



Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue

Labrador Ledger

January 2006 Volunteering Special Edition

www.brooklinelabrescue.org

**BROOKLINE LABRADOR
RETRIEVER RESCUE**

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Email: info@brooklinelabrescue.org

Please visit

www.brooklinelabrescue.org

- Volunteering with BLRR
- For more information on adopting a Lab from us.
- To download adoption forms
- 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

Volunteering with Brookline

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue is always looking for volunteers to help in its effort to save Labrador Retrievers. If you have a special interest in Labs or are just a sucker for a sweet face, BLRR could use you!

We are looking for people to,

- Foster Labs waiting for permanent adoption
- Train to evaluate prospective adoptive homes
- Train to evaluate Labs being surrendered
- Fundraise

So what would being a volunteer with BLRR entail? READ ON!

Fostering

BLRR is always in need of foster homes for Labs we've taken from shelters because their "time is up". These dogs are evaluated by one of our volunteers and then placed in a BLRR foster home until they can be matched with a forever family. Dogs in need of foster "parents" can run a range between puppy and adult and energy levels from rambunctious to couch potato. They also vary in their need for discipline. All of these dogs require lots of love and attention more than anything else. Foster placements can last for as little as two weeks to up to several months, depending on the dog.

So what is a foster home like? Foster homes differ almost as much as the dogs they take on. Some have resident dogs, or other animals, some have children some don't. Some of our foster parents are young others are senior citizens – couples or singles. Some of our foster parents live in the suburbs, others in more rural areas. But in all cases, they love dogs and have the time and attention to give a needy Lab.



Home Evaluations

Our senior volunteers who do home evaluations really enjoy their jobs. Almost nothing is as rewarding as being able to match just the right home with just the right Lab. A volunteer will go out to an applicant's home and talk with the prospective adopters about what kind of dog they're looking for and talk to them about what Labs BLRR has available. At the same time, the volunteer will evaluate the home environment to make sure that it is appropriate for the kind of Lab the people are interested in. Volunteers ask questions like, "How will you exercise the dog?", "Where will your dog sleep?" and "What will you do if your new dog doesn't get along with your cat?" Always, our goal is to make sure the dog and home are a good fit.

Dog Evaluations

Just like our applicants, our senior volunteers evaluate the Labs coming into the rescue. We want to have a good idea of the dog's background and temperament before we try to match him with a forever home. Dog evaluations are typically done wherever the dog is currently residing – in the surrendering home or sometimes in a shelter. The volunteer will go out to that location and spend about an hour with the dog, looking specifically at the dog's surroundings and interviewing his caretakers about his behavior, likes and dislikes. The volunteer will also give the Lab a "pop quiz" on obedience, ask about any health problems, and find out what the dog's routine has been. Following the evaluation, a report is made to the rescue and a decision is made as to whether or not we will take on that particular Lab. We turn away very few Labs in need and don't accept dogs with aggression issues.

Volunteering cont'd

Fundraising

Because BLRR is a 100% volunteer organization, we rely on donations to fund our efforts. We participate in several "pet fairs" a year where we sell donated or homemade merchandise including tennis balls, dog treats, collar covers, bandannas and tee shirts – all profits go to support BLRR. We're always looking for volunteers to work the display tables or make some of the goods we sell.

Regardless of how you would like to volunteer your time, we are guaranteed to find a way to put your particular talents to good use. While we need volunteers for the above jobs, there are others that are equally important. If you're interested in volunteering with us, please drop us a line at

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

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.

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-

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-page.

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