



# The Lab's Tale

Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.

"We give Labs a second chance"

## 2005 Rescue Summary

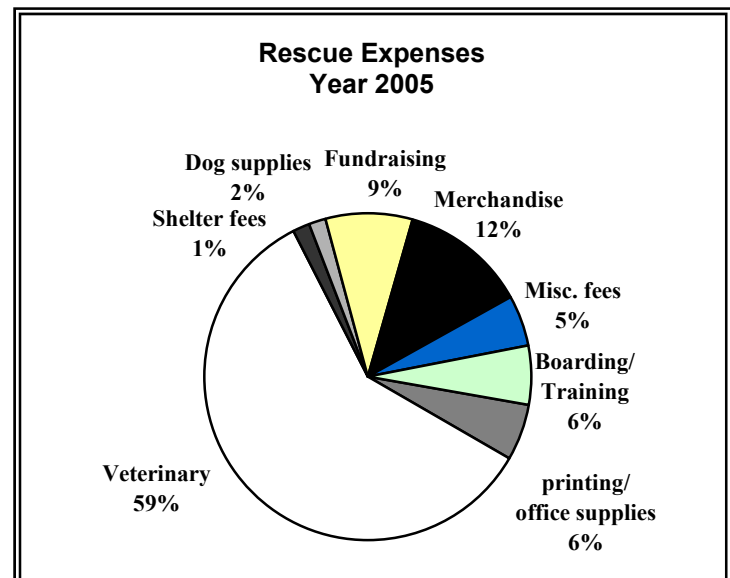
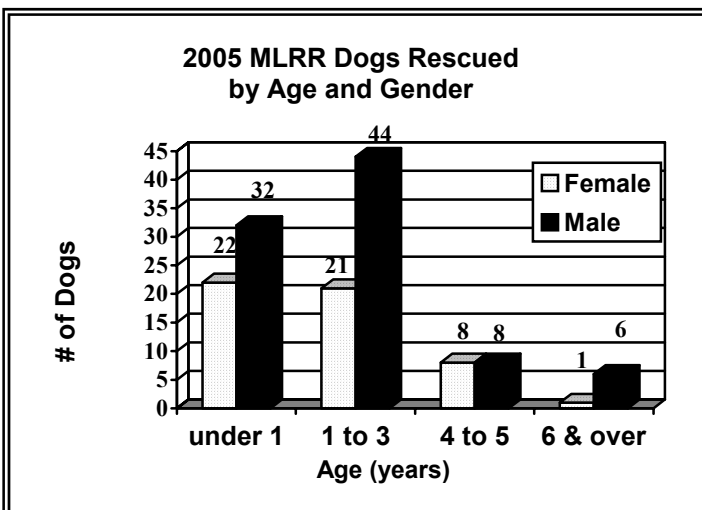
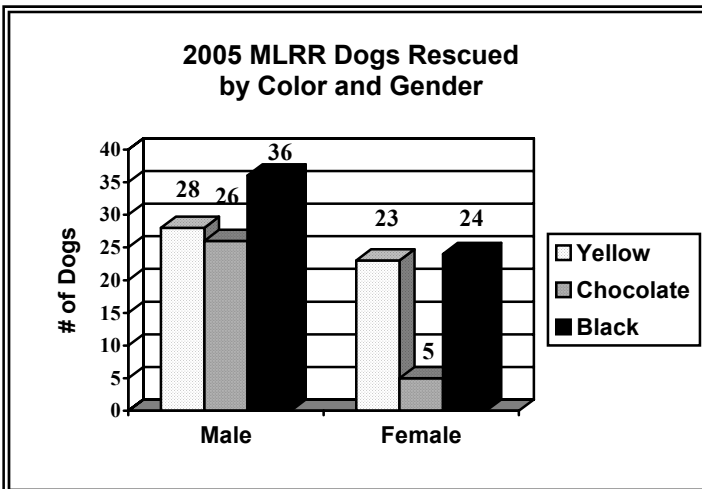
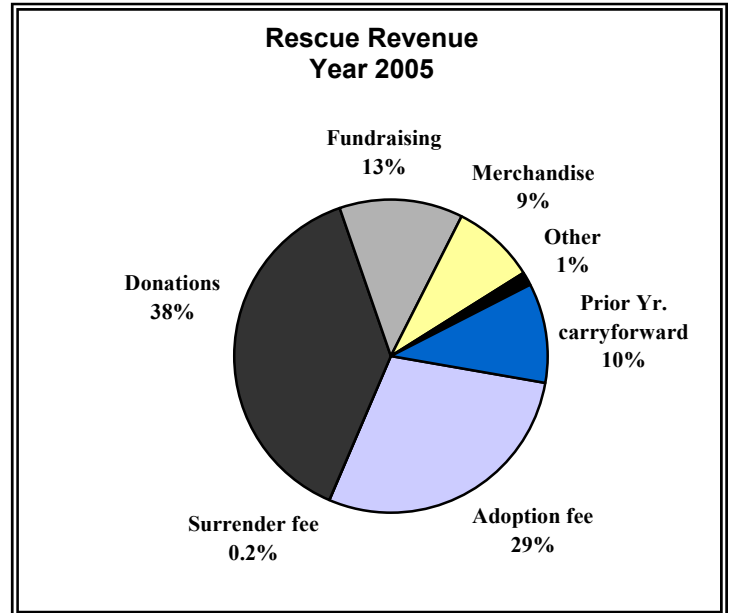
Over 600 Labs have been rescued since Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue was founded in February 1999. This past year (2005) we rescued a total of 142 Labs. Of those, 90 were males and 52 were females.

Once again our largest expense was veterinary bills. In 2004 we spent \$20,400 on veterinary bills, and in 2005 the medical expenses more than doubled to a record high of \$48,200. That works out to an average of about \$339 per dog spent on medical care.

This year our primary source of income was donations, with adoption fees coming in second. Clearly donations are vital to our efforts and we could not rescue so many Labs without the help of our generous supporters. In 2005 we received an all-time high \$37,200 in donations! This helped offset our record high expenses for veterinary care.

Here is a summary of our rescue activities for 2005:

## 2005 Revenue and Expenses:



Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc. (MLRR)  
 P.O. Box 1375, Lombard, Illinois 60148  
 (847) 604-3254 mail@midwestlabrescue.org  
 www.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.

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## Recent Adoptions

The following Labs have been adopted since September:

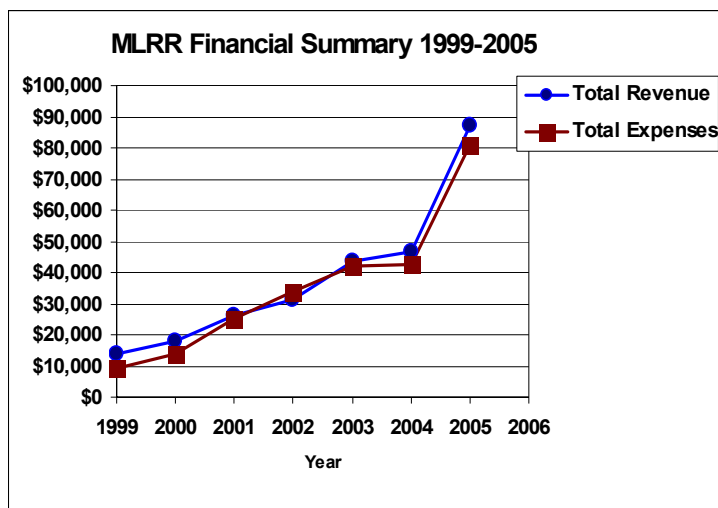
<b>Charlotte</b>	Emily N.	Chicago
<b>Jones</b>	Maureen & Joe B.	Carol Stream
<b>Kris</b>	Mike B.	Oak Park
<b>Nina</b>	Mike B.	Oak Park
<b>Joy</b>	Coley G.	Evanston
<b>Hallie</b>	Barbara D.	New Lenox
<b>Kelso</b>	Kris & Steve G.	Downers Grove
<b>Pinta</b>	Amy & Jeremy B.	Mundelein
<b>Maria</b>	Paige & Quinn F.	Barrington
<b>Nellie</b>	Shigeko N.	Chicago
<b>Wade</b>	Karyn & Jimm P.	Sugar Grove
<b>Kit Kat</b>	Brandy & Kevin F.	Batavia
<b>Jaxx</b>	Judy K.	Downers Grove
<b>Carmello</b>	Cindy & Patrick C.	Willowbrook
<b>Snickers</b>	Cindy & Patrick C.	Willowbrook
<b>Baby Ruth</b>	Carol & Mike H.	Brookfield
<b>Goober</b>	Jennifer & George P.	Lake in the Hills
<b>Gwen</b>	Mark & Brooke W.	Downers Grove
<b>Hendrix</b>	Emily & Steve P.	Libertyville
<b>Freddie</b>	Melissa & Joseph R.	Mundelein
<b>Sophie</b>	Kris L.	Lombard
<b>Comiskey</b>	David & Jennifer B.	Glenview
<b>Konerko</b>	Kim & Jay K.	Glen Ellyn
<b>JJ</b>	Stan S.	Waukegan
<b>Caleb</b>	Laurie & Dave K.	Wheaton
<b>Indy</b>	Rebecca & Barry F.	Glencoe
<b>Duncan</b>	Janell & Richard B.	LaGrange Park
<b>Jericho</b>	Kevin & Kei K.	Aurora
<b>Elijah</b>	Melissa J.	Chicago
<b>Hershey</b>	Jessica P.	Chicago
<b>Nala</b>	Dwight & Mary Ann S.	Wheaton
<b>Fiona</b>	Mitchel A.	Buffalo Grove
<b>Smokey</b>	Sandy R.	Hoffman Estates
<b>Rommel</b>	Steve S.	Lake Villa
<b>Lara</b>	Matthew & Theresa R.	Chicago
<b>Rocko</b>	Summer B.	Chicago
<b>Lulu</b>	Greg & Meg B.	Gurnee
<b>Willy</b>	Mary R.	Des Plaines

## Volunteer Spotlight

**Jeanette Boucher** Jeanette is a brand new foster home who has gone above and beyond the call of duty. When Jeanette took home her very first foster Lab, Houston, she soon noticed that something was wrong. After many vet visits, follow-up appointments, surgery and much T.L.C., Houston now has a brand new titanium hip. At the very young age of three he is getting the love and attention that he needs to fully recover. In addition to fostering a hip-replacement dog, she is also fostering Fred who is an adorable puppy. Thanks to you Jeanette for being such a great foster mom!!! It is very hard to find foster homes that will care for a dog throughout a surgery as the recovery process can be grueling, but to do it with your first foster is tremendous!

## How Are We Doing?

Through the last 7 years both our revenue and expenses have steadily increased. Fortunately our revenue continues to slightly exceed our expenses. As a non-profit organization, we are right on track!



In 2005 we saw a significant jump in both revenue and expenses. The jump in revenue is in part do to the fact that we formed a new Fundraising Committee this year, and our volunteers worked very hard to come up with new and creative ways to raise money. Two of our most successful fundraisers were our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Silent Auction, and our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Craft, Home and Pet Fair.

The increase in expenses this year was mostly due to increased veterinary costs, including several "special" medical needs. For example, we paid for several hip replacement surgeries, heartworm treatments and treatment for a litter of puppies which were infected with life-threatening Parvo virus. We rescued more dogs this year than any previous year, which also accounted for the increased expenses.



Adopted Lab Hunter and his new brother

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## Dog crate Q & A's

By Vicki DeGruy

### **Everyone says I should get a crate for my dog. Why? I don't want to put my dog in a cage!**

If dog crates were designed to look like little dog houses, it might be easier to convince people that they're not cages! First, Lets talk about what a crate really is and how they can improve your relationship with your dog.

Long ago, when dogs were still wild animals, they often slept in dens – shallow holes they dug in the ground hidden away in places where they felt safe from predators. These were small, dark places, just big enough to turn around in and to lie down comfortably.

Even after centuries of selective breeding and living in people's homes, dogs still retain some of their ancient instincts. One of these instincts is the desire to have a den – a small, cozy place of their own where they can feel safe and secure.

A "crate" is just a modern version of a den. In other words, it's a dog house within your house. Just as you enjoy having your own room where you can go for peace and privacy, your dog likes having his own room, too!

As well as giving him a safe, cozy place to stay, crates can make training your dog a lot easier. Housebreaking goes much faster when you use a crate and destructive chewing becomes easier to control. Traveling is safer for both you and your dog when he's in a crate. As you may have unhappily discovered, it's very hard nowadays to find a motel that allows pets. Many motels, though, allow crated dogs.

### **What kind of crate should I get?**

The most popular crates are made of plastic or heavy welded steel wire. Plastic crates are molded two-piece units with ventilation areas along the sides and a welded steel wire door in front. They're lightweight, portable and are easily taken apart for storage or travel. Some of them come in decorator colors! Most plastic crates meet federal regulations for airline travel. The quality of plastic crates varies between manufacturers and you'll need to get one sturdy enough to resist chewing.

Wire crates are very popular and depending on your dog's needs, may be a better purchase than plastic. You'll need to shop more carefully for a wire crate because quality and style vary greatly. Some of them are flimsy and not meant to be collapsed for storage. Others advertised as "collapsible" do so only with great difficulty and don't fold down to a convenient size. Look for sturdy crates with heavy gauge wire that are easily folded down into a "suitcase-style" shape for transportation and storage. Although they aren't approved for airline use, I prefer wire crates because they offer better ventilation.

### **How big should it be?**

A crate need only be big enough for the dog to stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably. I like them to be just long enough for my dogs to stretch out on their sides to sleep. Growing puppies can be a problem when buying a crate. Not everyone can afford to buy a new one for each stage of growth but too large a crate can make a puppy harder to housebreak. Fortunately, dividers are available for some brands so you can shrink and expand the puppy's space as needed.

### **How does a crate make housebreaking easier?**

Along with their natural instinct to sleep in a den, puppies are born with the instinctive desire to keep their dens clean. Given the opportunity, most puppies will seek out an area to relieve themselves that's far away from where they eat, play and sleep. Using a crate takes advantage of this natural tendency and helps the puppy learn to control himself in between trips outside.

### **My dog chews up everything in sight when I'm not home! How will a crate help that?**

Just as you crate an un-housebroken puppy to prevent accidents when he can't be supervised, the same applies to a dog that chews or gets into mischief when you can't be there to watch him. Confined to a crate, a destructive dog is limited to chewing only on the toys you give him, not your cushions or woodwork!

### **I've got an adult dog that's never been in a crate before. Is it too late to train her?**

No, it's never too late! Older dogs can often learn faster than puppies. At first let her smell and investigate the crate with the door open. Feed her meals in it and have her jump in and out of it for treats. Just as you would with a puppy, you should make the crate a comfortable place to be and keep crating periods short in the beginning. Once accustomed to them, many dogs enjoy spending time in the crates even when they don't have to. Crates are a favorite place to retreat with a new toy or get some relief from a rambunctious puppy or child. There are several crates around my house and at any given time, you can find dogs napping in them, the doors standing wide open. They even argue about who gets to use certain crates. Would they react this way to something they thought of as a cage? Not hardly!

[Edited for length]

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## Thanks To Our Donors

Katherine S.		Kelly & Nick M.	In Honor of Minnie-to help sick labs
Joanne & Jack M.	in memory of Max McKoane	William & Beverly B.	Trisha's birthday
Dione C.	the chocolate litter	David & Patricia K.	In honor of Molly (formerly Sandy)
Laura W.	the chocolate litter	Joel C.	medical care/bills
Adam & Beth D.	the chocolate litter	Rita B.	
Mr. K.		Mary Therese D.	In honor of Maude formerly Autumn
Susan B.		Kenneth B.	
Lisa G.	chocolate puppies	Eileen S.	
Don & Betty P.	Houston's hip surgery	Ronald & Mary D.	
Barbara R.		Nicole & Jason C.	on behalf of Ben
Joseph and Nancy K.	chocolate puppies	Eric & Judith W.	
Julie T.	chocolate puppies	Barbara D.	on behalf of Bernie & Hallie
Jennifer D.		Belinda & Craig B.	
Tamara & Ed M.	Houston's new hips	Israel & Charmaine C.	In honor of Harley
Lisa B.	Houston	Betsy & Dave G.	In hon. of Steffie adopted MLRR 7 yrs ago
Katharine D.		Jeff & Sirkka S.	In honor of Hannah
Linda G.	hurricane Katriana & other med. exp.	William & Kristin N.	
Amy H.	from Valkyrie (FKA Pepper)	Marilyn and Terry B.	Labs rescued from Hurricane Katrina
Jan & Mike H.		Barbara R.	For Houston, Ozzie & the rest of the Labs
Garry & Michele G.		Barbara D.	
Caroline O.		Stephanie F.	
Randy C.		James K.	Happy Thanksgiving from Ellie!
David & Dawn V.		Elizabeth S.	
W.A. & S.J. V.		Karen W.	In honor of Max & Winston.
Katherine S.		Kathy & Paul D.	
James M.	Allstate	Gale E.	In Honor of Wilbur
Chuck & Maribel G.	Allstate	Rick R.	
Valerie L.	Allstate	Barbara H.	In hon. of Jake (FKA Gunther son of Molly)
Brandy B.	Houston's surgery	Deborah & Ray Z.	In hon. of Jack, Zoe & Olivia. Jack's 4th year anniversary. of adoption
Paige W.	Allstate	Julie G.	In hon. of Riley & Julie. Helping Houston & other special needs Labs
Anonymous	Allstate	Lisa K.	In hon. of Comet, Buster, Hannah & George
Jennifer B.	Allstate	Michael & Patricia P.	
Michael L.	Allstate	Joan & Jon C.	Riley Rose's 5th b-day
Heather & Mike J.	vet bills & in hon. of Clarence fka Casper	John & Heather P.	Thank you for all the great work you do.
Kenneth B.		Beverly & Ernest F.	In memory of Ginger
Paula O.	emergency help with bills	Douglas & Sally M.	
Scott & AnnMarie G.	For Medical Bills in Memory of Bingo	Steven B.	In honor of Dexter
Carol K.	Vet expenses donation	Michael & Aurora L.	In hon. of Buddy our rescue dog the best dog
Jean P.		Armando & Catherine R.	In honor of Cody
Jennifer S.	In memory of Nesta	Doris & Lauren R.	In memory of Chappy Reid (Magnum)
Kim S.		M. Kim N.	
Julie & Glenn M.	In honor of Cody "We Love Him"	Andrew Jordan M.	
Ann W.	In hon. of the puppies, Ozzie & Houston	Martin H.	
Shailja S.	In memory of Max	Amy O.	In honor of Phil's 8th b-day
Laurie H.	In hon. of Juno & joy he brought us all	Robert & Sheila R.	In honor of Delilah (formerly Lola)
Alan & Janet J.		Kay & John D.	for the medical bills, thanks for all you do
Marjorie & James S.			
Maureen & Joe B.	In memory of Chloe		
Ruth S.	Gracie-Oct anniversary of adoption		
Kelly and Michael O.			
Lisa B.	In honor of Sadie		
Michael & Nicole H.	Our love of Labs		
Erica & John M.	In memory of Max-Thanksgiving		

Donors continued on next page

# The Lab's Tale

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## Donors Continued...

Dan & Colleen N.		Heidi & Mitch K.	in mem. of Sather & Biggs-2 wonderful Labs
Jill A.		John & Tammy E.	in memory of Camelluia & in honor of Logan
Jennifer & Steven G.	Peyton's 1 year adoption birthday	GH and Bernadette I.	in memory of Sedona. Thanks for Chakra & to help with Fiona
Eric & Judith W.	Kia's Second Anniversary	Edward M.	in honor of Tex
Marcia & John G.	In memory of Emma & in honor of Katie	Katherine J.	
Donald & Michele H.	In honor of Blake	Kathleen K.	Houston's surgery
Amy B.	in honor of Pogo	Antique Bazaar	
Mark & Linda A.	hurricane dogs	Patrick O.	
Kris & Steve G.		Desert Lab Rescue	For your kindness in saving Narnia's life. Merry xmas & happy new year
Scott & Nancy Z.		Katherine S.	
Donald & Lisa K.	In honor of Flint & Kessler	June R.	
Mike F.	in honor of Max	Tim B.	small Christmas donation
Andrew G.		Lauren/Sheila P.	
Pat & Tim R.	in honor of Spencer fka Randy	Valerie L.	
Ken & Alice S.	in hon. of Walter on his 1 year adoption	Michael L.	
Gail S.		Diane G.	
Jon & Ann L.		Andrea P.	
Nancy & Tim O.		James M.	
Pamela & Charles D.		Chuck & Maribel G.	
Daniel & Sarah V.	for Mason & Reba	Jennifer B.	
IL Tool Works Fndtn	on behalf of Charles B.	John L.	Walt R. Christmas Benefit
Carol & Steve B.		Genie R.	
Cathy & Bill S.		Kim M.	Merry Christmas
Francine C.	\$ from Arbonne party	Mary Beth H.	in honor of Barbara Rittenhouse & Frank Putrino
Matt L.		Gail G.	
Ulf H. & J. E.		Jan & Mike H.	PetSmart gift card
Holly J.		Marilyn R.	in honor of Turner fka Derby
Michael & Nicole H.	in memory of Sedona & special hopes for Fiona	Kyle H.	in honor of Bailey & Bear
Gina and Martin Q.	in honor of Lucy	Mary & Bradley K.	
Barbara S.	in memory of Wizard	Melissa & Joseph	
Kathy D.		Cliff & Marybeth W.	
Carmella A.		Julieann & Steven L.	
Maeve O.		Christina R.	
Catherine B.	in honor of Roo & Neo as well as Roo's 14th B-day	James S.	In honor of Lauren Mack
Liz & Mike H.		Judy K.	
Brandy & Kevin F.		Corey O.	Lab Rescue Gift Donation
Maureen M.	Houston's hip surgery	Daniel A. & Amy N.	
Kurt & Judy E.		Kelly H.	
Ralph & Janice F.	in memory of Elliot Jennings		
Kirkland & Ellis Fndtn.	for Diana G.		
Dennis & Diana G.			
Daniel & Mary C.			
Matt M. & Peggy D.	in honor of Alex & Bobby-fka Fletcher & Stevie		
Abbott Labs	on behalf of Holly L.		
Dean L.			
Harriet F.	in memory of Elliot Jennings		
Jack & Rosemary S.	in memory of Elliot Jennings		
Timothy O.			
George H.	in memory of Max		
Paul & Linda I.			

We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support we have received in the last few months. Thanks to generous donors like the above, we are able to care for many Labs that were previously homeless and unwanted. These donations will help us to continue our rescue efforts, and to place more wonderful dogs in new loving homes.

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## **Wish List**

MLRR is always in need of the following:

- \* "Frontline" Flea Preventative
- \* Heartworm preventative (*ie.* Heartgard or Interceptor)
- \* First class postage
- \* Gift certificates to pet supply stores
- \* Collars (large, snap-type)
- \* Laser printer paper
- \* Envelopes
- \* Cash donations
- \* More volunteers and foster homes!



Dixon now has a loving home

## **News and Events**

### **Mark your calendar now!**

MLRR will have a booth at the following locations. Come and meet some of our volunteers and our wonderful rescued Labs. We will also have fundraising merchandise available for purchase, including MLRR T-shirts and sweatshirts.

#### **🐾 2006 International Kennel Club Dog Show**

February 25 to 26, 2006

McCormick Place, Chicago

Stop by the MLRR booth and say "Hi" to some of our volunteers and rescued Labs. We will have information about our organization and fundraising merchandise will be available for purchase.

For more information visit <http://www.ikcdogshow.com>

#### **🐾 2006 Chicagoland Family Pet Expo**

March 17-19, 2006

Arlington Park Racecourse, Arlington Heights

We will be in booth #359.

The Pet Show brings together pet lovers, pet owners, experts, products, service providers, breed clubs and rescue organizations plus great entertainment and helpful seminars for a weekend full of exciting events.

For more information visit:

<http://www.petchicago.com>

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Lombard, IL  
Permit No. 288

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