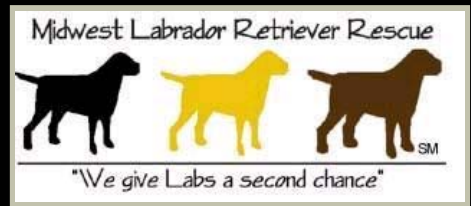


THE LAB'S TALE



Fall 2007
Volume 9, Issue 4

Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.
"We give Labs a second chance"

Annual Tennis Ball Drop

At this year's reunion picnic, on September 15, 2007, the Annual Tennis Ball Drop was a huge success.

MLRR sold over 850 balls for a grand total of \$3,865. Our lucky winner was Jane G. After splitting the pot with MLRR, she went home with \$1932.50.



Chloe one of our rescue dogs who was in foster at the time, picked the winning ball.



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Reunion Picnic

Our Annual reunion picnic was a hit, lots of Labs reunited with their foster families. There were approximately 90 humans and 45 labs in attendance.

Here are some pictures from the reunion.



All the Labs loved the doggie ice cream!!

Animal Law By Tamara Marshall, Esq.

Animal Law is one of the fastest growing areas of legal practice at this time. Issues related to animals have, of course, always existed. The topic may have been raised occasionally in law schools in an isolated case in a traditional class, such as Contract Law, where property at issue happened to be an animal. Times have changed and a growing number of law schools actually teach Animal Law Classes. Animal Law covers companion animals, wildlife, entertainment animals and those raised for food or used in research. Over 80 law schools now have courses in Animal law, including some of the most prestigious such as Harvard, Cornell and Georgetown. The new twist is not that animals and the legal system cross paths, but that there are courses, practitioners, and laws now focusing on the rights and needs of the animals rather than viewing the animal solely as property.

Illinois has some of the most comprehensive laws protecting animals and is one of only five states ranked "Best States" by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (www.aldf.org) along with California, Maine, Michigan and Oregon. The reason for Illinois' high ranking is the various provisions of the "Humane Care for Animals Act." The Act was originally enacted in 1973 and, over the years, has been amended by the state legislature to allow it to, shall we say, bare its teeth at those who may violate its provisions.

For instance, the law provides that: "Each owner shall provide for each of his animals: (a) sufficient quantity of good quality, wholesome food and water; (b) adequate shelter and protection from the weather; (c) veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering; and (d) humane care and treatment."

Not only is that basic care the law in Illinois, but if a person is convicted of more than one violation, not only may the subsequent violations be charged as a felony, but each day a violation continues represents an additional felony charge. It is hard to contemplate our jails full of all the people who don't meet even these basic requirements. However, the benefit I can foresee is that it will cause abusers to more readily surrender their "property" that they might otherwise feel entitled to treat as they will.

Significantly, a court may order an individual to undergo psychological or psychiatric evaluation for violating this or many other provisions of the Act. Even more restrictive provisions *require* the court to order a psychological or psychiatric evaluation when the offender is a juvenile or companion animal hoarder convicted of aggravated cruelty



Addie is in the 2008 MLRR Calendar.

See below for more information.

(causing serious injury or death not by recognized means of euthanasia).

The legislature also very recently passed a law that will go into effect the first of next year which will enable courts to include animals in Orders of Protection for domestic violence victims, and give them exclusive custody of the pet for the duration of the order. Many an abused person will not leave their animal, much like they would not leave a child behind and, therefore, would continue to stay and endure abuse. I can only hope this message will be registered in the minds of judges who scowl at parties in divorce proceedings who dare to raise the issue of "who is going to get the dog" as an issue of substantial importance to them. It is time to fully acknowledge the bonds formed between people and their pets and realize that it is a real and valid issue in some divorce cases.

Further acknowledging the value and importance of animals beyond mere property, in 2001 the legislature provided for civil lawsuits by an owner whose animal has been subject to an act of cruelty or torture. The law allows recovery for the monetary value of an animal if it did not survive, veterinary expenses, "and any other expenses incurred by the owner in rectifying the effects of the cruelty, pain, and suffering of the animal, and emotional distress suffered by the owner." In addition to damages proven, a court may award punitive damages up to \$25,000 and *must* award attorney fees if the plaintiff prevails. Mandating attorney fees will help those who may otherwise not have money for legal fees obtain representation. By providing for this type of a civil lawsuit with remedies previously reserved for people, the legislature has truly acknowledged what we all know in our hearts to be true, that animals should be viewed under the law as something more than property!

If you would like to read the full text of the "Human Care for Animals Act" you can access it at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs.asp>, click on "Chapter 510 Animals", where you can see all laws pertaining to animals in Illinois, then click again on "510 ILCS 70/ Humane Care for Animals Act." If you have any comments or questions for me, feel free to e-mail me at tmarshall@zcvlaw.com.



Get your 2008 MLRR Calendar!!
Now on sale at <http://www.midwestlabrescue.org>
\$18.00



Recent Adoptions

The following Labs have been adopted since July:

Angel	Jim & Cheryl S	St Charles
Spencer	Michael & Christi J	Alsip
Blake	Jay & Ruth K	Evanston
Quincy	Linda T	Buffalo Grove
Carmine	Lynn & James R	Cary
Dominic	Amy D	Chicago
Nalla	Erika & Nick O	Island Lake
Patriot	Bob & Alice W	Sleepy Hollow
Liberty	Andrea & Will S	Chicago
Joe	Jessica & Nick M	Rockford
Brady	Ellen & Chris P	Northbrook
Smokey	Shelly S	Batavia
Jagger	Paul & Katherine E	Chicago
Maxwell	Ryan T	Chicago



Lady adopted by Robert & Shelia V. in Grayslake

Lincoln	Steve & Deborah D	Chicago
Maddie	Amy Q	Chicago
Norwood	Jeff & Darlene B	Chicago
Chloe	Michelle & Matt P	Third Lake
Lady	Robert & Sheila V	Grayslake
Pepper	Tom & Terri C	Glen Ellyn

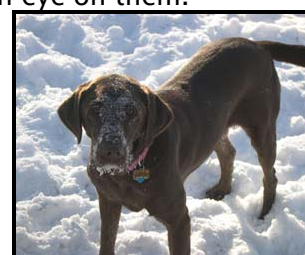
Tips for a Safe Winter

As Chicagoans we live in an area that can be bombarded with lake effect snow and because of that we can really get more than our fair share each winter. Luckily labs love the stuff (or at least most do). However, as another Chicago winter approaches it never hurts to remind ourselves of a few precautionary measures to make sure our furry family members are safe in the cold.

Don't let your dog off leash on snow or ice. Dogs can lose their scent and become lost. This makes sense if you think about it – dogs that get lost will have a much harder time finding a scent if the ground is covered in a foot of snow.

Consider dog sweaters for smaller labs (and smaller breeds if you have other dogs in the house).

Never leave your dog outside in the cold for more than 10 or 15 minutes. Allow them enough time to relieve themselves, get a little exercise in, and then back inside they go! And if they are out in the backyard alone, always keep an eye on them.



LABertisements

Marla Lunt
marla@k-9playtimeinc.com

K-9 PlayTime, Inc.
Play Care & Training Center

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www.k-9playtimeinc.com

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fax: 847-970-7528

Now doing sleepovers!!

Becker Animal Hospital
322 Frontage Road
Northfield, IL
847-446-8010

Thanks to Our Donors

Donations from July 1st, 2007

* Betsy R.	In memory of Dusk
Randy C	
Gina G	
Garry & Michele G	
Matthew H	
iGive.com	
Karen K	
Cara K	
Sara M	
M. Kim N	
Victor & Barbara S	
Katherine S	
Anonymous	Allstate Giving Campaign
Jennifer B	Allstate Giving Campaign
Allstate Giving	Allstate Giving Campaign
Kari F	Allstate Giving Campaign
Chuck & Maribel G	Allstate Giving Campaign
Andrea P	Allstate Giving Campaign
Melissa R	Allstate Giving Campaign
Al R	Allstate Giving Campaign
Rita B	Can not attend reunion donation
Lombard Veterinary	Donation jar
James M	In honor of Andrew's birthday
Leon & Sue W	In honor of Darrin's birthday
Kenneth Jr. W	In honor of puppy love & Georgio
Andrew Jordan M	In honor of Rufus
Susan D	In memory of Chip
Richard & Jean W	In memory of Doreen Carmichael
Carole C	In memory of Lonnie who met her beloved Casey at Rainbow Bridge 7/30/07
Amy H	In memory of Valkyrie
Jewel	Shop & Share
Amy O	Thanks for all you do for our Labs
David H	To help Kappy & other labs like him
Maria Z	To honor Tammy on her 6th birthday

*correction

Lexi is looking for her forever home.



Top Dog Cities



For the last three years, the editors at Dog Fancy, one of the country's leading canine-centric magazines,

have compiled a list of the best cities in the U.S. to be a dog, naming San Diego as this year's winner of their DogTown USA award. Chicago and Portland OR, topped the polls in previous years.

1. San Diego
2. Long Beach, CA
3. Portland, OR
4. Seattle
5. Chicago
6. New York
7. Orlando
8. Colorado Springs, Co
9. Austin, TX

"It takes a lot to create a city that truly embraces its canine population," says editor Susan Chaney. "We look at over 20 criteria. Naturally, it has to be a fun place for dogs and their owners. For example, we check into dog-centered activities, such as doggie festivals, parades and other events, as well as how many hotels are dog-friendly and how many restaurants allow dogs to eat on their patios. However, excellent veterinary care and an active humane society are also key elements of a pet-friendly city, and are as essential for travelers passing through as for the pets and their people who reside there. Further, it's clear that in the cities on our annual list, both the local government and general population embrace having that 'doggie element' in their communities."

To check out what makes these cities top dog check out <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21195469/>

Holiday Hazards

Decorations, lights, gift wrap and holiday food--the basic ingredients of holiday celebrations--can place companion animals at risk for injury and illness, says an Iowa State University veterinarian. "A busy holiday household can put pets in peril," said Dr. Kim Langholz, a community practice veterinarian at the ISU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. "By simply being aware of the potential hazards, pet owners can greatly minimize the risk to their animals."

For example, a relatively new artificial sweetener found in sugar-free gum, candies and baked goods, poses a deadly risk. Xylitol is toxic to dogs, Langholz said. It can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar levels that leads to depression, coordination difficulties and seizure activity. "If a significant amount is eaten, these signs are usually seen within 30 minutes. The pet should be taken immediately to the veterinarian for care," she said. "Even small amounts may cause problems, so if an animal consumes products containing this material, the owner should seek care for the pet."

Most risks from holiday hustle and bustle are found inside the house. However, others are found outdoors throughout winter. Langholz cautions pet owners to be aware of the following, which could put pets in jeopardy.

Indoor Hazards

- Christmas trees can be pulled over by climbing cats or curious dogs
- Broken ornaments can cut paws/skin
- Decorative lights are an electrocution hazard if the dog, cat, rabbit or other curious pet bites the wires
- Chocolates contain chemicals that are dangerous for pets
- Table scraps and bones can cause severe gastrointestinal disorders, pancreatitis and blockages that require surgery to remove.
- Tinsel, ribbons or yarn, if swallowed, can require surgery to remove. They can cause the intestines to bunch up so that food cannot pass through properly.
- Burning candles can be a danger. Curious animals could burn themselves or knock candles over and cause a fire.
- Decorative plants vary in levels of toxicity. Poinsettias are low in toxins, while mistletoe--especially the berries--is highly toxic.
- Visitors can cause pets to feel anxious. Make sure your pet has a safe zone where it can go for quiet and privacy. Make sure exterior doors are properly closed so pets don't escape.

Outdoor Hazards

- Cold weather can lead to frostbite. Provide appropriate shelter and a fresh water supply for your outdoor pets. Consider coats and boots for dogs that live indoors most of the time and may not be properly acclimated to the cold.
- Antifreeze from vehicles is highly toxic. Repair leaky radiators and store antifreeze properly. Consider using alternative antifreeze products that contain propylene glycol and are less toxic.
- Salt and other ice-melting products can be consumed when your pet licks its paws. If your dog doesn't wear boots on walks, wipe paws with a clean cloth when your pet comes in from outside.
- Cats and other small animals will crawl up under the hood of a car for warmth. Honk your horn before starting your car.

Yummy Holiday Treats!

Don't leave your lab left out while you enjoy your holiday treats, make some for you lab. These recipes get "paws" up from my test "Lab".

* Pumpkin Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup pumpkin, canned
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 4 tablespoons Crisco
- 1 whole egg
- 1/2 cup buttermilk

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine flour, cinnamon and nutmeg and cut in shortening. Beat egg with milk and pumpkin and combine with flour, mixing well. Stir until soft dough forms. Drop by tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool and serve

* Puppy Dog Egg Nog

- 1 container plain yogurt
 - 1 jar baby food (any meat flavor)
 - 1 large can evaporated milk
 - 1 egg
 - 1 1/2 cups water
- Blend all ingredients and serve in holiday bowls.

* Hanukkah Noshers

- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup natural peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 4 cups whole-wheat flour
- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 1/2 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1/4 cup chopped peanuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large mixing bowl, combine applesauce, egg, peanut butter, vanilla and water. In a second bowl, combine flour, cornmeal, oats and peanuts. Add dry ingredients to wet and mix well. Turn dough onto a floured surface, knead until thoroughly mixed together. Roll out dough into 1/4-inch thick and cut out shapes. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake 45 minutes. Cool on a rack before serving. Store in a sealed container. Makes 30 chewish delight



Midwest Labrador Retriever
Rescue, Inc. (MLRR)

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MLRR is an **all volunteer**,
501(c)(3) non-profit organization
dedicated to finding loving,
permanent homes for unwanted
or abandoned Labrador Retrievers
throughout the Chicago area

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.midwestlabrescue.org

Upcoming Events

Join us at the following Events:

🐾 **Care Fair**
November 24th
Unitarian Church, Evanston

🐾 **Barnes & Noble**
December 20 - 22
Danada Square, Wheaton
2pm - 6pm

For more information log on to the website

*Midwest Lab Rescue wishes you and
your family a joyful holiday season.*



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