



*Helping Labs Find Their Fur-ever Homes*



Winter 2010



*Ginger*

# Labrador Ledger

## New Years' Resolutions Your Dog Wishes You'd Make

It's never too late to begin giving your pup what he really wants, needs and deserves. Every pack leader can build a better relationship with their canine companion by implementing any or all of the following ideas:

### 1-Take Quality Walks

Dogs crave adventure that offers new scents, sounds and surroundings. At least once a month discover new routes, unfamiliar trails or uncovered neighborhoods for exploration to stimulate their senses. Your dog will gain self confidence and see you as a stronger leader.

### 2- Give Fewer Hugs and Play More

Playing games such as fetch, tug of war or hide and seek help to relieve stress and provide exercise. In order to keep excitement under control, utilize commands like "drop it/leave it" and "off".

### 3- Introduce New Toys Regularly

Rotating old or borrowing new toys will help keep boredom from setting in. Toys should be safe, sturdy and monitored. Kongs filled



*Lilly*



*Fresno*

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#### NEW MEMORIAL PAGE

Your loved one may be gone, but will never be forgotten. As animal rescuers and lovers, we know that your Lab is more than a pet - he is a 4-legged family member; your constant and faithful companion. Mourning the loss of a pet can be every bit as emotional as mourning the loss of a human family member. Experts say that

with bits of yummy treats are a favorite pastime as are most any item a dog can chase, charge or chew. Try putting a treat in each compartment of a muffin tin and covering each treat with a tennis ball-a brain teaser!

#### 4- Have a Play Date

Build confidence and socialization by regular exposure to other people who can practice simple commands, for example, then praise, treat and reward.

#### 5- Bond Outside the Home

Take an agility or Canine Good Citizen class for both mental stimulation and physical activity plus team work bonding within the pack.

#### 6- Keep Fido Fit

Use will power to control the main resource any dog covets-food! Teach your dog NOT to beg by using the "go to your puff/bed" command.

Source: [www.dogtime.com](http://www.dogtime.com)

*The Labrador Retriever was just named America's top dog for the 19th consecutive year by the American Kennel Club. The ranking is based on the number of registrations for the breed with the AKC in 2009.*

## Training Tips

### Canine Manners 101: Drop It!

The "Drop It!" command is another training command that comes in handy on an almost daily basis (especially with young mouth-centric dogs). Once it is learned, it is an invaluable tool that allows you to keep your hands slime free while safely getting your dog to drop that moldy piece of bread or other foul goody.



**The concept:** When your dog is offered something better than the object he is showing interest in, the higher value treat will prevail.

**Step 1:** Prepare your training tools - some extremely tasty high value treats (bits of turkey dog, freeze dried liver, cheese, etc) and a fairly uninteresting toy that your dog will put in his mouth.

**Step 2:** Get your dog interested in the toy, leading him to take it in his mouth, when he does this tell him "Drop It" and offer him the treat. When he drops the toy in exchange for the treat - lavish praise!

**Troubleshooting:** If your dog is choosing the toy over the treat, there could be three issues:

sharing your story with other members of the animal community can help with the grieving process. We invite you to honor your Brookline adoptee(s) by participating in our new Memorial Page.

Share your special memories by sending your beloved Lab's story to us at [brooklineweb@gmail.com](mailto:brooklineweb@gmail.com). You can submit up to 500 words, 1-2 photos and please include your dog's original name (if changed) and the year of adoption. Go to Brookline's home page at [www.brooklinelabrescue.org](http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org) and click on 'Memorials' to see our new Memorial Page.

1. You need to try a different treat - he isn't a fan of the one you are using.
2. He isn't hungry enough - try this exercise at a different time of day that isn't close to a mealtime.
3. The toy you are using to train with is too much of a prized possession. Choose one he likes a bit less.

Source: <http://www.dogguide.net/training.php>

## You Can Help Brookline

We depend entirely on donations and fundraisers to operate. If you would like to help, please consider making a donation today. Thank you!

<http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/donations.html>



**Help us Restore Jake's Eyesight**  
Click on his photo to read his story.

## Our President Speaks as a New Decade Begins

I'm proud to be President of Brookline Lab Rescue and do you know why? First, there are those amazing Labradors/Lab mixes that have found their way into our rescue, seeking nothing but love and a warm place to call home. Then there are the wonderful, caring families who open their homes and their hearts to Labs in need, knowing how gratifying it can be to give a deserving dog a second chance. Where would we be without our financial supporters, particularly those who responded to our annual appeal and those whose ongoing support we could not do without? Our veterinarians, kennel facilities, trainers and other groups we work with also give us generous discounts to help our Labs. Your generosity during these hard economic times truly warms our hearts and helps so much with our continuing efforts to re-home as many labs as we can.

And where would our rescue be without our dedicated volunteers who donate endless amounts of time to fundraise, meet with prospective adopters, evaluate dogs, staff events, and of course give our foster dogs a great start before meeting their "forever" families? I am so proud of all the volunteers that help in any way they can, no matter to what extent. There are so many special things the volunteers do that make our Rescue an outstanding organization, and our Rescue family such a caring family.

To each and every one of you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.....

*Marie Krout*  
President  
Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue



## Rocky's Road

## A Success Story

Make way - it's me, the Rock Star! Wait, let me introduce myself. I'm Rock Star, so you've probably heard of me. You can call me Rocky, my friends do.

So, how did a handsome, sweet guy like me wind up in a rescue? Well, when I was 8 months old my owners dropped me at some place called a shelter and left me there...can you believe it?! I had fly bites and Lyme disease...yuck! So, in my cage I sat until this elderly lady showed up and asked the attendant to take me to an area where we could get acquainted. I thought we were going for a walk!! So, I took off cause I LOVE walks! Then I heard the lady call my name and I realized she didn't have hold of the leash...silly human! How are we supposed to go for a walk if you don't have hold of my leash? So, I ran back to her and sat down...she decided to fill out the adoption paperwork right away!

Now that's it, right? That's what I thought. I lived in a retirement home with my mom. Then one day my mom started feeling ill. Wanting the best care for me, she contacted Brookline Lab Rescue 'cause she was pretty choosy who she would let me live with. She said my new parents would be the best couple for me...and she was right!

Next thing I know, I'm going for a long ride and into a new home....my last home my new mom says. I have an awesome mom who takes me to work at the grooming salon...only the best treatment for me! My dad's my bud, and I love to hang out with him! When he plays his guitar, I lay on the bed or floor and relax....heh, I'm a Rock Star. Then there's my brother and best friend Gunner, a crazy Yellow Lab who is 14 months old...just a baby. He's really a big boy like me at 100lbs. I took care of him when his paw had an abrasion, licking it back to health! I also have a sister now named Kona and she is a Black Lab/Golden mix who is almost 14 years old. She goes out and plays ball with us every day. Hoping I'm that fit when I get older!

My home has a huge back yard, almost like a park! Mom takes me out playing and walking every morning. Then I go to work with her or take a nap. At lunch time dad comes home and it's time to play again! Did I mention that I can retrieve like no other, jumping up in the air with all four paws off the ground just to catch the ball? It's what I live for, that and being a Rock Star! In the evening we play and go walking again...how cool is my life? ....Thanks, Brookline!!!

*Slobbery Kisses,  
Rocky the Rock Star*

*Written and submitted by Rocky's Family*

## Featured Lab

# Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice -- Meet Ginger --

Want to spice up your life? Ginger is a friendly, sweet, spirited 7 year-old female purebred Chocolate Lab who weighs 74 lbs. If you are looking for an exercise buddy or full time playmate, then Ginger is your girl! She gets so excited when first meeting you but settles down and loves it when you give her affection and attention - she wiggles all over!! She's never had the chance to play before so she would love for you to show her how to play with toys and enjoy games like fetch and tug.



Ginger is used to living with a lot of other dogs and her owner has to find most of them a new home. She can no longer care for them due to the recent death of her husband. Many of the dogs Ginger lived with have already found homes with Brookline and they are really thriving and have adjusted well. She would love a new start too and a chance to live in a home with her own family. Ginger has always lived in an indoor/outdoor lot be worldly but will learn how to be a great family

dog in no time. She will need a patient, loving family willing to show her the ropes as she transitions from living in a kennel to inside a home. It will all be new and exciting to her. As far as being housebroken, she currently only goes in her outside kennel and not the inside area so that is a good indicator that she will quickly learn where to go when she is living in a home.

While Ginger has had no formal obedience training, she will eagerly sit for affection from you and takes treats gently from your hand. Thrilled to go for a walk, she may initially pull on leash. She gets along with other dogs and would do well in a home where she can be the Queen of the pack. Ginger will probably do just fine living with a cat since she is exposed to a barn cat on a daily basis and has had no negative reactions.

Ginger is up to date on all of her shots, is hip-certified and on heartworm prevention. She has not yet been spayed, so her new family will need to take care of that soon after her adoption. This girl has been waiting alone in her kennel for more than six months for her new family. Are you ready to make Ginger your girl?

For more information on Ginger, please contact [bestrong@embarqmail.com](mailto:bestrong@embarqmail.com) .



*Ranger*

## Upcoming Events and More Available Labs...

Brookline participates in a variety of events in many geographic areas. Our volunteers are always ready to explain who we are and what we do. At many events, we have some really great **merchandise** to sell. Click here to check out our t-shirts and fleece scarfs handmade by our talented volunteers: <http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/sales/forsale.html> If you are an approved adopter and are interested in a particular dog, ask your volunteer if that dog will be present at the event. Most of our foster dogs put in guest appearances at our table. Click to check our **calendar**: <http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/events.html>

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Click on the photos of the **available Labs** pictured throughout this newsletter and you will see their detailed write-ups. Read about our other available Labs by clicking here: <http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/availabledogs.html> Also, check out our new **Foster Dog Blog** at <http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/blog/> where you can read about some of our dogs in foster care waiting for their fur-ever homes.

*Bailey*

**Don't forget to join us on Facebook!**  
<http://www.facebook.com/brooklinelabrescue>

**Meet our Board of Directors**  
 Marie Krout...President  
 Rachel Stauffer...Vice President  
 Sharon Frey...Vice President & Treasurer

## Mary Tennant...Vice President & Secretary

**Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue**  
[www.brooklinelabrescue.org](http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org)

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue (BLRR), founded in 1997, is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization that specializes in placing Labs and Lab mixes. We place an average of 100 dogs per year in their forever homes. BLRR maintains a regularly updated list of available Labs being given up by their owners (but still living at home) and dogs pulled from shelters and puppy mills who are placed in foster care with our volunteers. We evaluate both the dog and the prospective adopting home to help ensure a good fit for everyone. All dogs are vet checked and their shots updated before they are adopted. BLRR serves areas of Pennsylvania and New Jersey depending on the number and availability of our volunteers. Please visit our website at [www.brooklinelabrescue.org](http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org) for links to other rescues serving locations beyond our coverage areas and for more information about adoption.



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