

THE LAB'S TALE



Spring 2008
Volume 10, Issue 2

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

A Readers Response

The following was received by MLRR in response to the article on Black Dog Syndrome.

I received and read the newsletter yesterday about black dogs being passed over for adoption. We adopted our Katie (formerly Darlene) and both my daughter Alana and I were flabbergasted that people will pick other colors over black.

It made me mad, so today at lunch I wrote a poem which is a tribute to black dogs, especially our forever dog Katie. We are thankful to MLRR each day for bringing our forever dog into our life.

B B D

A tribute to Katie, our black Lab

I can't believe what my eyes just read
It makes me sad and full of dread.
What do they need, what do they lack
That they don't choose a Lab of black.
Just look into those sad brown eyes
And see the love that within them lies.
How can they judge with just one look?
They judge the cover and not the book.

We thank our lucky stars each day
That our BBD came our way.

She's full of love and our best friend
And will be faithful to the end.

Her love is true there is no doubt

Even though she came through the MLRR route.

She is a joy and such a thrill She is called our 'Happy Pill'.

We need to teach them all what it'll take

To know that color does not a faithful companion make.

There is nothing that our life could lack
NOW THAT WE HAVE OUR DOG OF BLACK!



Katie was adopted by Pat and Alana G. in July, 2004.

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Heartworm Prevention 101

With heartworm season fast approaching (and never actually going dormant in warmer climates), we wanted to take a moment to talk about heartworm treatment and prevention. The following information is provided as a general primer.

Heartworm Information

Heartworm disease is a potentially fatal condition caused by parasitic worms living in the heart and pulmonary arteries of dogs and other mammals. Heartworms belong to the roundworm family and are clinically classified as *Dirofilaria immitis*.

Disease Transmission

The disease is not spread directly from dog to dog, rather transmission of heartworm requires an intermediate host: the mosquito. A mosquito bites an infected dog and picks up some microfilaria (the larval stage of the worm). It then bites another dog and the microfilaria is transferred to that new dog during the bite. Spread of the disease therefore coincides with the mosquito season.

Heartworm Symptoms

Dogs infected with heartworms can live several years before manifesting any symptoms. Although some dogs will not show any symptoms, the most obvious indicators are cough, exercise intolerance, abnormal lung sounds, difficulty breathing, enlargement of the liver, fluid accumulation in the abdominal cavity, and abnormal heart sounds.

Continued on page 2, Heartworm



Spring Time Yard Repair

Now that the snow appears to have left Chicago, it's time to clean up our yards so that we all can enjoy this new weather, and that includes our lovable Labs. One of the most important tasks that needs addressing is fencing. Over the winter fence posts may have shifted due to the constant repetition of freezing and thawing. So if you do have a fence here are a few things to keep in mind to keep your dogs safe.

- 🐾 Check for gaps that are more than a few inches wide; fill them in and make any necessary repairs.
- 🐾 If you think your dog may be able to flip open a gate latch, replace it with a sturdier one. One step further might be to add an additional lock like a slide bolt or chain around the gate and gatepost.
- 🐾 To stop your dog from digging under a fence (and we all know that they love the scent of the newly thawed ground) place railroad ties or cement blocks at the bottom of the fence line. For a more permanent solution to habitual diggers, you may choose to add a foot of chain link fencing or chicken wire and dig it into the ground.
- 🐾 Remove any objects near a fence that will aid your dog in jumping over it.

General tips for a fun and safe dog yard:

- 🐾 If you have a digger, give him a section of loose soil mixed with sand where he can freely (and safely) satisfy his urge.
- 🐾 Use non-toxic pesticides and fertilizers for the lawn and garden.
- 🐾 Avoid toxic plants. You can find a list of toxic plants at www.asPCA.org
- 🐾 Keep dangerous chemicals out of their reach. Mouse/rat poison can kill a dog.
- 🐾 Clean up after your dog daily. Animals can get parasites and bacterial infections from feces.
- 🐾 Remove any sharp objects that could injure your dog's feet.



Heartworm Continued.

Heartworm Treatment

Most dogs can be successfully treated for heartworms if the disease is detected early. If you suspect your dog may have heartworms, seek the advice of a qualified veterinarian immediately.

Heartworm Prevention

A common misconception about heartworm prevention medications is that they 'prevent' heartworm infection from occurring at all. That is not quite correct. Most types of prevention medications kill existing microfilaria but do not prevent them from entering the body. Before beginning a prevention program, a blood test must be given a veterinarian to determine that the dog is not already infected. The preventative should be administered from early spring until the end of December in cooler climates or it may be taken year round.

Keeping Your Dog Healthy

Today, the majority of dogs with heartworm disease survive. Most can be treated with medication, some requiring surgery. Unfortunately there are those few that do not survive the devastating effects of the disease. With prompt detection, needless suffering can be prevented.

It is important to remember that heartworm disease is preventable!

Consult your veterinarian for an appropriate prevention program for your dog.

For information about Heartgard Preventative, or coupons go to <http://heartgard.us.merial.com/>

News and Events

Mark Your Calendars Now!

🐾 **Raise Your Paws for the Cause**

4th Annual Auction & Dinner

May 17, 2008

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Chandler's Chop House

401 North Roselle Road

Schaumburg, IL

Hors d'oeuvres, dinner with unlimited wine, dessert, 5 hours of premium open bar and chocolate fountain.

Advance registration required. You can RSVP on-line at <http://www.midwestlabrescue.org/auction.shtml>

🐾 **Jewel Shop and Share**

June 2, 3 and 4, 2008

Coupon coming soon!

Check the MLRR website for more information.



Recent Adoptions

The following Labs have been adopted since January:

Bernie	Stuart V	Wheaton
Donner	Claudine H	Barrington
Romo	Robert & Nora T	Kildeer
Hamilton	Carol & Kevin V	Park Forest
Barry	Dan S	Chicago
Cocoa	Suzanne & Jim D	Arlington Heights
Ernie	Rita S	Villa Park
Noel	Missy & Philip S	Chicago
Maverick	Carolyn & Brad B	Glen Ellyn
Jade	Christine & Eric S	Naperville
Dallas	Mildred D	Wadsworth
Samantha	Andrianna & Michael P	LaGrange Park
Sophie	Donna D	Lombard
Countess	Beverly N	Elk Grove Village
Buzz	Douglas & Sally M	Glenview
Buddy	Cyndi & Reid H	Chicago
Sadie	Dina & Len S	Cary
Zeke	Kate & Don R	Burr Ridge
Clyde	Matthew F	Chicago
Paris	Louise M	Western Springs
Shadow	Seamus & Nancy B	Chicago



Zeke adopted by Kate & Don R of Burr Ridge



Shadow adopted by Seamus & Nancy B of Chicago

Help Us, Help Them

Have you ever thought about fostering, but never knew what was involved?

Like most rescue groups, foster homes are critical to MLRR's success and we are always in need of more of them.

There is always a long waiting list of dogs to come in, and we usually have to turn dogs down due to lack of open foster homes.

Here are a few sad statistics on how many Labs need our help:

- * During February this year, we were asked to rescue 199 Labs**
- * Due to space we were only able to save 7 Labs**
- * This is about 4% of the dogs in need and is fairly average for each month of the year**

Here are some facts on our fostering program:

- All dogs are evaluated before coming into rescue.
- All dogs are up to date on vaccines before they are brought to their foster home.
- If any follow up medical care is needed, MLRR pays for it at one of our vets.
- Foster homes are provided with supplies such as collars, tags, Heartgard and Frontline. (We do not provide food or toys).
- The typical length of time a dog is in foster care is about 2 weeks.

How can you help?

If you are interested and would like more information, please feel free to contact us, or if you think you are ready to foster, you can fill out a foster home application which is available on our website. We would then set up a home visit to discuss the process in greater detail. Visit us at www.midwestlabrescue.org for more details.



Thanks to Our Donors

Donations from January 1st, 2008

Susan & Michael B	In memory of David B.
Mark & Natalie H	
Dr. J Anthony D	
Daniel & Mary C	
Bruce & Donna H	thanks for all you do; We are so grateful for Tucker-11/05
Cynthia M	
Gail G	from Gail & Hunter
Al R	in memory of Chet
Missy & Philip S	
Allstate Giving C	employee match for Jeffrey A.
Elaine & Jeffrey A	
Brad & Jenn P	in honor of Roscoe FKA Peter Brady
Scott & Jennifer B	
Joe A	in memory of Bagfield
Thelma S	in honor of Rita & Pete B.
Rose & Frank F	
David H	
Aaron & Jennifer D	in honor of Dexter & Kobi
Nancy J	
Erica & John M	in memory of Max
Scott & Edie F	in memory of Charley
Al R	
Kimberly & Robert N	to help Dexter & Kobi
Laurie H	in memory of Riley
Gary & Marie S	in honor of Dr. Rosen @ Lombard Vet Hospital
David & Patricia K	in honor of Molly
Beverly & Ernest F	in honor of Princess Leia; on the occasion of her book
Shelley B	donation in memory of David B.
Pamela O	in memory of David B.
Angela D H	donation in memory of David B.
Eunice L	in memory of David B.
Debra Z	Jade sponsorship
Jack & Stephanie W	in honor of David B.
Bonnie G	in honor of David B.
Nathan & Stephani S	in honor of David B.
Charles & Jane H	in honor of David B.
Jim & Cheryl S	in memory of Delaney & in honor of Quigley
Armando & Sara M	
Nancy W	Jade sponsorship

BP Fabric of America Fund	employee match: Mallory N.
Jane H	in memory of David B.
Barbara J	in memory of David B.
Katherine S	
Beth & Chris G	in memory of David B.
Matthew & Theresa R	in honor of Shelby; 2nd anniversary in her forever home
Michael & Mark G	in memory of David B.
Stephanie O	in memory of David B.
Ana N	
Nadine K	in memory of David B.
Kevin K	in memory of David B.
Wayne & Sharon J	
Kenneth Jr. W	in honor of Sally
Chuck & Pam B	in honor of Cyrus
Dan S	for Kobi & Dexter
Lombard Veterinary L	donation jar
Sarah E	in memory of Dave B.
Melody M	In Memory of Remmy Z.
Judy L	
Garry & Michele G	
Katherine S	
Amy H	
Linda G	Kobi & in memory of Dexter
Kimberly S	Donation in the name of Remmy Z. (Black Lab)
Bill & Pat K	In Memory of Fargo
Nancy W	sponsorship for Zeke
Allison L	sponsorship for Zeke
Joseph Z	in memory of Prince Jacob of Remington
Delia K	
Russell & Elizabeth M	
Jane G	in memory of Sydney S.
Amy J	
Karen F	
Glenn L	Charitable Contribution in the name of Annie R.
Andrea P	AllState Giving Campaign
Al R	AllState Giving Campaign
Chuck & Maribel G	AllState Giving Campaign
Jennifer B	AllState Giving Campaign
Melissa & Joseph R	AllState Giving Campaign
Diane G	AllState Giving Campaign
John & Donna N	in memory of Remmy Z.
Liz Z	in memory of Remmy Z.
Tamara & Ed M	Donation in Memory of Buck
Paige W	AllState Giving Campaign
Katherine S	
Patricia D	



Donors Continued...

George & Sandra K	Donation in memory of Jake
Peggy K	In memory of Blade
Al R	in honor of Jager & Bailey
Renee & Richard K	in memory of David B.
Randy C	
Fox Valley Pet Sitting Service	in memory of Kayla G.
Candace M	In Memory of Edward C. J.
Lucy T	
Karen N	in lieu of attending auction
Jewel Shop & Share	
Michael & Christine D	in lieu of attending auction



Robin looking for her forever home.

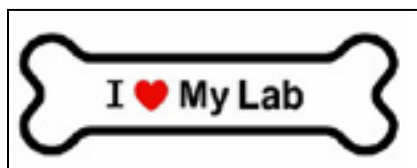
LABertisements



Downers Grove
Elmhurst

Coming soon to Yorktown Center in
Lombard!

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



A True Success Story



Shannon FKA Sharitz

Written By Sara Smith

It's been a wonderful year with Shannon as she has started to blossom and enjoy being a dog.

The sheer joy with which she attacks life is amazing, although it is still tempered by anxiety about unfamiliar people and events. But just seeing her run in the snow or a field, or wagging her entire body and smiling so hard her jaws look like they are going to get stuck open, or jumping 5 feet in the air to welcome us back, is enough to make all the extra patience and work she needed seem like nothing.

The changes are dramatic: a dog that started by not eating anywhere but the couch (with you sitting about 10 feet away) will now let you fill the water bowl near her while she eats; before, she wouldn't let anyone get near her at the dog park but now lets people she's familiar with give her treats and pet her; for a long time, she would view any new treat or food with suspicion but now will almost knock you down to get at whatever you have. She is still scared - men frighten her, people carrying Chuckits make her uncomfortable, and a lot of noise/running around from other dogs really bothers her. But she is tightly bonded with our other dog Patrick, with my husband, and with me. She's also becoming more assertive with Patrick - not in a bad way but they are now on more of an equal footing with each other. She may never get over these issues - or she may. Whichever, she is doing beautifully.

Getting Shannon was very different than when we got Patrick - she needed more patience, more work, more time and more understanding. But it has paid off in spades and we don't regret a minute of it. Watching her ears come forward and seeing her become a dog brings joy to us every day and she has helped Patrick smile more and become a more playful dog. I only hope everyone has the chance to see their dogs succeed the way she has - thanks again to MLRR for matching us with her. She wasn't what we had in mind when we applied but has been perfect for us and Patrick!



**Midwest Labrador Retriever
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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

Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.
P.O Box 1473
Lombard, IL 60148

TV Raffle
42" LCD TV Raffle

We are excited to announce that we are
raffling off a 42" Toshiba LCD TV.

All proceeds benefit MLRR.

Download raffle tickets (and more details) at
<http://www.midwestlabrescue.org/pdfs/LCDTVforWeb2008.pdf>



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