

THE LAB'S TALE

Fall 2011
Volume 13, Issue 4

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



2012 Annual Auction

Please save the date for the MLRR 8th Annual Dinner & Auction to be held on *Saturday May 12, 2012*, Itasca County Club, Itasca, IL.

The dinner & auction is our biggest fundraiser each year, and it is always a fun event. Invitations will be sent in March, and registration information will also be posted on our web site at that time.

You can also support our rescue efforts by donating items for the auction. Some examples of items that typically do well in the auction are:

- ✿ Wine/spirits baskets
- ✿ Sports tickets
- ✿ Jewelry Electronics or small appliances
- ✿ Kitchen items
- ✿ Gift certificates for restaurants
- ✿ Weekend getaways

All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

If you are interested in making a donation to the auction or helping out, please contact us at mail@midwestlabrescue.org

Out of Area Adoptions

We are currently processing out of area and out of state adoption applications on a case-by-case basis.

Please be very thorough when completing the adoption application, providing all information requested. After your application has been received and reviewed, you will be contacted by an MLRR representative and asked to provide pictures of your home and yard. A current board member will contact the references provided on the application, as well as the vet you have listed. The next step is a phone interview with a current MLRR board member, who will then prepare a short report recapping the reference checks and phone interview for evaluation by the board. The board will make their decision just as they do for applicants within the Chicagoland area, and you will be notified if you have been approved to adopt one of our Labs.

Please remember that all of our foster homes are located in the Greater Chicago Area and that you will have to travel here to meet our Labs. Also, all family members and pets must come along for this meeting if you wish to adopt the Lab.

Thank you for your interest in providing a loving home for our Labs.

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News and Events

Meet & Greets

December 10th

11am-3pm

Kriser's - 3232 Lake Ave, Wilmette
847.251.7744

December 10th

11am-2pm

Wags to Whiskers - 1057 Station Dr,
Oswego
630.636.9437

Donate in new ways!

Show your support for Labs and MLRR and shop Simple Dog or Café Express--

Shop Simple Dog



Visit Café
Express



Quarterly Financial Report

Below is the financial statement for MLRR for July 1st through September 30th 2011. Adoption fees and our annual auction are the greatest sources of revenue, however combined with donations and additional fundraising events still do not bring in enough money to cover MLRR adoption expenses. As such, the Auction plays a pivotal role in our fundraising efforts.

INCOME - Q3 - July to September 2011	
Donation Income:	\$ 6,856.08
Grant Income:	\$ 500.00
Calendar Income (net of calendar expenses):	\$ 2,665.12
Adoption Fees/Referral Income:	\$ 19,345.00
Other Events/Fundraising Income:	\$ 1,190.12
TOTAL INCOME - Q3:	\$ 30,556.32

EXPENSES - Q3 - July to September 2011	
Operating Expenses / Overhead:	\$ 1,168.58
Spay/Neutering Expenses:	\$ 4,108.19
Veterinary / Dog Supply Expenses:	\$ 31,529.25
Dog Training Expenses:	\$ 3,060.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - Q3:	\$ 39,866.02

NET INCOME (LOSS) - Q3	\$ (9,309.70)
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Net Assets as of June 30, 2011:	\$ 36,544.83
Change in Net Assets - Q3 Operating	\$ (9,309.70)
Net Assets as of September 30, 2011:	\$ 27,235.13

A Big MLRR Thank You

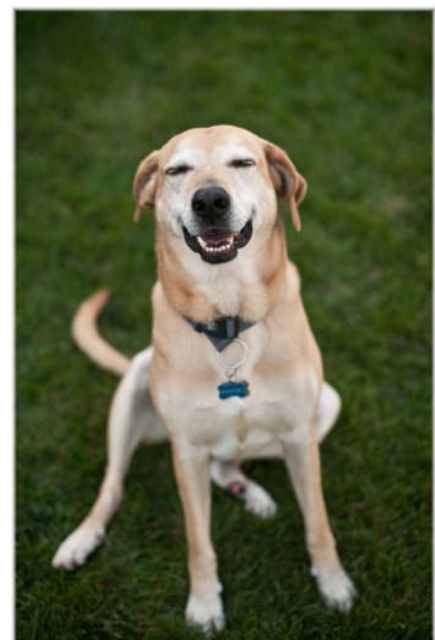
In October, professional photographer, Kara Schultz, offered her services to MLRR. As many of you know (and can see) foster families might be Lab lovers, but are not always the best animal photographers. It's hard to get energetic labs to sit still period, but long enough to take a photo that captures all of their finest qualities is best left to a professional like Kara. And boy does she know what she is doing! She took one afternoon off from her busy daily schedule to photograph MLRR's Ted and Abner. Apparently, she worked her magic because photogenic Ted was adopted not long after the photo shoot. Ted, and all of us at MLRR, send a big thank you and a wet kiss to Kara for helping him find his forever home.

Third Quarter Financial Highlights

In Q3, MLRR is continuing to save a record number of dogs each month while remaining financially responsible.

Some highlights include:

- *MLRR received an "Allstate Helping Hands" grant of \$500! We are always seeking new grant opportunities to apply for, and if anyone has any suggestions please send them along to the Board*
- *MLRR has raised \$2665.12 from sales of our successful 2012 Calendar!*
- *We have reduced dog training expenses almost \$3500 since Q2*
- *We have continued to work with our vets to ensure that we're getting the best discounts possible, while providing the highest quality care for our labs*
- *With the holiday season coming, we expect donations to start increasing in Q4!*



Ted smiles for Kara



Pathway Senior Center - Victory Centre in Park Forest Welcomes MLRR's Kingston



The seniors at Victory Centre in Park Forest welcomed their newest neighbor, Kingston an MLRR Lab this fall!

Kingston was welcomed with loving arms upon his arrival, and it became quickly apparent that this was the perfect home for him. One lady pulled a bone out of her pocket as a welcome and while he was moderately interested in the bone, he was greatly interested in seeing all the people who had gathered to greet him. As we walked into the living area, there were ~30 residents sitting in the room. Kingston went from person to person saying hello and sniffing his new surroundings. He skipped a few people but it seemed as though he wanted to say hi to everyone. Kingston was just a perfect gentleman - no barking, jumping, or running. The residents seemed to be excited about having a "resident canine". Everyone loved him and it was great to see how much joy was brought into the Center upon his arrival.

Victory Centre has approximately 87 senior living apartments and 40 employees at the facility so someone is always home! After a rough past, many crates, and an escape out of Cindy's house, it's clear--Kingston is finally home.

Foster To Adopt Program

MLRR has figured out a great way for potential adoptive parents to explore if they really are prepared for all the fun and challenges puppyhood presents. The program is called Foster To Adopt, and is available for puppies 6 months old or younger.

When a family submits an application to adopt a puppy, MLRR will first see if there is a match between the family and the puppy. If we have a puppy that looks like a good fit, MLRR will then contact the family to see if they want to first 'foster' the puppy. The adoptive family would then take the dog home for two weeks. After that time, they must decide if they want to adopt the pup. This is a great opportunity for all. First of all, it frees up a valuable slot in a regular foster home and allows us to save another dog. Secondly, the potential adoptive family are reminded firsthand how much work puppies are, but more importantly, how loving and fun these little four-legged Labs can really be.

So far the program is working well. Six puppies have been adopted by their foster homes. If you are thinking of adopting a pup, or know someone who might like to, please reach out via the MLRR website.

MLRR wishes to extend a big thank you to all involved!

Kids Find Clever Ways to Help Labs

Lab-n-ade Stand!

Big Thanks goes out to Asher and Cooper Freidberg and their friends Eliot Lewis and Mark Heymann for running a lemonade and cookie stand as a fundraiser for Midwest Lab Rescue. It was a big success! Thanks!



Special Donation

A Big Thanks to Lucy Rubin for her special birthday donation. In lieu of birthday gifts for herself, Lucy asked for items to donate to MLRR instead. Here is Lucy with a grateful foster pup Astro. Thanks Lucy!





Kids Find Clever Ways to Help Labs (con't)

Birthday Gifts for Labs



Reese Vargo, another birthday girl, gets a big thank you from MLRR, as she also collected donations for our Labs. She is pictured here with Mia, a foster Lab, along with the basket of treats, toys, snacks and gift cards she collected and donated! Thanks Reese!

New Ways to Donate

If you or a family member come up with creative ways to help MLRR like the kids we have highlighted, we are all ears - and tails! Please feel free to contact us through our website: <http://www.midwestlabrescue.org> or via email at <mailto:mail@midwestlabrescue.org>

MLRR is always in need of items like:

- Collars-prong and quick release style
- Large crates
- Dog treats & Nylabones
- Envelopes, business size, bubble mailers, stamps and laser paper
- Heartworm preventative pills (Heartguard/Interceptor)
- Cash, volunteers & foster homes!

FEATURED LAB

Meet Otto, aka Dudley

According to Otto's foster Mom, he is just a big, beautiful, Lab who at 1.5 years old weighs in at a lean 90 lbs. Otto is one of those sweet, mellow Labs who loves affection and is good around other pups and people, though he prefers a more laid back environment. A home with older, high school or college-aged young adults would suit him best, as a lot of commotion sends him looking for a quieter place to rest his lanky paws.



He was recently diagnosed with hip dysplasia, which the vet shares is easily managed with daily glucosamine, his laid back lifestyle and keeping his weight proportionate to the amount of exercise he tolerates. He currently shows no sign of pain, but this is something his forever home will need to keep an eye on as he ages. His only training need at the moment, like so many young Labs, is to learn to walk on leash without pulling. A great bonding opportunity, and MLRR requirement for new adoptive parents and their Labs, is an obedience class that should help hone this skill.

Otto's ideal home would be an older couple that likes to take long walks at a moderate pace and has a large picture window for Otto to enjoy his favorite pastime of watching the world go by. No need to chase a ball or be heavily exercised—naps, nylabones and belly rubs are all this Lab needs to keep him entertained.





Volunteer Recognition

Without the dedication and hard work of all the MLRR volunteers, we would not be in existence, so a big thank you to all who help. This issue we want to especially thank the following volunteers for their hard work and commitment. Thank You!:

<u>Foster Home</u>	Rhonda and Steve Pavich, their children Ty and Lily, and their labs, Vader and Comiskey for giving their fosters a loving and safe place before they can get to their forever home
<u>Transport</u>	Maren Dougherty and her dog-transporting vehicle for her "I can transport" attitude
<u>Home Visits</u>	Ken Meyers and his MLRR lab, Chester, who have made quite an impression on several families thus leading to several successful adoptions
<u>Events</u>	Sara Dale who has coordinated the two recent events in the city of Chicago at Dog-a holics
<u>Board Member</u>	Nick Olivares for his time and commitment in helping the dogs behind the scenes as MLRR Treasurer



Holiday Safety Tips for Labs

DO:

DO: Keep all holly, mistletoe and poinsettia plants AWAY from your pup.

DO: Avoid glass or edible ornaments - a bad combination if your lab decides to attack the tree for treats.

DO: Keep snow globes well out of reach as some may contain anti-freeze according to

DO: Keep burning candles on high tables or mantles—Lab tails are known to create mayhem.

DO: Make sure holiday gifts for your Lab are safe—we know how quickly a Lab can destroy any toy, so make sure they are supervised when given a new toy or bone.

DO: Keep an eye on your Labs around little ones. Young kids like to share EVERYTHING with their furry friends and don't realize the dangers their gifts may present.

DO: Try to make sure your pup has a quiet place to go when the festivities kick into full swing.

DON'T:

DON'T: Leave your Lab unattended with your Christmas tree, and block access to the tree with gates or playpens.

DON'T: Use bubbler lights on your tree as they contain toxic methylene chloride

DON'T: Use tinsel on your tree—it can obstruct circulation and block their intestines if swallowed.

DON'T: Let your Lab get into the remains of your holiday feast. Turkey or chicken bones are serious choking hazards and chocolate and alcohol can be toxic for dogs. Secure garbage in a locked can.

DON'T: Put lights or ornaments on lower branches of your tree as they can look like toys and burn or cut your Lab's mouth at best.

DON'T: Leave electric cords exposed, as Labs, especially younger ones, may use the cord as a chew toy and get badly burned or shocked.



FALL ADOPTIONS

These lucky dogs found their forever homes July 1st through September 30, 2011!

<i>DOG</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>CITY</i>	<i>DOG</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>CITY</i>
Addison	Tom & Wendy W	St Charles	Krissy	Janet & Jim C	Glen Ellyn
Anita	Jocelyn & Kevin Y	Plainfield	Levi	Amy & Brandon J	Palatine
Apollo	Mike & Marion T	Naperville	Luke	Stacy & Jim F	Elmhurst
Augie	Mary M	Palos Heights	Maddie	Jeanette & Michael B	Dousman
Bear	Mike W	Chicago	Madi	Andrea Masone F	Downers Grove
Bella	Brian Robert G	Oswego	Maya	Katie & Tom M	Elmhurst
Bo	Bob N	Lombard	Maybe	Melanie B	Chicago
Boomer	Robert J. E	Chicago	Memphis	Pamela C	Chicago Heights
Brody	Suzanne C	Glen Ellyn	Merle	Eric & Yvonne S	Aurora
Brownie	Amy P	St. Charles	Mia	Amy & Dan S	LaGrange Park
Buster	Michael M	Vernon Hills	Molly	Dave & Patricia D	Channahon
Butch	Kelly R	Chicago	Nellie	Mark & Leisa D	Aurora
Byron	Melanie B	Chicago	Nina	Bill & Carolyn F	Crystal Lake
Candy/Roxy	Albert & Mary S	Woodstock	Percy	Joe & Connie H	Wilmington
Chesney	Michael & Annmarie F	Westchester	Perdita	Bridgt & Jason M	Naperville
Choco	Jason & Maria D	Chicago	Petra	Michelle & Chris P	Lake Bluff
Claire	Julie & Timothy C	Downers Grove	Phil	Jeanne & Greg D	Channahon
Desmond	Marcia E	Wichita	Preston	Mike J	Chicago
Dolly	Richard & Lois T	Homer Glen	Radar	Valerie & Dwight T	Yorkville
Gracie	Dustin M	Oswego	Raider	Erik & Erica S	Elgin
Gus	Neil & Karen K	Palos Hills	Sally	Alan & Charlotte K	Wilmette
Heather	Patrick C	No Riverside	Sandy	Jennifer & Thomas M	Glendale Heights
Homer	Sara & Brian B	Grayslake	Sandy	John & Joanne L	Wheaton
Huck	Samantha & Nate H	Chicago	Snoo	Diana & Jim W	Chicago
Irish	Kathryn & Robert T	Woodridge	Spence	Kelly G	Bolingbrook
Izzy	Bart B	Chicago	Stella	Diane & Josh S	Evanston
Jack	Sue M	Elmhurst	Tammy	Michelle S	Mount Prospect
Jaxson	Elaine & Vince E	Wilmette	Wendy	Katherine D	Chicago
Jay-Jay	Robin M	Chicago	Whiston	James & Beth B	Lake Zurich
Jody	Kristin & Loic L	Glen Ellyn	Yang	Saul & Monica D	Frankfort
Juno	Tracie J	Palos Heights	Ying	Johanna M	Villa Park
Kingston	Pathway Senior Living	Park Forest	Zeb	Diane S	Plano
Kobe	Stephanie & Thad D	Schaumburg			

CONTACT US

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 Lombard, Illinois 60148
 Phone: (847) 604-3254

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



DONATIONS: July 1st through September 30, 2011

Name	CITY	COMMENTS
Richard & Linda A	Palos Park	Employee Giving Campaign
Allstate Giving Campaign	Norfolk	
Friends of Chicago Animal Care Control		Donation for Abby
James & Krista A	Addison	
Barriers Against Repeated Cruelty	Chicago	For Maya
The Family of Beckmann	Gurnee	For Jones' surgery
Bentley's Corner Bakery	Arlington Heights	
Danielle B	Wilmette	For dog food
Cindy B	Winfield	For Jones' hip surgery and foster home license
Christopher & Marisa B	Chicago	
Cardinal Health Emp. Donor Matching	Bethesda	
Linda C	Mt. Prospect	For Petra's & Abner's surgery; Paid for own foster home license
Kelly C	Itasca	In honor of Charlie
Debbie C	Round Lake Beach	
Jim, Carla & Jimmy D	Chicago	In Memory of Len Stacy
Barbara D	Des Plaines	
Barbara D	Arlington Heights	In Memory of Sunshine Kaminski
Patricia & David D	Channahon	
Terri Jo & David E	Morton Grove	
Edward F	Chicago	
Allison & Jason G	Brookfield	Roxy - Pumpkin; Paid for own foster home license
Heidi G	Redding	Macy/Rensselaer, IN
Garry & Michele G	Wilmette	
Claudine H	Barrington	Abner's surgery
Harmony of Spirit	Roselle	
Sue H	Batavia	In Memory of Annie Bostian
Edward & Suzanne J	Romeoville	
Amy J	Chicago	In honor of Jules
JustGive.org		
George & Sandra K	Yorkville	For Jones' hip surgery matched by Henry Crown & Co.
Kimberly K	Chicago	Paid for own foster home license
Pamela K	Barrington Hills	For Jones' hip surgery
Christa K	Lombard	Paid for own foster home license
Michelle L	Chicago	For Jones' hip surgery
Jennifer M	Warrenville	Abner's surgery
Nette M		Donation for Abby!
Tara M	Chicago	For Petra's Surgery
Francee N & David F	Highland Park	Lemonade Stand event
Col. Dennis & Carol N	Fairfax	For Jones' hip surgery
Grumman N	Los Angeles	David H B payroll contribution
Oberweiss Dairy		
Gladys L P	Elmhurst	In Memory of Gene Lynn
Steve & Rhonda P	Wheaton	In the name of their just adopted foster dog, Apollo
Loren P	Chicago	For Jones' hip surgery
Ben P	Montgomery	Abner's surgery
Linda & Randy P	Buffalo Grove	In Memory of Parker
Scott & Apsala P	Wilmette	For Buster's heartworm treatment
Ellen & Chad R	Clarksdale	In Memory of Len Stacy



DONATIONS CONTINUED: July 1st through September 30, 2011

NAME	CITY	COMMENTS
Pamela & Gary R	Addison	
Marcia S	Gurnee	Paid vet bill for Ava
Edward & Sharon S	Bolingbrook	In Memory of Murray Sherman from Nancy S.
Dan S	Monroe	In memory of Harley Walliser
Sarah S	Evanston	For Jones' hip surgery
Joanne & Bob S	St. Charles	In Memory of Len Stacy
Diane S	Plano	Paid vet bill for Jack
Victor & Barbara S	Park Ridge	
Jim & Cheryl S	St Charles	
Kim & Jay S	Fox River Grove	For Jones' hip surgery
Michael S	Chicago	In Memory of Homer
Takeda Pharmaceuticals	Princeton	
United Way	Chicago	
US DogBones	Chicago	
Cindy & David V	Rock Island	For Maya
Kristie & Reese V	Barrington	Donated items from birthday party
Ralph W	Mundelein	In honor of Walt Trillhaase's b-day
Tessa W	Chicago	
Maggie W	Elmhurst	Matched by St-Gobain Corp Foundation
Mary W & Christopher K	Winnetka	Requested spay refund to be donated



Heart felt holiday greetings to all our volunteers, foster and adoptive families--and of course: our Labs.

Warmest wishes for health, happiness and a prosperous New Year!

