



Keeping Tabs on our Labs:

- We have 2 Labs in foster care
- There are 0 Labs in kennel care
- 15 Labs are awaiting adoption
- 3 Labs are trying out a home

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Fit & Trim The Ears Have It!

With the arrival of spring, comes those perennial pests, **fleas and ticks**. If you've given your dog a hiatus from their treatments over the winter, it's time to make an appointment with your vet to get a new prescription. An early start is the best way to prevent future infestations.

Ear infections are all too common in Labs, but especially in warmer months. While it may be next to impossible to guarantee an infection free season, you can take steps to reduce the number and severity of canine "swimmers ear". Pick up a bottle of ear cleaning solution from your vet or pet supply store and use it regularly. Just like in people, earwax helps protect your dog's ears from infection, however it can be a garden of bacteria if allowed to build up. Lab ear canals are notoriously deep, making it next to impossible to remove the gunk furthest down in the ear. The ear cleaning solution helps break up the wax furthest down and helps the ear get rid of it naturally.

If your Lab finds having ear solution squeezed into their ears objectionable (and who wouldn't) there are a couple of tricks you can try, but first a word about sanitation. The only thing worse than having an ear infection is having two - one in each ear. Reduce the chances of spreading the infection to the healthy ear by NOT using the squeeze bottle your solution comes packaged in. Use a smaller container (like a shot glass) to fill a tiny bottle or dropper and wash it between ears. When you're done, discard any unused solution. Do not return it to the original bottle.

Now for the tricks. First, putting cold ear wash in a dog's ear is a bit like putting an ice-cube down the back of someone's shirt. Try warming the solution up by holding the bottle in your hand for awhile or heating the small amount you're using in the microwave (5 seconds is plenty, and test it on your wrist first) before trying to douse each ear. As we said, using a tiny bottle or dropper if you

have one is a must, but consider purchasing an infant bulb syringe for the task - one for preemie babies is best. These can be much easier to use than other applicators since they can be "palmed" or hidden from view, and take very little effort to deliver a good squirt of ear wash (you only have to do it once in each ear, unless you miss). Fill the syringe with half a shot of ear wash, and clean the syringe between ears (better yet, buy two, they're cheap and come in different colors so you can tell left from right). If your Lab won't let you flush his ears, but likes to have his ears cleaned manually (that is with your finger), try soaking two cotton balls, one for each ear, with ear wash and wrapping each ball in a piece of gauze. Try getting this down as far as you can and while he's groaning away, try to squeeze as much of the ear wash into the ear as possible. You may have to go through a couple of soakings to get enough in your dog's ear, but it's better than nothing if you have a syringe shy pooch.

Last but not least bribery. Place a good treat (and we mean GOOD treat) where it can be seen, but not easily reached. It may distract your dog's long enough to make flushing the ear possible and if nothing else will ensure a speedy return to the area if he runs off after the first ear is doused.

If all of your good practices aren't successful and your dog does contract an ear infection (indicated by excessive head shaking, rubbing his head on the carpet and scratching his ears) a trip to the vet is warranted. Ear infections don't clear up by themselves and anti-biotic ointment is necessary. An infection let go, will become extremely painful and could effect his hearing. Protect your dog's ears by taking good care of them, giving them the attention they require.

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The Chuck Wagon: Tasty Treats for Your Fur Friend

Peanut Butter Treats

1 c. flour (white or whole wheat)
3/4 c. peanut butter
1/2 c. water
2 Tbsp. honey
1 tsp. Cinnamon



Place peanut butter honey, cinnamon and water in a small pan over medium heat. Stir quickly until peanut butter melts and all ingredients are blended. Put flour into another mixing bowl and slowly fold in the liquid mixture. Mix well and roll out the dough on a floured surface. Use cookie cutters to cut cookies from the dough. Re-flour as necessary. Bake in a 375 degree oven for about 25 minutes. Then turn off heat and let the cookies harden in the oven (but don't let them burn). Cool completely. For softer treats roll the dough out very thin and baked for about 15 minutes then remove them from the oven. Let sit on the cookie sheet until they are about half cool, then store.

Voted No. 1 by Labs!

For more recipes, visit our web site!

If a Dog Were Your Teacher Think about all you could learn

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
Take naps and stretch before rising.
Run, romp, and play daily.
Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shady tree.
When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout, run right back and make friends.
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.
Be loyal.
Never pretend to be something you're not.
If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
And MOST of all...
When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

Author Unknown

If It's Free, It's for Me! Free or Nearly Free Things for Lab Lovers

Save those T shirts! You may not want to wear them any more, but your Lab could use one or two:

Does that flea preventative you use tend to migrate to other places? Like your sofa? After you apply the liquid, have your Lab wear an old T shirt (cropped half way up) for a day or two and your furniture will be more protected.

Will your Lab be going away overnight? Send along a dirty T shirt—one that smells like you. Your scent will remind him that you are only gone temporarily and will reduce the stress associated with being away from home.

And you thought they were only good for rags!

Donation 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 help! Please contact me about the following opportunities:

- Items (leashes, crates, etc.) I have to donate
 Fostering a Lab
 Sponsoring a Lab with a monthly donation
 Volunteering with B.L.R.R.

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

When You Wish....

We have several items on our wish list right now. If you have any of the following items you would like to donate, please contact us through our email address and we will arrange to get the items from you.

We are in need of:

- 1) First-class stamps (we'll even take your old 33s!)
- 2) Old towels (all sizes)
- 3) Large dog crates
- 4) Gently used books on Labs
- 5) Used tennis balls (we are particularly interested in a steady supply, so if you know an avid player or belong to a club or gym, we'd be happy to take all they have)
- 6) Volunteers to bake dog treats to sell at fundraising events.
- 7) Volunteers to do evaluations in the Harrisburg, Chambersburg and Lancaster areas.

Upcoming Events

On **May 6th**, there will be a Walk for PAWS in Chester County. The event runs from 10 am to dusk and is held at the Myrick Conservation Center, 1760 Unionville-Wawasett Road, Route 842, West Chester, PA.

On **June 9th**, there will be a Pet Fair from 11am to 4pm at the Quakertown Vet Clinic located on Old Bethlehem Pike in Quakertown. This is an outdoor event. There will be demonstrations and seminars going on throughout the day. Activities also include a Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Food Vendors, etc.

There is no admission fee for either event. We hope to see you there!

Out & About: Protect Against Loss— Of Your Dog

Spring. As warmer temperatures are more consistent and days grow longer, have you noticed that your dog spends more time with her nose on the ground than in the air on your daily walks? That's because there is so much more to smell this time of year. You've probably noticed it too, but to a dog, who uses his sense of smell the way we use our eyes, the odors are just that much more intense – and interesting. It is always good policy to keep your dog on a leash at all times – in fact it is required in most public areas – but accidents do happen. Dogs do get separated from their people. It could happen to you and your Lab, no matter how well behaved.

Be prepared. Find or buy a loud whistle, like a policeman's or coach's whistle and train your dog to come to you when you blow it. Even if you've not had any formal obedience training, it is easy to do. When your dog goes out to take care of business, don't wait for her to come back on her own to the door. Go out, blow the whistle and call her to you a little before she's ready to



Success Stories: Why we do what we do

Kane is happy in her new home! Kane is our special needs girl, an almost blind yellow Lab. Her new parents spoil her rotten and say that she loves to lay in front of the fireplace. She quickly learned the house rules and became one of the family!

Congratulations **Jake!!** Jake is at home with his new family in Mechanicsburg. Sandy and Tim have worked very hard to get Jake settled in and have made him very happy.

Winston is home! Winston became an official member of Jennifer and Dan's family in Enola. Congratulations Winston you've come such a long way.

Daisy is all snuggled in her new home in Carlisle, safe and sound. BJ and Ron are so happy to have such a good girl in their family and fur-brother Teddy is keeping her in her place. **Cooper** is doing great in his new home in Camp Hill! It seems as though Cooper has found his long lost sister. He has a great home with Jessica, Scott and Kasey. **Blake** is living it up on all those walks he is getting now and loving every minute of it. Valerie is so glad that Blake became a part of her family in Camp Hill.

Hershi is settling in with his new family Ronna and Andy and new brother Asa in Mohnton. We are so happy for you Hershi, your old life is behind you now! **Tootsie** had a rough start with us but found herself home when she joined a family with two small boys. The boys love to play with Tootsie and they tire each other out! She still has an affinity for collecting objects that aren't her own, but she's getting better at that and the family is very happy with their new family member!

Congratulations to all our new families! Look for more success stories in upcoming issues of the Labrador Ledger!

come in. When she comes to you give her a treat or reward her with overly lavish praise. Make this a routine. You want her to associate the whistle with you having a treat just for her. When she comes dependably to the door, do the same with her in other areas. Play hide-and-seek in the house, using the whistle only. Practice in different locations – dogs don't generalize very well, so you have to keep trying the same thing in different places to help reinforce the behavior. Each time you practice, let your dog wander away and call her back 5 or 6 times, lavishing praise on her each time she returns to you.

Most importantly, carry the whistle with you when you take your dog out. All the preparation and training won't help you if your dog gets away from you and you don't have your whistle. You can use your voice, but it only carries so far, especially in wind or storm conditions and your dog can cover a lot more ground in a shorter period of time than you can. Play it safe. Be prepared. Start your whistle training today!

**Brookline Labrador Retriever
Rescue, Inc.**

P.O. Box 638
Warrington, PA 18976-0638
Phone: 215-343-6087
Email: brooklinemisc@hotmail.com

*See you at the
Walk For PAWS
Saturday, May 6
&
Quakertown Vet Clinic Fair
Saturday, June 9*

See inside for details!

*Saving Labs in Pennsylvania
and the Delaware Valley*

Don't toss out this
newsletter! Recycle
it by posting it
where others can
see it!

Our Mission

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue (Brookline) is a non-profit 100% volunteer organization funded entirely by donations and nominal adoption fees. 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 in area shelters, 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. If a foster home is not available, then we place the dog in a kennel near one of our volunteers until an adoption can be arranged.

We evaluate both the dog and the prospec-

tive 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.dogsaver.org/brookline.

