to have him in our lives.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Adoption Events:

Sun. (various dates)
8/22, 9/19 10/17, 11/7
PETCO
Clinton, CT
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sat. 8/14
PUP-stravaganza
Waterford Dog Park
Waterford, CT
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

8/21
Dog Swim
Wethersfield Dog Park
Wethersfield, CT
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sat. 9/11
Dog Days of Oxford
Oxford, CT
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Info Tables:

Sat. 8/21
"Because You're
Worth it Too" Day
Cranbury, NJ
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sa-Su, 9/25-26
28th Annual Decoy/
Gunning Show
Tuckerton, NJ
7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Save the Date:

Sa-Su, 10/23-24
CT Pet Show
Expo Center
Hartford, CT
11 a.m.-6 p.m.

For More Event Information Visit:

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

Baby on Board by Jenn Wiles

Adding a new baby to the family is an exciting (and overwhelming!) time for parents. If you already have one or more four-legged "children," you might be wondering what you can do to make sure that they adjust well to having a baby in the house. Here are a few tips to help you prepare:

Enroll in an obedience class or with a trainer. Start working to correct any behavior issues your dog has as soon as possible.

Expose your dog to positive experiences with children. Visit with friends and family who have dog-savvy children. If your dog has not spent a lot of time with children, it's important to start slowly and to ensure that all experiences are positive.

Provide a quiet area for your dog. Even if your dog seems to love children, be sure that the dog has a quiet, baby-free area to relax in if they need to (baby gates and crates are your friend!).

Practice having a baby around. Carry a doll around to get your pup used to you having your hands full. Set up baby equipment ahead of time. Take walks with your stroller so your dog can become accustomed to walking politely next to it. Find a CD (like the one found at www.preparingfido.com) and start desensitizing



your dog (and yourself!) to the sound of baby cries.

Make changes to your dog's environment now. If anything about your dog's environment will change – his bed will be moved to make room for a bassinet, for example – do it far in advance so he won't associate the change with the new baby.

Mix up the schedule. If your dog is used to being walked or fed at a certain time, begin changing her schedule randomly, as is likely to happen when an infant and sleep deprivation might make it difficult to get food in her bowl at 6:00 sharp.

And remember – this is just the beginning! Dogs and children can be lifelong friends, but to cohabitate safely and happily will take work on your part. A new baby is always an adjustment, but with some careful planning, you and your pup will be ready for the new arrival!

*****Never, ever leave dog(s) and young children unsupervised.*****



Please Don't
Forget To Use
Monthly
Heartworm
Preventative
Sign up for a
Free reminder at:

http://us.merial.com/etl_ownerreminder_services.asp

3rd Annual Labs4life Event



Volunteers: (left to right)
Lisa Bradley, Jane Klemba,
Lauren Bradley, Leanne
Della Camera



Ferris - Met his forever
family at the event!



Rocky - Met his forever
family at the event too!

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

Editor: Amy Bender Design By: Elisa LaDue

Twitter Update by Eric Titsch

Did you know that Labs4rescue has been part of the social media network site Twitter since October 2009? Since then we have put out over 700 tweets about our adoptable dogs, upcoming events and the many exciting opportunities to support us.

Here are just some of the things that our Twitter followers are saying:

"I follow your Tweets in anticipation for a future possible adoption. I think it is GENIUS the way you're using Twitter. I actually subscribe to the Twitter "Labs4rescue" RSS feed to

get new dog updates instantly! Please keep up the great work."

"I started following Labs4rescue on Twitter because I adopted a Lab from you. We love him so much and we have our eyes out for another one. We love getting the tweets...hopefully one will spark our interest. Thanks for all you do."

Do you tweet? Be the first to get up to the minute news about Labs4rescue and new adoptable dogs as they become available. Follow us on Twitter today at: <http://Twitter.com/Labs4rescue>

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/photoqal/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>



Sugar Cooling Off on a Sunny Day!

Food Allergies by Missy Garnett

Food allergies are one of the itchiest conditions known to dogs. Are you worried your Lab might be suffering from food allergies? Here's what to look for: Constant scratching and chewing, biting feet, odd odor, recurrent ear infections, hot spots, skin infections, flatulence, excessive stretching, and frequent bowel movements.

If you suspect your Lab has food allergies, you should consult your veterinarian to develop a suitable treatment plan and to rule out other conditions causing similar symptoms.

Food allergies can happen seemingly overnight to a dog, even without any change in diet. The typical age of onset is 2 to 6 years. The most common allergens are beef, chicken,

eggs, dairy, wheat, corn, and soy.

Unfortunately, there are no specific tests for dogs with suspected food allergies, and the diagnosis may be complicated by other allergies, such as fleas. And unlike with other allergies, antihistamines and steroids don't work.

There is a recommended treatment, however. It's called the elimination diet. The suspect food is excluded from the diet for a period of 4 to 12 weeks, depending on the dog, until the symptoms improve or disappear.

Usually a commercial dog food that is a combination of a unique protein and carbohydrate with a minimum of additives is recommended. It should be something the dog has

never eaten before, like venison or buffalo, with potato, sweet potato, rice, or peas. Treats must be the same, with no rawhide bones or other edible toys given. Chewable heartworm pills should be replaced with tablets.

Another possibility for the elimination diet is a food made of hydrolyzed protein. These foods feature conventional proteins, but they are broken down into molecules too small to trigger the immune system. Examples include: Hills Z/D and Ultra Z/D, CNM HA (Purina), and EXclude, made by DVM.

Still another choice is home cooking. You can prepare a stew from vegetables, whole grains or potatoes, and a protein source. However, consider this only an interim solu-

tion because home cooking may not provide all the nutrients your dog needs. When symptoms improve, one single food can be added to the diet. If the dog starts itching again within 2 weeks, you've identified an allergen.

If the diet fails, and the dog is still scratching, it's often because you did not have complete control over what the dog ate—whether it was the bone he hid or snacks from your kids.

Another possible solution to food allergies that is gaining acceptance as a healthy alternative is frozen, raw protein—similar to what dogs ate before they became domesticated. You can find this at animal health food stores and online.

