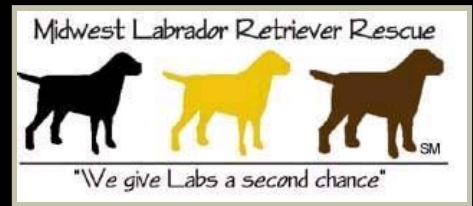


THE LAB'S TALE



Spring 2007
Volume 9, Issue 2

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

"A Ruff Night Out"

Join us for "A Ruff Night Out"
our 3rd Annual Dinner Auction.

Mark your calendars for **Friday, May 11th** at
Chandler's Chophouse, Schaumburg, IL.

Many unique services and items have been
donated to benefit our rescued Labs. Reserve
your spot today!

\$60.00 per person
Price includes Hors D'oeuvres, Dinner,
Dessert, and Champagne & Chocolate
Fountains.

Sit, Stay & Bid at our Silent and Live Auction.
Doors open @ 6:30pm, Silent Auction sections
close @ 7:30 pm & 7:45pm.

Send email to mail@midwestlabrescue.org or
call 847.604.3254 to receive a formal
invitation.

You can also purchase tickets for the **Plasma
TV Raffle**. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10
The winner will be drawn on May 11, 2007. See
enclosed flyer for details.



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Dogs and Thunderstorms

The *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association* reported on a study of owners of storm-phobic dogs. The study found that dogs adopted from shelters or rescue organizations may be more likely to develop storm phobias. The article suggested that these dogs are more likely to have had unpleasant, scary experiences prior to being adopted, and we all know that these kinds of experiences such as abuse, abandonment and poor socialization in early life can make dogs more anxious and prone to all kinds of phobias.

If you think your dog may suffer from thunderstorm phobia it's important to consult your vet or dog behaviorist as this fear can be overcome or at the very least lessened. You can work with your pet on desensitization techniques such as the introduction of low-volume storm recordings, gradually increasing the volume and only praising good behavior such as no trembling, crying or heavy panting. There are also prescription treatments as well, for those dogs who seem more troubled than most.

The most basic beginning is to treat your dog gently and kindly when he is afraid. Don't cuddle or reassure him as this rewards his 'scaredy-dog' behavior. Instead, be calm and provide him with a safe, familiar place where he can feel secure and ride out the storm, such as an extra padded or covered crate, or a space under the bed (just be sure that he can get in and out easily and at will).

With spring in high gear and those dreaded thunderstorms becoming more frequent, it may be beneficial to watch your dog's behavior, document it and discuss it with your vet or training professional.

MLRR Spotlight

Princess Leia is a 6 year old yellow female, adopted through MLRR in April, 2001. When Beverly and Ernest F. first took her home she was quiet, although very obedient, and showed little emotion; expect fear. She was afraid of many things like loud noises, shiny, hard floors and bridges. However, in her 6 years of living with Bev and Ernest Princess Leia now sparkles like the crown her name suggests. She shows her happiness, loves other dogs and people of all ages, including and especially children. Beverly says however, that she is still a bit gun-shy of those intimidating shiny floors!



Her love of children has really shown through now that Leia has become a certified International Therapy Dog (ITD). Beverly says she always knew that Leia was special and she wanted to share that with everyone Leia came in contact with. Leia passed her ITD test on her first try, and from what we've been told, this is no easy task as most dogs need 3-4 tries! Since her certification, Leia visits Elmhurst Hospital every Thursday, taking the elevator (not one of her favorite tasks) up the 4th floor and making her rounds to visit anticipating patients. Leia has fast become the favorite of the 6 therapy dogs there, and her patient waiting list grows all the time. Patients pet and kiss her, tell her about their own pets or pets they once had. There are many tears, but she brings tears of joy as these patients look so forward to Leia's weekly visits.



Princess Leia relaxing in her swimming pool.

But her good deeds don't stop there. Beverly is a teacher and Leia also visits her kindergarten class every Tuesday. There are many special needs children in her class and Leia plays a very important role in their lives as well. They read to her, and work out math problems with her. She has even has the power to act as a calming device for an ADHD little boy in the class. With Leia by his side, he can sit and pay attention for a full 20 minutes, something of which Beverly herself is extremely proud.

To cap off her new found life, Leia will be featured in a new book entitled "The Yellow Dog with the Pink Nose". It's written by Beverly for pre-schoolers to about 3rd grade and it teaches color words and number words from one to ten; and helps children with their fears. It will most likely be in publication by this summer and will be available on Amazon.com.

In what's left of Liea's spare time, she loves to swim and hang out with her friends, two of which are also MLRR alums. She power walks 3 miles every day—we should all be so motivated—and loves to get into a pick-up game of soccer. Her favorite couch potato activity IS being a 'couch' potato or a 'porch' potato, and at night gets to snuggle with Bev and Ernest. What dog wouldn't like this high life?

If you think your MLRR is special, tell us why! He or she might be the focus of our next MLRR Spotlight.

Recent Adoptions

The following Labs have been adopted since January:

Shadow	Kent S.	Chicago
Buster	Janet & Chris W.	Evanston
Kaiser	Bill & Becky S.	Naperville
Freedom	Chester & Ellen P.	Tinley Park
Lola	Judy & Brian S.	Lincolnwood
Devin	Pamela K.	Barrington
Jessica	Jill S.	Sycamore
Frango/Lucy	James (Tim) & Cindy M.	Chicago
Henderson	Cindy B.	Winfield
Preston	John & Terry S.	Buffalo Grove
Gulliver	Amy A.	Pleasant Prairie
Josie	Mary & Thomas C.	Gurnee
Jet	Sally & Jim S.	LaGrange
Rex	Joy & John G.	Lindenhurst
Dazzle	James & Julie G.	Elmhurst
Riley	Matthew & Kelly I.	Marengo



Charlie adopted by Brent & Lyndsey R. of Oswego

Nick	Amanda S.	Lombard
Blake	Jill & Lee B.	Deerfield
Cass	Paul C.	Chicago
Merlot	Jessica B.	Lake Villa
Fergie	Barbara D.	Des Plaines
Shiraz	Sarah S.	Evanston
Lizzie	Rita & Dean P.	Algonquin
Molly	John & Sandra F.	Oak Park
Charlie	Brent & Lyndsey R.	Oswego
Roy	Teri V.	Elmhurst
Thor	Jason K.	Chicago
Emma	George & Sandra K.	Yorkville

News and Events

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Happy Dog Bakery

3rd Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, April 14th

10-1 pm

Downers Grove, IL

10% off toys, collars/leashes and human gifts

A face painter (or two) and the proceeds go to the rescue.

Also, a percentage of all the days sales go to MLRR!

Ruff Night Out

MLRR 3rd Annual Dinner Auction

Friday, May 11th

6:00 pm

Chandler's Chophouse

Schaumburg, IL

Top Dog, Once Again!

For the 16th year in a row the Labrador Retriever "continues to reign supreme" in the US, says the American Kennel Club (AKC). A recent press release highlighting their annual survey, reveals that the top large breeds (*) are valued for their intelligence, versatility and ability to be a loving family companion- one of them being the Lab! But we all knew that already. Here's the list as it rounds out:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Labrador Retriever* | 6. Dachshund |
| 2. Yorkshire Terrier | 7. Boxer* |
| 3. German Shepherd Dog* | 8. Poodle |
| 4. Golden Retriever* | 9. Shih Tzu |
| 5. Beagle | 10. Miniature Schnauzer |



Photo Courtesy of American Kennel Club

Thanks to Our Donors

Donations from January 1st, 2007

Mike & Jenny G.	In honor of Cooper
Pam & Mike C.	In honor of Bosco
Dennis & Diana G.	
Erica & John M.	For Max and Buster
John & Tammy E.	For Camellia and Logan
Judy K.	In memory of Dakota
Mary Ellen Z.	In honor of Babe
Brendan W.	For Alex and Edith
Elaine & Jeffer A.	Allstate Giving Campaign
Brian V.	
Gail G.	
Philip R.	Scott & Katie Schoessel
Betsy H.	In honor of Barbara
Diana Gotkowski	Employee match
LinkShare	
Lombard Veterinary	Donation Jar
T Capital Management	
Katherine S.	
Mark T.	
Katherine & Romana K.	
James & Jill S.	
E.B.B	In memory of Craig Bauer
Jadeen & Simon	Bucket & Gozer
Garry & Michele G.	
Elizabeth S.	In honor Hank fka Apollo
Lisa & Mark V.	
Rewards Fundraising	
Jeff & Sirkka S.	
Chester & Ellen P.	
Maggie L.	
Pamela K.	
Ben & Leslie P.	Henderson
Francine C.	Gulliver
Gail S.	Henderson
Melissa R.	Allstate Giving Campaign
Jay & Ellen L.	
Ann W.	
Linda D.	
Lucy & Jeff P.	



Doolittle a handsome black male looking for his forever home.

Valerie L.	Allstate Giving Campaign
Andrea P	Allstate Giving Campaign
Chuck & Maribel G.	Allstate Giving Campaign
Jennifer B.	Allstate Giving Campaign
Paula O.	
Rachel K.	On behalf of Lucky Shalter
Kay & John D.	
Katherine S.	
Kimberly K.	
HSBC	Matching Gift Lora K.
McMaster-Carr	Matching Gift Pamela C.
Cindy B.	Henderson
Florence W.	
Jay & Ellen L.	
John & Sandra S.	Van's 5 th birthday
David & Patricia K.	In honor of Molly fka Sandy
Betsy H.	
Virginia & Michael S.	In honor of Riley who died of cancer
Jessica P	
Sweet Tomatoes	A "fund" night out
Kari F.	Abbot Employee Giving Campaign
Stan S.	Abbot Employee Giving Campaign
Montini High School	In memory of Jasmine.
Susan & Richard R.	
Katherine S.	
Diana M.	In honor of Ginger
Angela M.	
Barbara B.	In honor of Joan Theesfeld's bday
Betsy R.	
Sandy R.	
GH and Bernadette I.	In memory of Sedona
Scott & Edie F.	
Kevin & Kimberly R.	
Scott & Edie F.	Bday Toy & Treat Drive
Dione C.	
John & Chris S.	
George & Sandra K.	

LABertisements

Koka Thomason
Independent Consultant

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fax: 847-970-7528

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

Great News! MLRR is now accepting advertising in our newsletters. If you have a business that you would like to highlight, please let us know. We can send you all the information you need to get started. Thanks to all of our cherished MLRR supporters, our newsletter reaches approximately 1000 people in the Chicago area, so it's great reach! For more information, please contact: mail@midwestlabrescue.org.



Fred's Corner

I was one of the lucky one's. I had a forever home from the first time I was adopted. I am now 12 years young and have seen 8 MLRR foster dogs come in and out of my home over the past few months. Some of them are very bothersome (in their young, whipper-

snapper ways), but I can only try to understand their predicament. At least for the short time they are with me, I can provide some guidance to help make the transition to their forever home, a better one. I have happily given advice to: Lucy, Dreyfus, Jackson, Wednesday, Tannen, Noel and Rudy and now I want to share my wise, old-man thoughts with all those who have found their forever homes.

Be Cute

When your new human yells out "Who ate all the doorframes?" tip your head sideways with the look of puzzled innocence. If possible, smile and wag only the tip of your tail in sympathy

Be Entertaining

If your humans have company over, be sure to engage them. One thing I've found that gets them every time is to find the laundry basket, pick out some dirty clothes (preferably underwear) and bring it to the guests for a good game of tug-o-war.

Be Protective

(or at least pretend to)...I recommend barking at all 2 am sounds and also preventing food poisoning by making sure that nothing edible remains on the counter for more than a few seconds. If it looks a bit suspect, even to you, feel free to pass it along to the other home dweller---the CAT! Let him try it first...

Be Helpful

Find a job that needs doing and make it yours. In my younger years, I made sure that squirrels remained up in trees and that the birds didn't steal the seed out of Mommy's feeders. Now, I don't even hear them and sometimes have a hard time seeing them much less chase them, but she still thinks that's cute.

Be Vulnerable

It never hurts to show your softer side, and thunderstorms are a great time to do that. I little heavy panting, and a lot of trembling and whimpering can go a long way. You may even secure a place in your human's soft, comfy bed...and this may turn into a permanent gig if you play your cards right.

Be Loving

Who says that a 75+ lb. dog can't be a lap dog? Climb into any lap you can find because unlike a toy poodle, you cannot be evicted from the lap until YOU feel like moving.

Following these few simple rules, will help endear yourself to your new forever family. And if you get a chance, drop me a line and let me know how it's working out.



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E-Mail:
mail@midwestlabrescue.org

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

New Way to Donate

firstgiving

MLRR is now a part of firstgiving. A website dedicated to fundraising. Follow the link to donate <http://www.firstgiving.com/midwestlabrescue> or head to the MLRR website and click on the firstgiving banner, located on the homepage.

Our 1st time using firstgiving we were able to raise \$1,075.00 for Gulliver in just a few days!!

<http://www.firstgiving.com/debMLRR>



*Gulliver who
needed hip
surgery.*

Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.
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