



Spring 2011

Helping Labs Find Their Fur-ever Homes



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Labrador Ledger

Does your Dog Have Allergies?

A Holistic Approach to Controlling Canine Allergies

More and more dogs are being diagnosed with food or environmental allergies these days. Allergic reactions, often manifested by skin and digestive problems, are actually symptoms of a deeper systemic imbalance. Your dog's diet, stress levels, heredity, environment as well as conventional medical treatments are all factors that affect this imbalance. Let's explore the links between allergies, associated medical problems and what you can do to help your dog.

'Leaky Gut' Syndrome is a chief suspect when allergies are present. It is a condition where damage to the small intestine creates spaces between cells in the lining large enough for fragments of food, toxins and bacteria to flow into the bloodstream. The immune system fights this invasion which then produces inflammation and allergic reactions (itchiness, flaky skin, diarrhea). Repairing the small



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intestine is key to rebuilding the immune system to fight off allergies. Altering the diet by adding high quality protein and eliminating soy, corn, wheat and non-organic chicken fat can help promote healing of the digestive tract to break the vicious cycle of treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs - which can lead to an overabundance of yeast.

Probiotics, protein supplements (such as Seacure) and Digestive enzymes are considered very helpful in healing and recovery. A powder made from fermented fish, Seacure provides essential elemental protein with no digestive effort. Bacillus Coagulans, a probiotic, helps to keep yeast and fungi in check. Digestive enzymes, such as Prozyme, replace the essential enzymes that are lost during food processing allowing the absorption of more nutrients from food.

If the dog's liver is overwhelmed with the burden of detoxification, it can also contribute to leaky gut syndrome. Detoxification support is not maintained with poor nutrition from low quality dog food. Neither liver nor kidneys can do their normal job of eliminating waste products from the bloodstream. So, restoring balance with proper diet and supplements to promote digestive health is key to controlling canine allergies.

Source: *The Whole Dog Journal*

New Food Allergy Test Available Soon!

HemoPet/HemoLife will soon be introducing NutriScan, a novel, patented canine food sensitivity and food intolerance salivary diagnostic test. Testing protocols are for gluten and other food ingredient intolerance and sensitivity. The primary dietary antigens to be tested are corn, wheat, soy, beef, eggs, and milk. The Introductory cost will be \$55 and you can get the kit from the web site at www.hemopet.org or from the vet and then mail it in to HemoPet.

Submitted by: *Cinnie Frith, BLRR Volunteer*

Featured Labs - *Lucy & Belle*

Spunky but Settled Seniors!

We're Lucy and Belle, Super Seniors (which basically means we've sown all the "oats" that can make some younger labs a little bit too energetic)! We've been in a foster home since mid-November when our owner had to move to an assisted-living facility. Man, did he love and take good care of us! Now, we're both ready for our forever homes! Though we love each other, we know it's a big commitment to add two big dogs to the family and we are willing to split up. We're both up-to-date on our vaccines and housebroken. We don't jump on people, we love belly rubs and are happy to lounge around the house most of the day. We do love going for short walks and brief, yet spirited, rounds of fetch. We are both in great shape! When we saw the vet in January, she said the only thing that gave away our ages was the slight haze of our eyes.

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Instead of using Google, just go to www.GoodSearch.com and when prompted for "who do you Goodsearch for?" type Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue. Then, just search as you always do - it's that easy! We earn money every time you search, and every little bit counts! Make it your homepage and tell everyone you know - every penny we earn helps to save a life!



Purchase Giant gift cards through Brookline and the store will

donate 5% to Brookline Lab Rescue. Cards can be purchased in \$25, \$50 and \$100 amounts and are used just like cash. Contact us at brooklinegiantcards@gmail.com



Lucy

Lucy is a 10-year-old, really dark chocolate lab. She's a sweetie and has the softest ears you'll ever touch. She lets her foster human siblings poke and prod her at any time. She gets along with most dogs, alert barks, and tends to pace around vacuum cleaners and during thunderstorms.

Belle is 11 years old and she still has the coat and energy of a much younger pup!

She gets along with most dogs, yet prefers to be the dog in charge, or only dog, of the house. She is a terrific companion and loves to be with people. She'll certainly keep you young!

Together or apart, Lucy and Belle both offer constant companionship and would be a loving addition to your family. Please click on their photos to read more details on each dog.



Belle

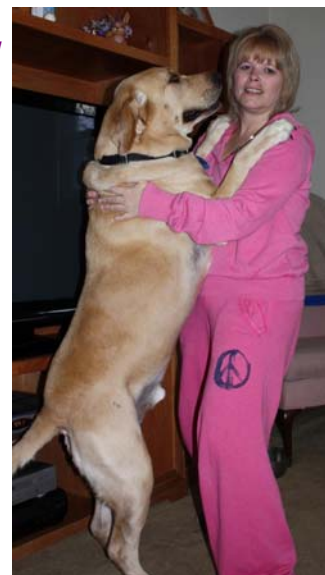
Training Tips...

Only People Should Jump for Joy!

Polite Greetings -- Why DO Dogs Jump Up?

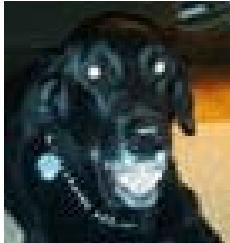
The answer is not because dogs are being dominant but because they want attention. They have likely been reinforced for jumping up, meaning they have gotten your attention. This can be a difficult behavior to extinguish if you are not consistent in training them not to jump up. Consistent reinforcement of polite doggy greetings is reasonably easy. The tough part is ensuring that impolite greetings are consistently not reinforced when encountering family members, guests entering your home and other people in public. You and everyone you encounter need to be part of the training.

To train a polite greeting, determine the behavior you do want from your dog when someone approaches. Most people would like a 'sit' or 'down' from their dog. Prevent the dog from being reinforced for the behavior you don't want - jumping up. You can turn away and pay no attention to them, restrain with a leash or tether, and when someone approaches, tell them not to greet the dog until he sits. Finally, generously and consistently reward the dog with yummy treats when he sits as an alternative behavior to jumping. Practice at home with all family members, with guests that enter your home and with people you encounter on walks. And remember, don't ask the dog to sit. You want him to think about what you want him to do. If you are consistent and persistent, your dog can learn to greet people politely. In fact, your dog will run up to you and sit as hard and as fast as he can, with as much enthusiasm as he now has when he jumps up on you.



Submitted by Heather Smith, PMCT
All 4 Paws Dog Training

You Can Help Brookline



Brookline would like to send a special thank you to Carli Borofsky, who designed and sold t-shirts to benefit us as part of her Bat Mitzvah project. Brookline is always looking for new ways to raise money to help our Labs and Carli certainly did that! If you have a creative fundraising idea, or even an event you think we should attend, please contact us at info@brooklinelabrescue.org.

Check out [Casey!](#)

Also, special thanks to Petco stores in NJ and PA that collected about 1,800 tennis balls for Brookline to package and sell at our events.

Brookline depends entirely on donations and fundraisers to operate. If you would like to help, please consider making a [donation](#) today. There are also free ways that you can help Brookline, click [here](#) to check it out.

Thank you!



That's a lot of tennis balls!



The Love and Joy of Rocky *A Success Story*

A Letter from Rocky's New Mom

Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue will forever be the rescue group that I refer to. You guys did an amazing job in matching me with the PERFECT lab for my lifestyle and took time to make sure the meeting between my dogs and Rocky went well.

I have already told many, many people about Brookline. Kelly and I are wearing our Brookline t-shirts. Rocky and Sierra the Husky, play like they have been playing their whole lives together. They sleep side-by-side on the foot of my bed every night and are usually found relaxing in the living room together when not playing. They are just like having two very energetic kids but they are both happy and it brings me joy to see the husky have a playmate her own size after my last Lab's passing away. Sierra has finally met her match for running around the back yard. The Pomeranian, Tipper, is getting a little more into being around Rocky so things are progressing quite nicely and I feel this is all due to the correct introduction Brookline took the time out of their schedule to try to make sure this worked.

As I have expressed before, my husband died on August 7 in a motorcycle accident. My Lab passed away three weeks later to the day from cancer and I had put a wall up around my emotions. I did not realize how big the wall was until I came across a sign at Pet Valu for Brookline Lab Rescue and that's when my search started. I wanted an older Lab due to the ages of my other two dogs (6-7 yrs old) and went online to Brookline's web site. That is where I first saw Rocky's picture and story and I fell in love with him immediately. Of course I love my two dogs, but after seeing Rocky's picture and the tears that flowed, I knew I had begun to heal. So not only did Sierra get a playmate, Tipper gets a little extra attention from me when the playing is going on and I am able to find healing in the love and joy of Rocky.

Love, Peg (Rocky's new mom --and new Brookline Volunteer!)

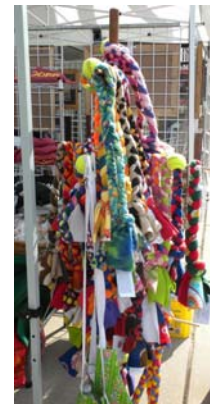
Upcoming Events, Foster Dog Blog and More Available Labs...

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.



Bandannas!

At many events, we have some really great merchandise to sell -- including our popular tug toys, bandannas and treat bags that are all hand made with love by several of our volunteers. Click [here](#) to check out our t-shirts. 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](#) !



Tug Toys!

~ ~ ~



Meet [Mocha!](#)

Click on the photos of the **Available Labs** pictured throughout this newsletter and you will see their detailed write-ups. Read about our other available Labs by clicking [here](#).

Also, check out our [Foster Dog Blog](#) where you can read about some of our dogs in foster care waiting for their fur-ever homes.

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Meet our Board of Directors
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 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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