



**Keeping Tabs on our Labs:**

- We have 4 Labs in foster care
- There are 0 Labs in kennel care
- 9 Labs are awaiting adoption
- 2 Labs are trying out a home

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BROOKLINE LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE, INC.

# Labrador Ledger

## Brookline Gears Up for Another Great Year!

In the wake of the horrific events of September 11, Americans have been urged to return to their normal lives, or at least what passes for normal in these times of uncertainty. For the volunteers at BLRR, that means turning our attention to Labs in the tri-state area who are in need of rescue and to raising funds to sustain our continuing efforts to foster and place these dogs for adoption.

Unfortunately, people were not the only displaced victims of the September 11 attacks. As members of our armed forces were called into service, many were forced to surrender their pets, including Labs, due to lack of a long-term caregiver, or because pressures on family left behind were so great as to make continuing to care for highly energetic Labs prohibitive. More than once, BLRR has been called on to help place Labs surrendered by their enlisted owners and we have responded with the kind of compassion that is required when an owner is surrendering a friend, not out of choice, but out of necessity.

The volunteers of BLRR have placed many Labs in loving adoptive homes this year, several of whom will celebrate their first holidays as part of real families in the weeks ahead. However, there are several more Labs waiting to be placed with people who will care for them the way they deserve to be cared for.

To that end we are re-doubling our fundraising efforts starting now and extending through 2002, focusing our efforts in two areas – the Bright Horizon’s Fund, and continuing to expand our placement efforts.

The Bright Horizon’s fund was established to give Labs with special medical needs a second chance at survival and eventual adoption to forever homes. Funds are largely used to secure advanced medical procedures or promising experimental treatments for dogs with medical conditions ranging from joint problems to digestive

tract malformations.

Expanding our placement efforts will include a push to recruit volunteers to conduct home and Lab evaluations in parts of the tri-state area not already served by current volunteers. We would like to have one continuous service area, rather than a patchwork of areas as we have currently. This would reduce the need to turn down applications for adoption or surrender for lack of having a senior volunteer within driving distance.

BLRR will also be seeking to recruit foster homes for Labs removed from shelters that are awaiting adoption. Sadly, there have been many Labs this past year who were nearly put to sleep at shelters, and who might have been if a BLRR foster home had not been available. As notice from shelters is often short, volunteers have had to scramble to find a foster home suitable for the new fur-foster. Luckily our volunteers have always risen to the occasion, but there are too few spaces for so many Labs. The more foster homes we have, the more Labs can be given a second chance at a forever home. BLRR will be making a concentrated effort in this area in 2002.

The reality is that in order to achieve these goals, we need time and money. Time from people who share our desire to see good Labs go to good homes, to volunteer with us – as much time as they are able. Money in the form of cash donations to cover vet bills, medications, food, and publicity (including this newsletter) or donations of needed items (see our list on page 2 of this newsletter). If you are able to help us with any of these, please contact us by email or letter mail.

Help us make 2002 a better year for even more area Labs.

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## The Chuck Wagon: Tasty Treats for Your Fur Friend

### FLEAS NAVIDAD NIBBLERS

2 T. honey  
2 3/4 cups water  
1/4 cup unsweetened applesauce  
1/8 t. vanilla  
1 egg  
1/2 cup chopped peanuts  
4 cups whole-wheat flour  
1 T. baking powder  
1 T. cinnamon  
1 T. nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a bowl, mix together honey, water, applesauce, vanilla and egg. In a separate bowl, mix peanuts, flour baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir, mixing well. Spoon into a greased muffin tin, filling each cup two-thirds full. Bake for 35 minutes. Cool and store in a sealed container.

For a low fat version, replace peanuts with 1 cup dried apple chips and increase baking time to 1 hour.

Makes 16 muffins.



## Dear Santa Claws....

BLRR has been good this year, but with your help we can be so much better next year! We are in need of several items to help with our efforts. If you have any of the following items you would like to donate, please contact us through our email or letter mail 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) Calling cards
- 3) Old towels (all sizes)
- 4) Foster homes
- 5) Large-sized dog crates
- 6) New leashes and collars
- 7) Volunteers to do home and dog evaluations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey
- 8) Genuardi's register receipts
- 9) Envelopes of all sizes
- 10) Cash donations to help with vet bills

**Thank you to the veterinarians who provided discounted vet services to BLRR this past year. With these Good Samaritan services we look forward to helping even more Labs in 2002. We wish you and yours a very happy and healthy New Year!**

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

This issue we're focusing on free things that Lab lovers can do to help BLRR continue to save even more Labs in 2002. Holiday shopping is right around the corner, and may we suggest doing some of yours through the BLRR website? Go to the BLRR web site at [www.dogsaver.org/brookline\\_](http://www.dogsaver.org/brookline_) and click on the "Fundraisers" page. From there you can purchase a few selected items from vendors, who in turn will refund a portion of the purchase price to BLRR.

You can also purchase greeting cards and BLRR logo apparel, proceeds from which go to help BLRR's continuing efforts to rescue Labs in our area. Happy Holidays from BLRR!

## 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

## For rescuers

Once I was a lonely dog,  
Just looking for a home,  
I had no place to go,  
No one to call my own.

I wandered up and down the streets,  
in rain in heat and snow.  
I ate whatever I could find,  
I was always on the go.

My skin would itch, my feet were  
sore, My body ached with pain.  
And no one stopped to give me a pat.  
Or to gently say my name.

I never saw a loving glance.  
I was always on the run.  
Some people thought that hurting me  
was really lots of fun.

And then one day I heard a voice  
So gentle, kind and sweet,  
And arms so soft reached down to me  
And took me off my feet.

"No one again will hurt you  
Was whispered in my ear."  
"You'll have a home to call your own  
where you will know no fear."  
"You will be dry, you will be warm,

you'll have enough to eat."  
And rest assured that when you sleep,  
your dreams will all be sweet."

I was afraid I must admit,  
I've lived so long in fear.  
I can't remember when I let  
a human come so near.

And he tended to my wounds  
And bathed and brushed my fur.  
He told me about the rescue group  
And what it meant to him.

He said, "We are a circle,  
A line that never ends."  
"And in the center there is you  
protected by new friends."

"And all around you are the ones  
that check the pounds.  
And those that share their home  
after you've been found."

And all the other folk that are  
searching near and far.  
To find the perfect home for you,  
where you can be a star.

He said, "There is a family,  
that's waiting patiently,  
and pretty soon we'll find them,  
just you wait and see."  
"And then they'll join our circle

they'll help to make it grow,  
so there will be room for more like  
you, who have no place to go."

I waited very patiently,  
The days came and went.  
Today's the day I thought,  
my family will be sent.

Just when I began to think  
It wasn't meant to be,  
There were people standing there  
Just gazing down at me.

I knew them in a heartbeat,  
I could tell they felt it too.  
They said, "We have been waiting for  
a special dog like you."

Now every night I say a prayer  
to all the gods that be.  
"Thank you for the life I live  
and all you've given me.

But most of all protect the dogs  
in shelters and on the street.  
And send a Rescue Person  
to lift them off their feet."

—Author Unknown

*Many thanks to all of the BLRR volunteers who helped make this story true for so many Labs this year.*

## ut bout: To ran other's ouse We o!

Holiday time means getting together with family and friends, and for some this includes fur-kids as well. While Labs love to go on the road and visit your friends and theirs, keeping a few safety tips in mind will help insure a peaceful holiday season.

If you take your fur-friend along when visiting friends and family, particularly those that don't have any animals, pay particular attention to what your dog is doing while there. A good rule of thumb is to treat your dog as you would a child – watch out for things your dog could get into (trash, plants, cat-litter pans, buffet tables) and be mindful of what hand outs he's being given. You don't want to spend the post holiday at the vet's because your youngest nephew fed your dog that big chocolate brownie he wanted so badly.

If you will be hosting dog friendly festivities this year, be sure to take into account your dog's personality and behavior when having visiting pets in the house. A large family party is probably not the time to be introducing more than one new dog to yours. If you can't avoid having

your mother bring her two fur-kids, at least make sure that there are spaces for dogs to be completely separated. While good manners require humans to make special accommodations for guests, the opposite rules apply to dogs. The resident dog should not be required to give up his routine or space in favor of a canine visitor.

The holidays are a stressful time for everyone, including your dog who perhaps will be exposed to more people in higher numbers than at any other time of the year. Look for signs of stress – a sudden change in eating or sleeping habits, being extra "clingy" or aloof. Make a concerted effort to stick to normal routines for walks and feeding times to help reduce your dog's stress.

Lastly, don't overlook the kennel option. While kenneling a dog can be a stressful experience for both dog and owner, a couple of nights at a kennel that provides individualized attention for its occupants, might be preferable to subjecting your dog to the holiday craziness at home.



**Brookline Labrador Retriever  
Rescue, Inc.**

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Email: [brooklinemisc@hotmail.com](mailto:brooklinemisc@hotmail.com)

*Wishing you and yours  
a very  
healthy and happy  
Holiday season!*

*Saving Labs in Pennsylvania  
and the Delaware Valley*

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

## ur 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 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](http://www.dogsaver.org/brookline).**

