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Freedom Tails

"Making the world better, one Lab at a time."

This issue dedicated to Jake,
who passed away in the spring.

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WELCOME TO SUMMER

Of course, our first issue should feel like a puppy walking towards you with his tail wagging, anticipating your affection, or like a lab with big paws ready to pounce and slobber. And it could if you help in a small, puppy like fashion or in a larger than we hoped mastiff kind of way.

The big picture tells us that no government organization can possibly care for, never mind sustain, all the homeless dogs and cats brought into this world.

The bigger picture tells us that not one human being can use that view as an excuse to kill the healthy, the shy, the odd looking, the non-terminally ill because they are creatures without a voice as loud as ours.

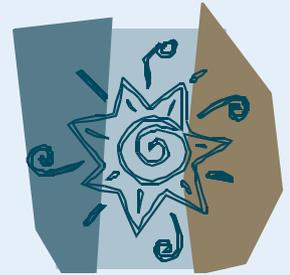
With your help, there will be one more dog who is loved and one less that does not live in a crate she does not wish to soil, being cold hosed every morning; one more prancing on the grass, one less being judged as unadoptable and sentenced to death; one more stretching and yawning on his way to breakfast, one less staring at bars with meals as the only distraction from his lack of love and family.

And with that, there is one more moment that a human being feels unconditional love, one less moment of human loneliness, and one more moment of knowing you made one little life breathe a whole lot easier.

– Joan Vescey, brokenarrowjm@aol.com

Urgent need for foster homes

We are in the process of developing a foster home program in New England, and expanding the one we have in Tennessee. The high-kill shelters in the South and Midwest are full of purebred Labs and Lab mixes. Most of these labs only get three to five days to be adopted, and sadly, most never are. Labs4Rescue has many great pre-approved.





In the Spotlight: Rita

I'm Rita. I'm probably not very labbie, but a very nice dog still. They tell me I'm most likely a terrier/rottie mix. I'm a great size - about 40 pounds for those who want the best of small and large dogs since I'm right in the middle! I'm not young, and I'm not old either - I'm about 2 years old.

I love to play with a ball and with other dogs. I am good with kids and

walk well on a leash. The only thing I

don't have going for me is a forever home. I've been looking for someone to love me forever for a long time now.

Would you be the special someone I can love and adore? *For more information*

about Rita, please send email to linda@labs4rescue.com.

Other pups available for adoption can be viewed at www.labs4rescue.com.

applications just waiting for Labs. We are limited in our ability to pull these labs from high-kill shelters because of a shortage of foster homes. Could you help us to save even more labs by fostering a dog for two to four weeks? We will arrange transport to your area from these out-of-state shelter.

Please contact cathy@labs4rescue.com if you would like to apply to be a foster parent in New England, bkaseydawg@aol.com if you would like to apply to be a foster parent in the Memphis area or info@labs4rescue.com if you would like to apply to be a foster parent in another area.

Success Story: Amber

When I arrived at Gabrielle's house in Mastic Beach, I was greeted in the yard by a Dalmation, named Ricky, who stood up at the fence barking. Next to him was Amber, a newly adopted Labs4Rescue puppy. Amber looked very small compared to her new big brother, but she stood beside him imitating his welcome/warning, looking at him to be sure she got it just right.

Gabrielle was beaming over both her babies. She told me that although she had owned and loved many dogs, Amber had stolen her heart in an exceptional way.

I could see why. Amber was sweet and loving and very calm and very beautiful. She had made herself at home in this comfortable, pretty den of love.

But Gabrielle was concerned about her new addition. Although Amber tested negative for heartworm, she now tested positive, an unusual occurrence in so young a pup.

Gabrielle sought the advice of Labs4Rescue and consulted with veterinarians becoming quite an expert on the subject in the process. It was determined that in this special circumstance, Amber needed only to be observed. She had only one or two worms that could not reproduce and would die off quickly.

Unfortunately no rescue group or breeder can guarantee there will not be any problems. Labs4Rescue does an excellent job of providing dogs that have been declared healthy for adoption.

Amber was lucky enough to have found an intelligent, caring and committed forever home. Today, Gabrielle is a volunteer for Labs4Rescue. When I was at her home, Ricky was lying on his back, all fours in the air and Amber was cuddled nearby. Before Amber



Lab Licks: Special thanks

- Thanks to all of our foster parents, who work so hard and then have to give up those they've grown to love when they find forever homes.
- Thanks to those who visit the shelters regularly, helping us pull dogs.
- Thanks to those who have been able to help financially with our needs.
- Thanks to those who give their time and energy, helping with adoption days and other events.
- Thanks to those who help with errands, like driving dogs to vet appointments and the like.
- Thanks to those who spread the word.

Helping Paws: How to help

- We urgently need foster homes to house dogs for two to four weeks. We will transport the dog to you.
- Shutterbugs to take pictures of our dogs for our Websites.
- Transporters to "bail out" dogs from the local shelters or take dogs to or from vet appointments.
- Volunteers to make home visits to approve potential adopters.
- Handlers to help with the dogs at adoption fairs
- Monetary donations of any amount.

arrived, Ricky had never learned to play. Ricky had not had an easy life before joining Gabrielle, but he needed Amber to learn how to play.

I imagine that when Gabrielle is home working on her computer for us, that is what Ricky and Amber are doing!

- Joan Vescey, brokenarrowjm@aol.com

Meet a Member: Anne

AnneSchmitt became involved with Labs4Rescue in September 2002 when a foster home plea was sent out. She fostered a yellow lab mix named Amber for about a week before she was adopted by a friend of hers. She has been fostering pretty solidly ever since November of 2002. She got married in June, 2003, and when she left her parents' home, they continued to foster for L4R. Between the two homes, Anne's family has fostered a total of 21 (one of these Anne adopted, and two were adopted by her parents) dogs and over-nighted many more. In addition to her own foster dogs, she places the Labs and Lab mixes in the Olive Branch, Mississippi Humane Society through our program. She also visits a couple other area shelters frequently and pulls adoptable dogs and places them in available foster homes or a boarding facility. She then matches them to homes.



She has one dog, a black Lab mix from the Memphis Animal Shelter named Dexter, and two indoor cats, Anubis and Jillian (Jill). Her parents have four dogs: Gilligan (a sharpei/Catahoula mix), Rufus (a Karelian Bear Dog), Meg, and Nate (Lab/Belgian Malinois mixes; these are the two that were adopted through us), and five indoor cats: Beau, Kasper, Mort, Mindy, and Christopher Robin.

You can contact Anne at anne@labs4rescue.com.

Health Matters: Heartworm preventive

Once considered a parasite of only southern climates, the heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) is now recognized as a major, global pest affecting dogs, cats, wolves, coyotes, foxes, and some other animals. From its discovery in dogs more than a century ago and the documentation of its existence in cats in the 1920s, researchers have devised diagnostic tests, preventives and treatments, but the disease has spread to all 50 states. The highest infection rates occur in dogs (not maintained on heartworm preventive) within 150 miles of the

- Large crates
- Leashes
- Collars
- Food/water bowls
- Premium dry dog food
- Compressed rawhide bones
- Heartguard (55 lbs. and over)
- Frontline/Advantage (55 lbs. and over)
- Capstar

If you have items you would like to donate please call and we will arrange pick-up. All donations are tax-deductible.

About us

Labs4Rescue is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to providing a new life for rescued or displaced Labrador Retrievers and Labrador mixes. All Labs4Rescue dogs undergo an initial veterinary screening, treatment as required and then they are placed in loving foster homes for nurturing and further evaluation.

Contact information

www.labs4rescue.com

ctlabs4rescue.petfinder.com
info@labs4rescue.com

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 Killingworth, CT 06419

Atlantic and Gulf coasts and along the Mississippi River and its major tributaries. Other areas with large mosquito populations also have a high rate of infestation.

To jog the concern of clients, veterinary clinics may display a preserved heart infected with heartworm in a jar and hang posters about heartworm life cycles in examining rooms, but seeing is not necessarily believing; although clients can view the infested heart loaded with long, spaghetti-like worms every time they visit, many gamble that their dogs will never be bitten by an infected mosquito.

Heartworm prevention is simple. One monthly chewable tablet, like Heartguard, is all it takes to protect your dog. Before a dog starts treatment, a vet needs to run a simple test to make sure heartworms are not already present. Heartworm infestation is dangerous; untreated dogs die and treated dogs go through weeks of discomfort while the worms are killed and expelled from their bodies.

While we cannot address every concern, if you have a health question you would like to see addressed, send an email to brokenarrowjm@aol.com.

Dear Labby: Saying no to jumping

Dear Labby: What can I do about my dog jumping on visitors? Love, Eric.

Dear Eric: From our point of view, right back to when we were puppies, and if you watch packs of wild dogs on television, we greets our mothers and other pack members by jumping up and licking at their faces to encourage them to regurgitate food for them.



When human families return home they usually excite us because they have absent and we have been left on our own and they make a big fuss over us and lavish us with affection, so of course we associate people walking through the door with excitement.

I've heard it can be embarrassing when visitors arrive at our house, and whilst a small cute, cuddly puppy is often encouraged to jump up, when that puppy becomes an adult with claws, he becomes a nuisance. Non-doggy people are usually frightened when we jump up. Sometimes, I hear, they even think we are aggressive. Children tend to raise their hands, which encourages us to jump up and this can seem to parents to be threatening behavior that is unacceptable in public places. So, sometimes we lose out and get banished to another room or

crate when a visitor arrives.

Fixing the problem is not easy or instant, and requires patience, but things can be better. I suggest the following:

- Be consistent with puppies and dogs; it's counterproductive to discourage your dog from jumping on others, while allowing her to jump on you and lick your face.
- Turn all the way around when you first walk in the door and your dog leaps up on you. Wait until your dog stops jumping, and say "Good!" the moment she does.

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About this publication

Freedom Tails is published quarterly, through our Website and via an email distribution list. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an email to brokenarrowjm@aol.com.

- Command your pup to sit if she knows the command, and don't touch her until she does. Again, be consistent.
- Tell your dog to find her toy if she doesn't know "sit." This redirects your pup's energy from jumping on you to finding her toy.
- Practice "no jump" with friends once your dog learns not to pounce on you. Have friends give treats and praise when your dog succeeds.
- Anticipate potential jumping situations, and tell your dog to sit or redirect her attention to something else.
- Praise your dog when she doesn't jump, especially during situations that might give her reasonable cause.

Labby loves to hear from Freedom Tails readers. Please send an email to Labby in care of Taylor Vescey at tkvecsey@aol.com.

Lab Living: Cleaning up on pet hair

Do you often find dog hair clings to your upholstery? Now you can take control.

Using a thick tape -- masking, scotch, duck or strapping type anything thick -- wrap this around your hand inside out so the sticky side is out and rub the tape over your upholstery. Watch how the hair just clings to the tape and then you can throw it away.



Do you have a clean rubber glove that you use for cleaning? The rubber on a cleaning glove will make the hair move to a pile on your couch when you rub your hand over the couch or chair, and you can just pick it up and throw it away.

Another quick method to getting hair off of the upholstery is to use the attachment on the sweeper that you would use for the drapes or curtains, and sweep off the couch in a slow motion picking up all the hair.

You can also make it easier to lift pet hair if you use liquid fabric softener. Simply mix with plain water and add to a spray bottle. Spray lightly on fabric that is covered in pet hair, allow to dry, then vacuum or brush off. Or add to your soap/cleaning solution when

mopping the floor or wiping counters and the hair just wipes right up.

If you are grooming your pet, wear rubber gloves or keep your hands wet when stroking. The hair will stick to the gloves or your hands instead of falling all around your home.

While we don't have space for everything, if you have the perfect tip for Lab Living, send an email to brokenarrowjm@aol.com.