



Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue, inc.

Labrador Ledger

January 2006 Fostering Special Edition

www.brooklinelabrescue.org

**BROOKLINE LABRADOR
RETRIEVER RESCUE, INC.**

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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

Fostering a Lab with Brookline

Fostering a dog can be one of the most rewarding experiences a dog lover can have. The feeling of satisfaction that comes from having such a strong sense of compassion for another creature is as great for some as winning the lottery. Yet, there are too few foster homes for too great a number of dogs in need.

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue (BLRR) is always seeking volunteers to foster purebred and Labrador Retriever mixes of all ages and obedience levels and to help prepare these dogs for their forever homes.

Most of our Labs in foster care are rescued from shelters. These are dogs for whom time has run out and they are at urgent risk of being euthanized due to overcrowding. A BLRR volunteer evaluates a shelter dog that has come to our attention and makes a determination as to whether or not the dog has a desirable temperament – one that is suitable for adoption by an individual or family.

If we feel that the dog is adoptable, we then pull the dog and place it in foster care with one of our foster homes until an introduction and eventual adoption can take place. Dogs remain in the same foster home for as long as it takes to find them a forever home, which can take a few weeks to a few months. It is BLRR's policy that a dog rescued from a shelter remain in foster care for a minimum of two weeks so that we can better assess the dog's personality in order to find just the right match.

While a dog is being fostered by a volunteer, its pre-approved medical costs are covered by the rescue. The largest out-of-pocket expense for the foster home is for food, and BLRR makes an effort to obtain donations of food to defray these costs for our foster homes.

How much experience does it take to be a foster home? Most of our volunteers who

foster Labs have experience with dogs or already have one or more Labs in residence. We try to match a Lab with a foster home that is most compatible, just as we do with our adoption applicants (in fact, our foster volunteers go through the same approval process as our adoption applicants). For example, if a volunteer wants to only foster females because they are more compatible with the resident male, we don't ask that volunteer to foster a male dog. The volunteer has the last word on whether or not a potential fosterling would be a fit for their house – BLRR does not "assign" foster dogs to volunteers.

Most of all, fostering a Lab requires patience and a willingness to work through any initial obedience issues that may surface. Because our fosterlings are shelter "pulls" we often don't have all the information we would like about their past behavior or any deficiencies in their training – so from the start *every* dog is a puppy – and we ask our foster volunteers to treat them as such until they show us just how "grown up" they are!

Our foster homes are required to give BLRR regular updates on their fosterling's progress and in turn receive support and encouragement about how to deal with specific behavior and obedience issues. None of our volunteers need to "go it alone" with a foster dog.

For every foster dog there is a different story. Some would make you laugh. Some would make you cry. And some would make you do both at the same time! But all of our foster homes would tell you that helping prepare a dog for its new home is worth every temporary moment of frustration, chaos, and joy.

To learn more about fostering for Brookline, please contact us at our address listed on this flyer!



What is Required of a Foster Home?

Brookline volunteer foster homes go through the same initial application process and home visit of our adoption applicants. We want to be as sure as we can be that you and your fosterling will be compatible for as long (or short) as it takes to find him a new forever home. While you are fostering a Lab as a volunteer for Brookline you are asked to do the following:

- Take the dog to the vet for a baseline examination and vaccinations (covered by BLRR)
- Administer any medication required by the vet
- Provide weekly updates on your fosterling's progress (usually via email)
- Provide food, shelter, exercise and companionship to the dog as per BLRR's Foster Contract
- Give input to other volunteers working with applicants about the dog's personality and temperament in order to find the best forever home match.

For more information on fostering, please contact volunteer@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-

Our Coverage Area

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, Lehigh, Northampton, 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