



Helping Labs Find Their Fur-ever Homes

Late Summer 2009



Pride

Labrador Ledger

Sweet Summer Success

We've all heard of adopting one or even two dogs from Brookline, but four dogs in five years must be a record! It all started with that tantalizing aroma of puppy breath.....

Tux entered the family in the summer of '05 as a companion for resident Dalmatian, Mack. As Tux grew from a rambunctious puppy into an adolescent leaper, even a new six foot fence couldn't contain this boy! One year later in the summer of '06 a pool party was planned to celebrate the birthday of Tux and his littermates-yes, we have volunteers who will foster an entire litter of pups!

Tux and Mack both attended this gala event and fell in love with the host's foster puppy Bode. They had a wonderful time playing at poolside and "begged" their humans to adopt this bodacious boy! Not even a potential heart problem could dampen the bond that was growing for Bode's new family-and so there were three!

In the summer of '07 Mack lost his battle with cancer. As the family mourned (yes, pups mourn, too!) they realized there might be room again for a needy pup. Toby popped up on the Brookline website and soon became the newest family member. Their only true swimmer at heart, Toby never misses a chance to take the plunge.



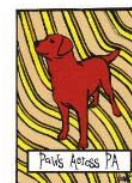
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[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

PAWS ACROSS PA!

Don't miss out on the Fur, Fun and Food for ALL at Brookline's biggest fundraising event of the year - PAWS ACROSS PA! **Saturday, September 12, 2009** at the Rose Garden Pavilions located in Cedar Beach Park, Allentown, PA. Walk registration 9 am, walk starts 10 am. Pet fair, raffles and prizes 9am- 1pm. Food courtesy of Evy and Dave's hot dogs with entertainment provided by DJ Mike



Trotter. Contact Rachel at r_stauffer2@yahoo.com or 610-737-3170 or visit www.brooklinelabrescue.org All

Our special family states "no more pool parties for us" with good reason. They attended the early summer '09 affair and the entire pack fell in love with dainty foster dog Cassie and the rest is history. It all started with the power of puppy breath.....and a human family with a true lab lover's heart.

forms are available at our website. Check out our cool prizes too! Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 and every penny we earn goes toward the health and rehoming of our labs!

Dog Days of Summer

For many folks the pace of life is picking up as children return to school and we all look forward to the cooler climate of Fall. Let's not forget that September often packs the powerful combo of heat and humidity which can remain a challenge for our canine companions.

Training sessions, like exercise, should not be encouraged in the heat of the day. Think early morning, late afternoon or evening. Make sure that plenty of fresh water is available on a daily basis, and if you plan an extended excursion have water for your pup as well. Like people, dogs often do not hydrate themselves very well, waiting to drink until they are actually thirsty. The lack of flavor in water is also not a good stimulus to encourage consumption.



Keeping a dog well hydrated is the first step to avoiding heat exhaustion. Both older dogs and puppies are more susceptible to this problem, as are obese or thick-coated breeds. Even color matters -- with black dogs retaining more heat from direct sunlight! High humidity just magnifies the effects of heat on both humans and dogs. If your dog starts panting excessively (often accompanied with a foaming discharge) and the skin inside his ears becomes very red, get him out of the sun and offer water. Proceed to a cooler place and allow the dog to rest after the symptoms subside.

Katie

Heat stroke is a medical emergency and can be the consequence of ignoring heat exhaustion. Symptoms include weakness, staggering, fainting or total collapse. The first priority is to cool the dog externally by moving him out of the sun and wetting him down. Use a garden hose or any means available that supplies cool, NOT cold water. Secondly, get the dog to a vet.

The totally preventable and leading cause of heat stroke death is due to confining the dog in an overheating car. Think twice before those pleading eyes convince you to let your furry friend hop aboard.

Sources- www.barkbytes.com , www.vanerp.net , and www.examiner.com

You Can Help Brookline

You can support our efforts by purchasing Brookline merchandise on our website by clicking on our Shopping link or click here: <http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/sales/forsale.html> . Check out our popular Dog Dork T-shirt and our new *Life is Short - Take Time to Play T-shirt!*

There are also free ways you can support us by shopping with our partners. Just click through us or provide our email address as a reference and we get a cash percentage from the sponsor - and all you have to do is click!



<http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/freehelp.html>

Reilly

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer organization, we depend entirely on donations and fundraisers to operate. If you would like to help, please consider making a donation today. You can direct it to our General Fund that covers expenses such as general veterinary care and vaccinations or to our Bright Horizons Fund for our Labs with special needs. Contributions are tax deductible. You can donate through a link to PayPal on our website or download and mail our convenient Donation form.

Click below for more information on donating to Brookline.

<http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/donations.html>

As Time Goes By *Living With A Senior Lab*

She doesn't always hear me enter the house anymore but when she sees I'm home, the greeting I get is worth the wait. Always happy to see me, she greets me with wagging tail and smiling eyes. Yes, her eyes are getting a bit cloudy at 11 years old, but she still sees every movement of the wild animals outside and her cat and dog sisters inside. She moves slower than she did but is still sure of every movement she makes. She runs through the grass at a slower speed, yet still tries to catch the bunnies that invade her yard. She even tried to chase a deer the other day and as I yelled for her she stopped in her tracks and came back to me! I was amazed and proud of how well she obeyed, even if I did have to yell as loud as I could so she would hear me. In the morning she still jumps into bed for snuggles, usually taking only one jump. She still loves to eat and inhales her meals just like she has done since the first day we brought her home from the SPCA. As her hearing has declined, her fear of thunderstorms has lessened, and she no longer needs to be "my tail" during any but the loudest storms. She's still playful but can't play as long as she did as a pup, but then neither can I!



We are gracefully growing older together. Yes, she is grey around her muzzle but then there is grey in my hair, too. She's my friend, companion and protector of my children - the "daughter" I never had. As she ages, she becomes even more calm, sweet and contented. I am truly blessed to share my home with my "senior" lab.

The special joys of providing a home for a lab of 9 years or older are as varied as the families who adopt them. Please take a moment to read about Brookline's new Silver Muzzle Match program by clicking here: <http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/silvermuzzle.html>. See if you might open your home and heart to the possibilities of a mature relationship!

By Marie Krout - BLRR Volunteer

Keeping Tabs On Our Labs



1. Dogs adopted from January 2009 through June 2009 = 54!
2. Dogs in foster care right now = 18 (as of 8/22).
3. As many as 10 dogs were taken in so far this year because of home foreclosures.

4. Vet Expenses January 2009 through June 2009 = \$15,294.51; Kennel Costs \$236.

Ginger

Saving Money on Pet Care

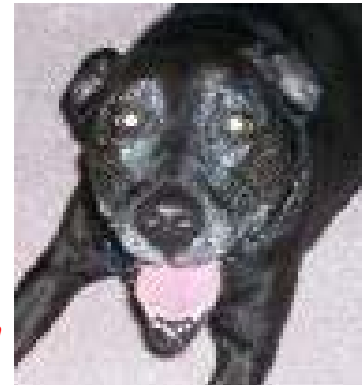
Times are tight for many these days. Here are some ideas to help keep pet care costs more manageable!

Veterinary Care

- Ask if vets offer any discounts - whether for bringing in multiple animals, paying in cash or even being a senior!
- Take advantage of local shot or spay/neuter clinics. Many townships or shelters offer low-cost options for these procedures.
- Shop around for supplies! Many websites offer preventative meds (flea/tick, heartworm, etc.) at a reduced cost, however, some companies will not guarantee meds sold through the internet. Ask your vet if they will price match, and then you can save on the shipping & handling cost, too. For other meds, a generic form may be available-ASK! One of our volunteers went from spending \$30 for a medicine purchased from her vet to spending \$4 for the same quantity by purchasing from a pharmacy in a national super-store.

Diet

- Once you've selected the brand of food for your dog(s), investigate which store offers the best price. Frequently, smaller stores have discount cards or email newsletters which offer coupons - sometimes as much as 25% off an item.
- Get cookin'! Homemade treats are healthier and cheaper than commercial brands and they're easy to make! Recipes can be found online or in Brookline's own cookbook - see our website for details.



Kiya

Other Tips

- Skip the groomer! Brushing your dog's coat and teeth daily and learning how to bathe your dog at home can save hundreds per year. Use lots of treats during bath-time to make it a fun event for your dog!
- Skip the gym membership - you have a Lab! Hit the streets and get exercise along with your dog, which not only provides your dog with a happier and healthier lifestyle, but will enhance the bond between you. Walking, biking, running, hiking are all activities that are much more enjoyable with a 4-legged follower!
- If there's a specific piece of pet equipment you need, check out websites such as Freecycle - a forum where people offer and ask for specific items - all at no cost!

By Laura Bergan - BLRR Volunteer

The Spirit of Junior Volunteers

In our last newsletter we talked about our "Confirmation Kids," a group of dedicated preteens

who needed a service project to complete their obligation for religious confirmation. Little did we know that these youngsters would jump in with a sense of responsibility and commitment to our labs and our mission that was admirable! They came to many fundraising events and handled the labs and audience with ease and maturity. One of the former members of this group, Jackie, has taken our mission to the Paws Club of Central Bucks Middle School, where she hopes to recruit new members for the Junior Volunteer effort!

We were fortunate to have another student, Jen, choose Brookline to complete her Graduation Project at Upper Moreland High School. Jen has always loved animals and was impressed with the caring tone of our website. She had to plan her own project centering on community service, and prove the value of the project to a school panel of teachers. She collected goods for PAWS, our annual fundraising event, in both the community and her school. While soliciting the help of classmates and teachers, she came to realize that one volunteer can make a big difference toward the success of any organization. Jen plans to return on weekends from her college studies in Biology to continue helping Brookline.

We look forward to including Katie and Susan as new Junior Volunteers. They have both decided to build their senior Graduation Projects around Brookline, donating at least 40 hours per student to our mission. Think of all the funds they can help us raise at table events, for example, while learning the lesson of giving back to their community in the most generous way possible.

Our Junior Volunteer Program is one of the best ways to connect kids to a meaningful community activity and we certainly appreciate their eager energy! Perhaps you know of a youth group that might want to know more about this opportunity? Don't hesitate to email shannonbeau@verizon.net

By Karen Barry - BLRR Volunteer

Upcoming Events and More Available Labs...

Brookline participates in a variety of events in many geographic areas. Our volunteers are always ready to explain who we are and what we do. At some events, we have some really great merchandise to sell. If you are an approved adopter and are interested in a particular dog, ask your volunteer if that dog will be present at the event. Most of our foster dogs put in guest appearances at our table.

Click to check our calendar: <http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/events.html>

~ ~ ~

Click on the photos of the available labs pictured in the articles above and you will see their detailed write-ups. Many more dogs are also available and you can read about them by clicking here: <http://www.brooklinelabrescue.org/availabledogs.html>

Don't forget to join us on Facebook!
<http://www.facebook.com/brooklinelabrescue>

Meet our Board of Directors
Marie Krout...President
Rachel Stauffer...Vice President

Sharon Frey...Vice President & Treasurer
Mary Tennant...Vice President & Secretary

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue
www.brooklinelabrescue.org

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue (BLRR), founded in 1997, is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization that specializes in placing Labs and Lab mixes. We place an average of 100 dogs per year in their forever homes. BLRR maintains a regularly updated list of available Labs being given up by their owners (but still living at home) and dogs pulled from shelters and puppy mills who are placed in foster care with our volunteers. We evaluate both the dog and the prospective adopting home to help ensure a good fit for everyone. All dogs are vet checked and their shots updated before they are adopted. BLRR serves areas of Pennsylvania and New Jersey depending on the number and availability of our volunteers. Please visit our website at www.brooklinelabrescue.org for links to other rescues serving locations beyond our coverage areas and for more information about adoption.



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