



Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue

Labrador Ledger

January 2006 Adopting Special Edition

www.brooklinelabrescue.org

**BROOKLINE LABRADOR
RETRIEVER RESCUE**

P.O. Box 638
Warrington, PA 18976-0638

Phone: 215-343-6087
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Please visit

www.brooklinelabrescue.org

- For more information on adopting a Lab from us.
- To download adoption forms
- Volunteering with BLRR
- For information on how to surrender a Lab to us
- To view pictures of available Labs
- For dog biscuit recipes
- To view our Success Stories



Adopting with Brookline

Almost nothing is as exciting as making the decision to adopt a dog. Congratulations!

If you've decided to adopt, or are seriously considering it, you've already taken a good look at your situation and decided that you have enough time and energy to devote to a new four-legged member of the family and are looking for just the right dog to adopt. But which dog will fit your lifestyle? Have you considered a Labrador Retriever?

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue is a "breed rescue" – one that specializes in Labs or Lab mixes. We can help you decide if a Lab is right for you and then help you find the right Lab to fit your situation.

The first step is to fill out an application, which can be found on our web site at www.brooklinelabrescue.org. Once we receive your application and determine that you're in our coverage area, a volunteer will contact you to talk to you about what type of Lab you're looking for and to schedule a home visit.

BLRR evaluates all adopting homes before placing a Lab with an adoptive family. This helps us make the right match between dog and adopter. The volunteer will talk to you about what kind of Lab you're looking for – Puppy or Adult? Male or Female? Is there a color you have in mind? A volunteer may give you things to think about regarding your preferences, for example, did you know that Labs don't fully mature until they are three years old? That's a long puppy-hood! Unless you have the energy to keep up with a puppy, maybe an adult Lab would better suit your lifestyle. The volunteer will also ask you questions like, "Who will care for the dog when you're not home?", "Will the dog be crated during the day, and if so, for how many hours?", "How do you plan to exercise the dog?" and "What will you do if your new dog doesn't get along with your current

dog?". There are no right or wrong answers. It's all part of making a good match. Lastly, the volunteer will talk with you about dogs we have that are waiting for forever homes – the right Lab may be closer than you think!

Now comes the hard part. The waiting. If we don't already have a dog that you're interested in, you may have to wait until a Lab meeting your description finds its way to us. Unfortunately, Labs are surrendered to us with some frequency, but happily for you that means there is always someone new to consider. How long would you have to wait for the right Lab? It depends on what you're looking for and how flexible you're willing to be in your preferences. Typically the more flexible you can be, the shorter the wait.

And then it happens. The volunteer contacts you about a Lab fitting your description and you think this might be THE ONE! The volunteer will make arrangements with you and the surrendering or foster family to meet the Lab and if everyone agrees, then you take your new fur-kid home to begin the fostering period of the adoption.

What's the foster period? All adoptions begin with a minimum three week fostering period. This is a chance for you and the new dog to get to know each other and for the Labs true personality to show itself. Imagine for a minute what it would be like to be taken from the home you knew, and taken to a place where you didn't speak the language, didn't know the customs, and had to eat food you weren't used to eating. That's a bit like what a dog goes through going to a new home. The foster period allows the dog to acclimate to her surroundings. It also gives you the opportunity to make sure that this is absolutely the right dog for you. If at the end of the three weeks, you decide that it isn't a match made in heaven, arrangements will be made to place the dog elsewhere and the

Adopting with BLRR cont'd

volunteer handling your application will continue to help you find the right Lab.

Once the foster period is over and you've decided that you and your fosterling are well suited for each other, the volunteer will return to your home and complete the adoption paperwork.

Of course, dogs, like people, don't come with guarantees, and sometimes problems (small and large) do develop with the dog in a new environment. However, Brookline always has a volunteer to call on for advice and support, again helping to make sure that you and your Lab remain a forever family.

For more information on adopting a Lab from BLRR contact us at:

P.O. Box 638, Warrington, PA 18976-0638
or
adoption@brooklinelabrescue.org

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue's Mission

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue (Brookline) is a non-profit volunteer organization funded entirely by donations. At Brookline Lab Rescue we maintain a list of available Labs. This list is updated on a regular basis and is made up of dogs being given up by their owners (but still living with the owners) and dogs who are in foster care. We do our best to evaluate each dog and to give potential adopters detailed and accurate information regarding each dog.

Dogs being surrendered by their original families stay with them until an adoption can be arranged. If the dog is scheduled to be destroyed at a shelter, we arrange to place the dog in a foster home with one of our volunteers. All shelter dogs are fostered for a minimum period by a volun-

Where We Operate

Our current coverage area includes the following counties, or portions thereof, depending on the number and availability of Senior Volunteers. **Please consult the coverage map on our web-site to find out if you are in our current coverage area** or send email to info@brooklinelabrescue.org and include the name of your town, zip code and the nearest large city.

Pennsylvania (including Westmoreland, Somerset, Indiana, Clearfield, Bedford, Huntingdon, Adams, York, Lancaster, Cambria, Snyder, Centre, Juniata, Mifflin, Dauphin, Lebanon, Cumberland, Perry, portions of Schuylkill, Berks, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Chester, and Delaware counties)

Burlington and Camden Counties in New Jersey.

If you live outside these areas, please see our web-site for links to other rescues.

teer before being placed for adoption.

We evaluate both the dog and the prospective adopting home to ensure a good fit for everyone. All dogs are vet checked and their shots updated before they are adopted.

We operate mostly in Pennsylvania and parts of New Jersey. If you're not sure if you are in our coverage area, please check the map on our Web site.

For further information about the adoption process, to download forms or inquire about becoming a Brookline Volunteer visit our Web site at

www.brooklinelabrescue.org.

Donation and Volunteer Form: Help Us to Help the Labs

I want to help the Labs! I am able to give

\$10 \$20 \$30 \$50 Other \$ _____

Contributions are tax deductible

I would prefer my donation count toward

Bright Horizons Fund General Fund

I would like to order a cookbook. Cookbooks are \$10 each plus \$3 S&H for the first book and \$1 for each additional.

_____ # of Cookbooks Ordered (Please make checks payable to **Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue**).

Contact me at:

Name

Address

City/State

Zip

Telephone

Email

Checks made payable to **Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue** should be sent to P.O. Box 638, Warrington, PA 18976-0638