

THE LAB'S TALE



Spring 2009
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Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.
"We give Labs a second chance"

Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.
Celebrating 10 Years of Rescuing Labs
1999-2009

Dog Park Safety & Concerns

It's Spring (or at least the calendar says so in Chicago) and the resurgence of dog park guests is hitting its peak again. Even though dog parks and beaches are usually open all year round, springtime brings about the more fair-weathered dog owners, so now is the time to brush up on some general dog park safety measures and address some concerns.

1. Sprains-Dogs of all breeds (but especially our child-like Labbies) are playful and excitable most of the time, but get them around their own kind and look out! While running, they can trip in a hole or maybe play a little too enthusiastically resulting in sprained joints. Be sure to keep a careful eye on your dog, to help avoid this type of injury.
2. Lacerations-Sometimes even the friendliest play between dogs can turn into a tussle, or result in accidental mouth to body contact. Cuts and scratches are common injuries, so keep your dog away from those who seem a little too aggressive and look out for foreign objects like fallen branches and trash.
3. Toxins-As Spring approaches park maintenance crews are working hard to prep the grounds for late spring and summer growth. They may use common chemicals like fertilizers, snail bait and pesticides. If you suspect that your dog has come in contact with any of these treatments clean his feet and legs thoroughly with soap and water and watch him carefully for signs of exposure which could include, patchy irritation followed by chewing or scratching, burns, vomiting or diarrhea.

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4. Invaders-Regular flea and tick preventatives are critical for every dog, especially those that frequent dog parks. Also, be a good park patron and pick up after your dog and remind others to do the same. Internal parasites, viruses and bacteria can be easily transmitted by contact with fecal matter.
5. Overheating-No matter what time of the year you visit the dog park, always have plenty of water on hand for your dog. Be sure to take frequent water breaks so your dog can stay hydrated. If your dog shows any signs of overheating such as excessive panting, vomiting or sluggishness, contact your vet immediately.

Local Dog Parks

There are many dog friendly areas in the city of Chicago. Click here to find one near you!
http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/resources/dog_friendly_areas/

If you're in Cook, Lake, Dupage, Kane, McHenry or any other surrounding counties, click here to find fun places for you and your dog to hang out!
<http://www.ecoanimal.com/dogfun/illinois.html>



Grooming Your Lab

Coats

Labradors shed. It's as simple as that. You have to keep on top of your Lab's coat so that your home doesn't look like the floor of a hair salon.

Yellow Labs tend to shed all year round at a slow pace. They do not have big shedding days like our shiny Black Pearls do.

A Black Lab literally leaves its entire coat on the floor during Spring and Fall! For those of you who have Black Labs you've probably come to realize that they shed **big time** twice a year. This will have a serious impact on your vacuum, so you may want to get a tune up at least once a year! And, if you have allergies, keep some medication on hand.

Keeping your Lab's coat looking shiny and healthy requires a few grooming tools. Using a 'bristle brush' allows you to remove any 'dead' hairs and it will assist in distributing the coat's natural oils. Most of the year however, you won't have to use this brush more than once or twice a week. During the heavy shedding, you may want to use a brush called the Furminator. It is fairly expensive, about \$45 for the medium size (which I use on my Black Labs) but I can tell you from first hand experience it's worth its weight in gold! When I use this thing, birds fly in from the East coast just to pick up the rolling hairball tumbleweeds in my backyard. (It makes a great insulator for their nests.)

Keeping on top of your Lab's coat is very important. By brushing it regularly and washing it you are ensuring that your Lab will not get any unwanted visitors and the coat will be healthy for years to come.

DO NOT SHAVE LABRADORS! Whatever you do in the summer do not give your Lab a shave. Its coat is designed to keep him cool, even in the hot summer.

Nails

Many people are afraid to trim their Lab's nails. I used to be too, but a few simple tricks will help make this daunting task a little easier.

First, I find it easier if you have your Lab sit or lay down on its side. This way you can maneuver its legs which every way is easier for you to get at the paws.

Yellow Labs are usually the easiest to trim as you can see the quick (the pinkish thing under the nail) and you clip just to the top of it. However, if you have a Black or Chocolate this becomes a bit trickier (and our biggest fear is clipping that quick and hearing our dogs yelp out in pain). Here is a tip to finding the quick in dark colored nails; turn your dog's foot over and look under the nail. You should see a dark round spot somewhere in the middle of the nail. That is the quick; clip to the top of it and you should avoid nicking it.

However, should you accidentally clip a quick, you can use a product called Quik Stop that can be purchased at any pet supply store. Just grab a pinch with your fingers and apply it to the underside of the nail with a little pressure. Bleeding typically stops immediately. I usually bring it out with me when trimming my dog's nails just in case. If you don't have Quik Stop you can use a mixture of flour and corn starch, but it doesn't work as quickly as the other. You can also try a bar of soap (although most of us probably use liquid soap these days). Dig the nail deep into the soap until you get a small blob stuck to the nail. Just be sure to watch your dog after using any of these treatments, as you don't want them getting sick from liking it off.

Labrador Retriever Grooming is all about keeping a routine and making sure that you are on top of the situation. However, if you're pushed for time, you can always trust your local professional groomer. Ask other pet owners for their groomer's name. Personal references are always the best route, to know that your Labs are being treated like the Prince' or Princesses they are!

MLRR GOES GREEN

Prefer to get your quarterly newsletter online?

If you received this newsletter in the mail and would prefer to receive it electronically instead, please send your e-mail address to us at mail@midwestlabrescue.org



Fun Fact

Did you know?

According to the APPA (American Pet Products Association), U.S. pet owners spent a total of \$43.2 billion on their pets in 2008---what recession?



Recent Adoptions

The following Labs have been adopted since January:

Payton	Kathryn D	Chicago, IL
Sandy	Lisa & Mark B	Frankfort, IL
Jillian	Barbara H	Palatine, IL
Roscoe	Jason & Grace C	West Dundee, IL
Janice	Eric & Judith McHugh N	McHenry, IL
Milo	Valerie & Eric Martin H	Tinley Park, IL
Megan	Christine & Eric S	Naperville, IL
Hamilton	Berna & Tim S	Arlington Heights, IL
Bear	Andrew & Kimberly M	Woodstock, IL
Montrose	John & Ashley R	Chicago, IL
Latte	Gerry & Deborah G	Algonquin, IL
Jesse	Patricia & Alan A	Skokie, IL
Java	Deborah C	Evanston, IL
Shadow	Bruce & Suzanne W	Beach Park, IL
Miley	Kevin M	Elk Grove Village, IL
Moose	Sarah & Jeff G	Joliet, IL
McGee	Laura M	Lombard, IL
Bandit	John K	Elmhurst, IL

Nick	Kelly A	Downers Grove, IL
Meri	Lenny S	Chicago, IL
Sam	Steve & Nancy W	Downers Grove, IL
Leigh	Donna & Richard W	Algonquin, IL
Holly	Nancy & Larry I	Chicago, IL
Grant	John & Katie C	Plainfield, IL
Hailey	Ed & Jill C	Woodridge, IL



Payton adopted by Kathryn D in Chicago

News and Events

Mark Your Calendars Now!

In response to our volunteers who would like to participate in more events, we will do so this year!

Please watch your email for more information on these events for we will need your help to staff them and make these events a success!

MLRR Annual Dinner Auction

Saturday, May 16, 2009

Double Tree in Downers Grove

6:30pm - 11:30pm

MLRR's 5th Annual Auction includes hors d'ouvres, dinner with dessert, open bar, and Silent and Live auctions.

Invitations have been mailed out and a response card was included to be filled out and mailed back. However, you can also RSVP online at

www.midwestlabrescue.org/auction.shtml.

20th Annual Hinsdale Pet Walk

Sunday, June 7th

9am to 1pm

Katherine Legge Memorial Park

5901 S. County Line Road

<http://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/userpage26.aspx>

20th Paws in the Park in Aurora

Sunday, June 28th

11am to 4pm



Thanks to Our Donors

Donations from January 1st, 2009

Al R	Allstate Giving Campaign
Allison H	Abbott lab employee giving
Allstate Giving	
Amy Q	
Andrea P	Allstate Giving Campaign
Arlene W	in honor of Kia
Bill & Kathleen F	matching gift to Ari & Ida Crown memorial
Billy H	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Brian C	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Cardinal Health Employee	
Carol & Richard K	
Carolyn & Brad B	in honor of Maverick
Catherine B	in honor of Neo & Ruby
Chris & Mary M	
Chris & Deborah B	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Cindy & Larry A	in honor of the Callahan family and Cooper
Cynthia B	in memory of Kona
David & Patricia K	in honor of Molly
Donald & Rima H	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Donna & Richard W	
Donna & Arthur P	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Donna N	In Memory of David D. and his dog Lily
E.B. B	in honor of Craig
Ed M	On behalf of Jan and Daryl C.
Eleanore & Geoffrey W	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Elizabeth & Scott E	in honor of Missy & Trooper
Eugene & Helga N	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Frederica & Tom H	
Garry & Michele G	
George & Kathleen B	
GH & Bernadette I	in honor of Chakra
Heidi F	In Memory of Emma
Iris F	in memory of Sara
James T	
Jan & Daryl C	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Jeff & Sirkka S	
Jeffrey T	
Jennifer B	Allstate Giving Campaign
Joan & Michael I	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Joan & Jon C	in honor of Riley Rose
Joanne & John R	
Joe A	in memory of Bayfield
John & Katie C	in honor of Missy- ACL surgery

John & Christy L	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
John & Daryl Lynn K	
John K	For Missy
Julie & Glenn M	in honor of Cody
Julie & Tony G	for Labs in need
Karen & Steve W	in honor of Winston fka Nigel
Kari F	Abbott lab employee giving
Karla G	
Katherine & Roman K	for all you do
Katherine S	
Larry & Florann C	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Larry L	
Laura O	donated on behalf of Jan Cooper
Liberty Mutual Foundation	employee match
Louis & Kathy A	In memory of Duke
M. Kim N	
Mallory N	
Marcia R	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Marcia S	
Mark T	Allstate Giving Campaign
Mary Therese D	in memory of Grady
Matthew & Theresa R	in honor of Shelby - her 3rd Anniversary with us
Melissa & Joseph R	Allstate Giving Campaign
Michael & Dorothy D	in honor of Buddy & Heidi
Michael B	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Michael G	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Micheal & Kellie M	in honor of Thomas M. 4th birthday
Paul L	Allstate Giving Campaign
Randy & Tracy C	
Robert & Christina J	in honor of Priscilla
Robert & Yvonne C	in memory of Zeke
Robert & Patricia D	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Robert & S&ra S	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Robert & Shirley N	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Robert L	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Sally B	Memorial for Eileen V & in memory of our Missy
Sally F	in honor of Honey aka Cameron
Sandy W	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
Sherri & Mark N	
Stan S	Abbot Employee Giving
Stephanie D	
Sue D	
Susan N	
Tammy D	
Thomas & Pamela D	in honor of Riley
Thomas & Cindy S	in honor of Jan C 50th Birthday
US DogBones	
William M	in honor of Thomas M 4th birthday



Has Your Dog been Skunked?

Just the other week, a skunk deposited his warning sign somewhere on or near the front porch of my house. Last fall, my 12 year old Lab mix was skunked for the first time. It reminded me that as spring nears and the critters come out of hiding, maybe we should visit the wonderful world of Skunks and offer some advice on how to deal with their presence once our lovely Labs have tried (and failed) to deal with those critters themselves. As we know, dogs, especially Labs, can be very curious. This sometimes can get them into a stink of trouble. If your Lab encounters a skunk it is likely to get sprayed if it insists on checking it out. When a skunk is startled it will make a peculiar purring sound, sometimes growling. Before emitting its sulfuric spray (mercaptan) in self-defense, it will warn its target by raising its tail, standing on its hind legs and stomping its front feet. The mercaptan it sprays not only carries a terrible odor but, if it hits the eyes, will blind the skunk's target for up to two days. Your dog may come home with more than it had bargained for when it encountered the four legged, striped little fellow. The skunk's spray is not only extremely foul smelling, but it is very hard to get out of fur.

Tips: Before You Bathe Your "Skunked" Lab

1. Before handling your Lab, you may want to put on some old clothes. Skunk spray is actually an oil and is very difficult to remove from clothing. Do not let your dog lay in his dog bed or the skunk oils will get on the bed.
2. If possible, leave the dog outside to prevent the odor from getting into your house. Although as I discovered the other night, it can magically seep through brick (or so it seems).
3. When you're ready to wash the dog, only clean the sprayed area. As the spray is oily it can easily be spread all over the dog. You will most likely have to give the dog more than one bath, so save an all-over bath until the second or third washing.

How to get the odor out?

It may be particularly hard to get the odor out of those Labs who have thick coats. If quick action is not taken it is possible to smell the odor on your dog for up to two years, especially when the dog gets wet. It is best to bathe your dog with a shampoo before the skunk's sulfuric spray dries on the fur. After bathing you can try some of the following methods...

Store bought De-Skunking Products

There are several products you can buy at the store to de-skunk your dog, but you may not always have them on hand when your Lab gets sprayed. Nature's Miracle Skunk Odor Remover, Earth Friendly Skunk Odor Remover

DO NOT USE TOMATO JUICE

A chemist, invented a new more effective formula for de-skunking a dog. Mix in an open bucket or bowl:

- 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- ¼ cup baking soda
- 1 teaspoon of strong liquid soap such as dishwashing detergent (try Dawn as it will really help cut through the oil).

Actually I've used a bit more dishwashing soap before and it helped cut the grease.

Mix the ingredients in an open bucket or bowl. The mixture will fizz. Wet your dog and thoroughly massage the solution into the coat. Be sure to keep the mixture out of the dogs eyes, nose and mouth. If it is necessary to apply it to the dogs face, very carefully use a washcloth or a sponge. After applying the mixture to all parts of your dog that may have been sprayed, rinse the dog thoroughly.

Warning

This mixture can be explosive, as it will fizz and creates pressure if it is enclosed in a seal tight container. Never store unused portion, always discard. Be sure to only mix in an open container and do not try to store or cover it in any way. Do not get the mixture into the dog's eyes, nose or mouth.

****Save the Date****

MLRR's 5th Annual Auction & Dinner
May 16, 2009
6:30pm - 11:30pm

Auction Items Needed

The most important part of the auction is the items up for sale and we need your help in gathering them!! EVERYONE knows SOMEONE who has a "hook-up" for some great items they could donate to the auction. Talk with your family, friends and co-workers; they may have access to tickets for a theater, a ball game, a restaurant, a night at a hotel, etc, that they just might be willing to donate.

Did you have great service at a restaurant or spa?? Tell the manager, and then ask if they would be willing to donate towards our auction! We are a 501(c)3 organization so all donations are tax-deductible.

If you have items to donate for the auction or would like to volunteer to help with this great fundraiser please contact Jenny at jennypaul17@comcast.net





Poisonous Household Plants

In 2008, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center handled more than 140,000 cases of pets exposed to toxins, many of which were everyday household items. Some of the worst offenders were those living things that keep your home fresh and green—household plants! What follows is a list of the top 17 household plants that the ASPCA says to keep your pets away from!

Lilies

Considered to be highly toxic to cats. While the poisonous component has not yet been identified, it is clear that with even ingestions of very small amounts of the plant, severe kidney damage could result.

Marijuana

Ingestion by companion animals can result in depression of the central nervous system and incoordination, as well as vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, increased heart rate, and even seizures and coma.

Sago Palm

All parts are poisonous, but the seeds or “nuts” contain the largest amount of toxin. The ingestion of just one or two seeds can result in very serious effects, which include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and liver failure.

Tulip/Narcissus bulbs

The bulb portions contain toxins that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

Azalea/Rhododendron

Contain substances known as grayantoxins, which can produce vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness and depression of the central nervous system in animals. Severe azalea poisoning could ultimately lead to coma and death from cardiovascular collapse.

Oleander

All parts are considered to be toxic, as they contain cardiac glycosides that have the potential to cause serious effects—including gastrointestinal tract irritation, abnormal heart function, hypothermia and even death.

Castor Bean

The poisonous principle is ricin, a highly toxic protein that can produce severe abdominal pain, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, weakness and loss of appetite. Severe cases of poisoning can result in dehydration, muscle twitching, tremors, seizures, coma and death.

Cyclamen

Contain cyclamine, but the highest concentration of this toxic component is typically located in the root portion of the plant. If consumed, *Cyclamen* can produce significant gastrointestinal irritation, including intense vomiting. Fatalities have also been reported in some cases.

Kalanchoe

This plant contains components that can produce gastrointestinal irritation, as well as those that are toxic to the heart, and can seriously affect cardiac rhythm and rate.

Yew

Contains a toxic component known as taxine, which causes central nervous system effects such as trembling, incoordination, and difficulty breathing. It can also cause significant gastrointestinal irritation and cardiac failure, which can result in death.

Amaryllis

Common garden plants popular around Easter, they contain toxins that can cause vomiting, depression, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hypersalivation, anorexia and tremors.

Autumn Crocus

Ingestion by pets can result in oral irritation, bloody vomiting, diarrhea, shock, multi-organ damage and bone marrow suppression.

Chrysanthemum

These popular blooms contain pyrethrins that may produce gastrointestinal upset, including drooling, vomiting and diarrhea, if eaten. In certain cases depression and loss of coordination may also develop if enough of any part of the plant is consumed.

English Ivy

Also called branching ivy, glacier ivy, needlepoint ivy, sweetheart ivy and California ivy, contain triterpenoid saponins that, should pets ingest, can result in vomiting, abdominal pain, hypersalivation and diarrhea.

Peace Lily (AKA Mauna Loa Peace Lily)

Contains calcium oxalate crystals that can cause oral irritation, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing and intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips and tongue in pets who ingest.

Pothos

Pothos (both *Scindapsus* and *Epipremnum*). If chewed or ingested, this popular household plant can cause significant mechanical irritation and swelling of the oral tissues and other parts of the gastrointestinal tract.

Schefflera

Schefflera and *Brassaia actinophylla* contain calcium oxalate crystals that can cause oral irritation, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing and intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips and tongue in pets who ingest.

If you suspect that any of your pets has ingested a house plant or other potentially hazardous household item, contact your vet (or emergency vet) immediately. Quick action just may save its life.



Board Member Spotlight-Deb Cundiff

I am honored to be involved with such a wonderful organization. I am a co-founder of Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, and I've been volunteering ever since MLRR was incorporated in 1999. I am the Treasurer and Web site administrator. I have fostered 93 dogs, and I currently own two Labs; 10 year old Comet and 10 month old Daisy (both MLRR alums). I also work full time at Northwestern University, where I have worked for almost 21 years. I am currently the Associate Director of Research Administration at Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering.

It is amazing to think of how much has been accomplished since MLRR was formed 10 years ago. The organization was originally founded by four women (including me and my twin sister Laura). We saw a great need for a Labrador Retriever rescue in the Chicago area, especially since there was no Lab Rescue based in the area at the time. MLRR has slowly but steadily recruited more volunteers and gradually expanded the region that we are able to serve.

Our organization now has over 150 volunteers and we are approaching our 1000th adoption.

I believe the key to the success of MLRR is our amazing, hard-working volunteers, including my fellow board members. Its not easy to juggle volunteer activities with work, families and all of the other responsibilities we have, but we all make time to save the lives of the sweet Labs who need our help. We refuse to give up on them, even when so many others have. With the assistance of volunteers who have joined us through the years, and the many adopters who have given a rescued Lab a second chance, almost 1000 Labs have discovered how it feels to be loved and cherished.



(left to right) Deb, Daisy, Laura, Comet

Things a Lab must remember to be a Good Dog

1. I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up.
2. I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell.
3. The Litter Box is not a cookie jar.
4. The sofa is not a 'face towel'.
5. The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
6. I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
7. Sticking my nose into someone's crotch is an unacceptable way of saying 'hello'.
8. I don't need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm under the coffee table.
9. I must shake the rainwater out of my fur BEFORE entering the house - not after.
10. I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt.
11. I will not sit in the middle of the living room and lick my crotch.
12. The cat is not a 'squeaky toy' so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it's usually not a good thing.



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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

MLRR Fundraiser at Vine Tastings

On March 6th and 7th, MLRR volunteers Jan and Daryl Cooper organized a fundraising event for MLRR in honor of Jan's birthday. It was held at Vine Tastings, a wine shop and tasting bar that the Coopers own in Roselle. The event raised more money than we have received from any other fundraiser (other than our annual dinner auction). Jan and Daryl generously matched the \$3000 that was raised with \$3000 of their own money, for a total of \$6000! The event included, a raffle, live music, a jewelry sale, and of course wine tasting. It was an exciting evening, and a wonderful time was had by all.

The Coopers are also the owners of the 2008/2009 MLRR Lab of the Year, Cassie. We are extremely grateful to them for their support.

If you are interested in visiting Vine Tastings, they are located at 123 E. Main St., Roselle, IL 60172.

www.vinetastings.com



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