

Winter 2009



Helping Labs Find Their Fur-ever Homes

Labrador Ledger

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Help Rusty!

My name is Rusty! I have had a little mishap and I'm in need of some help. See, I accidentally ran into a car and well you know....the car won. Right now my leg is in a sling so that I don't hurt it anymore because the vet thinks I may have some nerve damage. We're waiting to see if my nerve heals but it is not looking so good and I may end up losing my leg. My owner loves me very much but is not able to care for me with this injury. So he has contacted Brookline to help find me a home where someone can nurse me back to health. Brookline is searching for a very special place called a foster home. If you think you could be my

Dear Debra,

Welcome to our new email newsletter! This newsletter and other emails from us will be your source for the latest news about our available Labs, volunteer/foster opportunities, dog behavior and training tips, success stories and upcoming events.

Ten Year Old Chocolate Girl Takes Center Stage!

It hardly seems possible that I've turned 10! My name is Hershey and I may have become a little white around the muzzle -okay, very white- I sure don't feel or act my age. I'm as



spunky as ever and ready to go for walks, car rides and almost any other adventure that involves being with people. I must admit I've grown very fond of human attention and physical affection since I've spent a good bit of time in foster care. I used to live alone in an outdoor kennel and I even had a couple of litters of pups, but now that I'm used to living in a human home, well, I LIKE IT!

I live with a swell resident female dog pal and we've become great friends. She's pretty mild and laid back, not the pushy type if you know what I mean, but she will get her share of affection from my foster mom when she wants it and makes sure she is first in line at chow time. Hey, that's fine with me- she was here first! We both like our toys and bones, but it's share-and-share-alike in that department. I've really learned to read my foster mom's tone of voice and many of her verbal commands even though I'm so tempted to sneak food from the counter, but I do listen!

I spend about 10 hours per day in my crate when my foster mom is at work while Molly-that's my dog pal- has free reign. I'm fine with this arrangement and I keep my crate nice and clean. I've been having a little issue of late in that I sometimes drink a lot of water when I'm out of my crate and might have an

foster home, contact info@brooklinelabrescue.org. And you know if I need surgery, it is going to cost a lot of money. If you want to help, please make a donation to the Bright Horizons Fund so that Brookline can continue to help Labs like me that are in need of medical attention. Go to www.BrooklineLabRescue.org to find out how to make a donation.

Community Day Fundraiser February 28!

BON-TON
COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE®

Order coupon booklets for just \$5 each, good toward great looks at the Bon Ton family of stores. Shop the **One Day Community Sale Day on February 28** at any participating store and use your coupons (one \$10 off one item and four 20% off on one item) for sensational styles at great prices. 100% of the coupon booklet sales benefit Brookline. To order, please contact Jackie at sadiessong@mindspring.com or stop by one of our tables at the Bon Ton stores to purchase a booklet. Check our [Upcoming Events page](#) for locations and times.

Confirmation Kids to the Rescue

accident if mom doesn't get me out every few hours to go potty. We're working on this issue as it's a little embarrassing for a mature lady to have "accidents"! There's nothing like a brisk walk after all that time in my crate and I do very well wearing my gentle leader collar -practically no pulling at all! I still get a little nervous when other dogs approach me quickly and get too close, but my foster mom carries really yummy treats when we walk and she makes me sit while those tasty tidbits come my way. I never had much social time with other dogs before I got into foster care, but living with Molly and getting good treats when I see other dogs is really helping me to not be afraid of my own kind.

Well, that's about it for now-oh, except to say that I'd love to find my own furever home (But no cats, please. They run, I chase-just can't help myself). I'm a very affectionate girl who has come so far in learning how to be a good canine housemate and Brookline promises to continue to work with any family who might give me a chance. We senior pups have so much to offer and can give you many years of loving companionship. So, what do you say-could I be your next "best friend?"

Love, Hershey

By foster mom Coleen Fadden, BLRR Volunteer

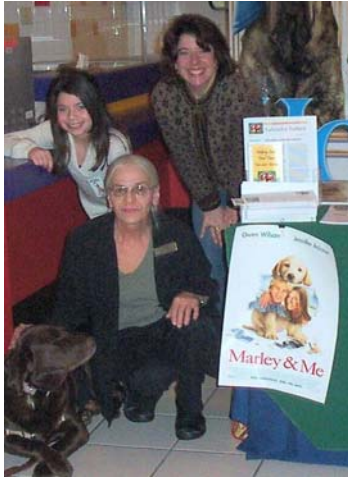
For more details on Hershey and other great Labs, [click here to view our Available Dogs page.](#)

Top 10 Reasons to Adopt a Black Lab!



There's something about a big shiny black dog that just appeals to me. Maybe it's because they appear to be somewhat mysterious and less readable in their facial expressions than a lighter coated dog. Perhaps I love the breeds that are dark coated-the Shepherds, Rotties, Dobermans and Black labs-big, loyal working dogs that demand attention by their mere presence. Or it may just be that no matter the breed-pure or mixed-my family always seemed to end up with a black dog! Whether we chose a pooch from the pound (we had several of those) or a stray found us (we had even more of this variety as my sisters and I regularly carried goodies to lure them home) they were invariably dark furred. I was lucky in hindsight to have learned at an early age that "black is beautiful."

Not so lucky are the big black dogs that find themselves stuck in shelters. They are, by all accounts, the first to be surrendered and the last to be adopted mainly because they are black. Instead of choosing a dog based on personality and good solid family fit, many folks unconsciously pass over



Realizing that young people can lend a unique viewpoint to adults on almost any topic, Brookline has ventured into an exciting new opportunity to further our mission of rescuing and rehoming needy Labs and Lab mixes. This pilot project entails Brookline's partnering with students from several Confirmation classes, who are required to complete community service hours, to help cover fundraising and public awareness events that Brookline attends on a regular basis. Depending upon the age of student, a student can be accompanied to events by his/her parent or guardian or attend the events on their own.

The most recent events including holiday gift wrapping at Borders, pictures with Santa at PetSmart and movie premieres of Marley and Me and Hotel for Dogs gave these students the opportunity to both handle and introduce adoptable dogs to the public. Becoming knowledgeable in Brookline procedures for adoption and the need for rescue in general became a top priority for our "confirmation kids," and they take their role as Brookline ambassadors very seriously.

By the domino effect of these youngsters talking to school friends and mingling with adults at our table events, this program has steadily grown. In our next newsletter meet

black dogs due to the harboring of negative superstitions about them, or they look big and scary and may have a bad reputation. They also do not photograph or "show" very well in a poorly lit kennel. Let's take a page from David Letterman's bag of comedy tricks and ponder the upside of adopting a big black dog.

10. They are so easy to find in a snowstorm!

9. If you like to wear jeans a lot, black fur doesn't really show up as much as yellow!

8. Black and white photography is so much fun!

7. Their coats are so shiny and their teeth look whiter on a black background!

6. You and your new black lab will make a great fashion statement, as all the new hot collars look great on a black background!

5. You never know if they've been rolling in mud!

4. Makes a game of hide and seek in the dark, oh so challenging!

3. More likely to scare off a bad guy before they lick the intruder to death!

2. You look so chic and accessorize so easily with a black lab. They match that little black dress or black pants that go with everything!

1. Walking a black lab makes you look 10 lbs. thinner!

Reference-www.labs4rescue.com

By Cinnie Frith, BLRR Volunteer

Free Ways to Help Us!

When times are tight, you can still help Brookline help our labs! We recently mailed our annual fund appeal letter to our friends and supporters. If you missed it and would like to donate directly to Brookline, please visit our website www.BrooklineLabRescue.org and click on "donations."

Like many other non-profit organizations, Brookline feels the economic crunch more than ever. But through partnerships with the following companies and websites, you can help raise money for Brookline - without spending any extra money!

-Shop online, save gas money, and give back to Brookline by using www.igive.com. On igive, you can designate BLRR as your preferred cause and shop their 700+ online retailers.

-Search for a cause, with www.goodsearch.com. By using this search engine and entering "Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue," you are donating to BLRR. Make Goodsearch your search engine of choice - every penny counts!

-Shop at Pet Smart through a link on our website and a portion of the sale will be donated to us.

-We have partnerships with Acme, Genuardi's and Giant stores in the PA and NJ areas. Just by purchasing your family's groceries with gift cards through Brookline, you could be helping our beloved breed - check out our website for details.

-If there are upcoming birthdays in your family, check out Brookline's "Birthday Club" on our website for a great way for kids and adults to party

some of our youngest volunteers as they describe how a mandatory service project has become a lifelong passion to promote rescue as the BEST alternative to finding your next pet.
 - Karen Barry, BLRR Volunteer

for an amazing purpose!

Those are just a sample to peak your curiosity. Visit our "Free Ways to Help" page on our website - www.brooklinelabrescue.org/freehelp.html to learn more about these ideas, and other ways to donate to Brookline.

By Laura Bergan, BLRR Volunteer

Available Labs



Lola



Banoni



Kleo

Upcoming Events



Come and see us and perhaps meet one of our dogs

Bon Ton Store

February 20 and 26

noon to 2:00 pm
 456 N. Main Street, Doylestown, Pa.

Bon Ton Store

February 21; noon - 2:00 pm
February 26; 5:00 - 8:00 pm
February 27; 4:00 - 7:00 pm
 3300 Lehigh Street, Allentown Pa.

Cutter's Mill Pet Store

Saturday, February 22

11:00 am - 3:00 pm
 New Britain Village Square Shopping Center
 County Line Road and Route 202
 Chalfont, Pa.

Saturdays, February 28 & March 28

10:00 am to 2:00 pm
 10 Barclay Farms Shopping Center
 Route 70 East
 Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

11:00 am to 3:00 pm
 43 Paoli Plaza
 Paoli, PA 19362

PawsAbilities

March 14 - 15

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center
 Harrisburg, Pa.

Pawsabilities is a two-day community celebration of the ways dog can brighten our lives. Go to www.pawsabilities.net

The Reading Pet Expo

March 20 - 22

The Greater Reading Expo Center
 2525 N. 12th Street, Reading, Pa
www.horseandpetexpo.com



Jacob



Cody



Duke



Franklin

You can see a complete listing of BLRR Upcoming Event on our website. [Click here to see the most up-to-date event details and information.](#)

Fostering for the First Time



Last year at this time, if someone had asked me what I knew about foster care, I would have said, "Isn't that when people take in children who need homes. They nurture them, show them love and expose them to what living in a safe environment is like?" I would have been correct but little did I know there were people doing the same thing for animals too!!

I was made aware of the possibility of fostering when we were looking to adopt a dog. We knew we wanted a Labrador Retriever and our search led us to Brookline. We went through the adoption process. We told the Brookline volunteer what we wanted in a dog. They made us aware of several dogs that fit our criteria but yet we still waited. To us this was a lifetime commitment. We wanted to make sure we made the correct decision!!! Then last February we got an email from Brookline saying they had a puppy mill Mommy that was just rescued from being "put down" and it was at a kennel till someone could take her into their home to "foster her." Would we be interested? We could get to know her and if we didn't think she was right for us, we could do a write-up and put her on the Brookline website for adoption. Basically it was a "win-win" situation. We had a chance to really get to know this dog and this poor dog would be in a warm home environment, out of the kennel. We took the leap and decided to foster her.

From the moment we saw a picture of our first foster, Sandy, we were "smitten kittens." There was something in her eyes that said, "Please give me a chance." Because she was/is a puppy mill dog, we had a lot to learn. Puppy mill dogs lack that socialization that most dogs experience in life so everyday things we take for granted can be challenging experiences for them. Brookline and their volunteers were there for us all the way answering our multitude of questions. We never felt like we were alone with our decision.



It didn't take us long to realize Sandy belonged with us. We contacted Brookline to let them know about our decision. We adopted her and it has been such a wonderful year!!! We are so proud of all the milestones she has accomplished. She is like a beautiful butterfly coming out of her cocoon and we feel very fortunate we are the ones who get to see this!!!

I was so impressed with all the loving, dedicated, caring, concerned people at Brookline Lab Rescue that I too, decided to become a volunteer. I look forward to possibly fostering again in the near future. It is such a rewarding experience.

ByCarolynn Urban, BLRR Volunteer



Molly

To learn more about the dogs pictured above, please go to our Available Labs page at www.BrooklineLabRescue.org

Denver's Story ~ A Success All-Around



On the Success Stories Page of the Brookline web site, we have a large collection of letters submitted by our adoptive families talking about their personal adoption experiences. But when we received a letter for our Success Stories Page from an owner who surrendered their Lab through us, it was a first. It is indeed a success for us when both the surrendering family and the adoptive family are so appreciative of our rescue's efforts to find the best match for a dog.

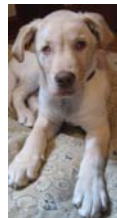
From Denver's Previous Loving Family:

I have loved dogs ever since I can remember and the thought of ever giving one away is something I would have never imagined. Well, that day came when I realized after our first child (and another on the way) that we could not give our Lab Denver the kind of life and attention he deserved and was used to pre-baby. I was absolutely thrilled to find an organization like Brookline that specialized in finding the RIGHT home and find a solution to our issue. It only took one week, and we found a couple that was a perfect fit -- grown children, a big heart and a younger dog that was looking for a big brother companion. It has been over a month since Denver found a new home and we miss him terribly, but realize that sometimes you have to look beyond your own emotions and attachment and do what's right for your dog. Thank you to the volunteer who worked with us and Brookline on behalf of Denver and our family...

From Denver's New Loving Family...

To all the volunteers at Brookline: We want you all to know what a great experience this has been adopting through your organization. We feel so blessed that we were matched with such a wonderful dog as Denver. What a perfect match for us and Ruffian! Thanks to the previous owners for choosing our home for Denver to come to. These dogs are best buddies and get along great! A special thank you to the volunteer who worked with us for her efforts and dedication. God bless you all.

Please Donate



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 here for more information on donating to BLRR.](#)

How to Become the Leader



Are you pulled down the street by your dog when on a walk? Do you pet your dog when they come up to you begging for attention with those cute eyes? Do you free feed your dog? Do you feed your dog out of a bowl? Does your dog bark or rush at the door when they hear the bell, a knock, or a new arrival enter the house? If you answered yes to any of

these questions, aspects of your relationship with your dog could use some further clarification. For those with dogs who rule the household, now is the time to start gaining respect.

Leadership is kind, direct, and purposeful. It is about clarifying the rules of our foreign human world for our pets and about controlling resources. When you begin a leadership program, your dog may at first be confused because it is new. Who has seen a puppy fight and put the brakes on when they first experience a leash and collar? If the program is instilled fairly and clearly, your life will become extremely peaceful and more enjoyable for you and your dog. I'm sure that everyone loves their dog and is loved by their dog. By leading your dog you will also gain respect and connection. This is different from just being loved. This is about providing more than the basic essentials. Your dog needs physical stimulation, mental stimulation, and clear communication from their leader. This will give you not just love, but secure attachment.

For our human children, we control resources. We feed them at a specific time, in a specific place, and allow a specific amount. We drive with our kids buckled up safely in the back seat of the car. We make the child do homework first before allowing them to go outside to play with their friends. By doing all of these things, we are controlling food, space, and time. We must control resources. We control all of these aspects of our children's lives for their physical and psychological well-being. We do for humans and dogs do for their pack, so we must do the same for the dogs in our pack.

Dominance

Dominance is a behavioral trait designed to ensure survival of the individual and the species. This is a completely natural behavior in the wild, which is mainly expressed by competition over resources and self-protection. In the wild, the leader guards food, mates, the den, space and belongings. The leaders initiate pack behaviors and activities such as a hunt or play and also stop the activity. Our pet dogs do not need this anymore. However some dogs still illicit this behavior if they think they are the leader. Often times our pet dogs will saunter up to us and drop a rope or ball in our laps. This is saying "play with me now." The dog is controlling play time, not the human.

Resource Guarding

Our pets will deem anything they wish as resources, such as food, objects, space, and certain people. Our pets may feel the need to protect themselves against certain gestures, body pressure, or petting in an uncomfortable area such as the top of the head.

A dog manifests its food possession in many ways. He may guard the food

when the owner tries to take it from him, he may guard the location of the food, and he may guard the food while he is eating. Some dogs even guard their own vomit!

A dog may guard any object he finds desirable or any object he thinks is his such as toys, balls, tissue box, socks, shoes, or bones. Again, it is anything the dog thinks is valuable.

A dog may guard a space such as a couch, crate, their bed, the owner's bed, or any other space they deem as theirs.

A dog may guard a specific pack member. Usually this is demonstrated over a person for whom they have fondness or another animal with whom they live.

Who's in charge?

Dogs express their leadership in many ways. Some, but not all, signals may include barking, whining, snapping, demanding affection, resisting grooming, disobeying, freezing, hard eye staring, eating very fast, closing the mouth, growling, snarling, or biting. Notice the clarity of their signals!

Why do they express things in this fashion? What is a dog saying when he bumps up against you and wants attention? What is he saying when he starts to growl? Why do our dogs disobey? Perhaps our dogs are fearful and therefore aggressive or seemingly defiant. More than likely, our dogs are confused, clueless to our human rules, and think they are the leader! Let's help our dogs understand that you are the leader by applying a very simple rule. **NOTHING IN LIFE IS FREE**

Dogs in the lead may act fine in traditional dog training settings but typically do not bring the good manners home. They obey about 70% of the time and only if they want to. They are disobedient around distractions or when the owner really needs them to obey. They usually ignore the owner.

The owner must start replacing the dog's behavior with something appropriate by utilizing reliable obedience. The dog must begin to learn that the owner is no longer a subordinate threat to their well-being. Powerful rewards should be paired with behaviors that the owner wishes to promote.

How to take the lead

The following are a few things that dogs need to live a healthy and happy life.

Control PLAY/OBJECTS - Put all toys away. Only pull the toys out when you are playing or after they have obeyed a command or done something pleasing to the owner. Tug only in a controlled fashion. The game begins when you say it begins and ends when you end it. Tug toys are only out when you are on the other end. Never release that toy and let your dog take it and run away with it.

Control FOOD - No free meals! Control the amount of time they have to eat making sure it is not still there for the dog to eat freely. Put down for 10 minutes and that's it. Also, feed when you want them to eat, not when they say it's time. Alter the time so they don't get on a routine which dogs pick up on very fast. If they don't eat, they don't eat!! Dogs eat intermittently in the wild and their domesticated relatives share the same physiological needs. Feed from the hand as a treat while you train. Make sure commands are sharp and quick before giving them a piece of food. Make them work for the food in interactive toys. In the wild, dogs spend about 98% of their time hunting. Therefore, the instinct to work for food is

natural and you should provide an outlet for this.

Control PETTING/AFFECTION - Provide only when deserved and make sure it's in certain spots. Know where your dog likes to be petted. Typically, dogs shy away from the top of the head pat. Try their chest, under the chin, behind the ears, or their side. Bottom line is know your dog. Stop gratuitous affection. Affection has three parts: no touching, no eye contact, no talking to.

Control HEIGHT/SPACE - Restrict dog's access to high places. Don't allow your eyes to be on the same level or lower than your dogs. Don't play on the floor or don't allow on furniture. Redirect behavior through obedience such as come, walk, place, etc. or block off the certain piece of furniture. Use leash so you can intervene without physical contact or doggie safe mouse traps. You decide where the dog sleeps, where it should lay down while you are eating, etc. Too many clients defend their decision when they make their dogs sleep in their crates. Don't defend yourselves. Be proud of yourselves for controlling your home and giving clarity to your dog! Navigating through tight spaces, including stairwells, doorways, and crowds, should be led by you and followed by your dog.

Control EXERCISE - All dogs need a different amount of exercise but it is your responsibility to provide enough for your dog. A tired dog is a good and happy dog! It's true! Also, walks become more stimulating when they are controlled, providing mental stimulation as well as physical. Heeling means walk next to you. It doesn't mean pull or sniff the fire hydrant or chew on mulch or pee. His job is to walk with you. It is up to you when you allow your dog to sniff along the walk.

Control DIET - A natural diet with no preservatives, good protein source, and free of allergens.

Control TIME - Control what you do at any given time. If it is time to lie down and be quiet, then that's what time it is. If it's time to play, then it's time to play. Use the dog's obedience such as their down stay or place stay to help control time. Using the crate is also very helpful, especially with puppies or dogs that are new to the household.

A dog needs all of these things. We also want our dogs to appreciate them. If he gets them wherever he wants, whenever he wants, he will learn to appreciate nothing.

Remember that nothing in life is free. Anything you control, you should be prepared and willing to deny. Dog must now work for a living. That's what dogs are bred to do, so they should be happy about it! Our pet dogs crave leadership and they want you as their leader.

By Kristine Stellato

Kristine Stellato is a certified trainer and owner of The Constant Canine, a dog-training business based in Malvern, Pa. For more information, visit www.theconstantcanine.com.

Take Time for Tooth Care

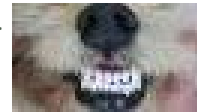
Dental health is very important for the overall health of dogs. Early signs of dental disease are bad breath and discolored teeth. If left untreated these symptoms of poor dental health can develop into periodontal disease or gingivitis. Plaque is composed of saliva, food particles, and bacteria and if not removed by daily brushing, it can form hard dental calculus, or tartar. The tartar



inflames the gums and allows bacterial organisms to grow and cause further inflammation. This inflammation causes swelling of the gum tissue that traps more bacteria below the gum line. The bacteria damage the attachment of the gums to the teeth and eventually lead to destruction of the bone and the tooth falls out. The infection can be absorbed directly into the blood stream and can be transported to the liver, kidneys, lungs, spine, and commonly the heart.

Prevention is the best cure for dental disease and dental home care is the most important aspect of regular dental care and may prevent costly dental cleanings. Brushing removes the daily accumulation of plaque from the teeth and most dogs will get used to having their teeth brushed. There are several brands of dog toothbrushes and toothpaste. Pay attention to the outside of the upper teeth. The toothbrush bristles should be placed at the gum margin where the teeth and gums meet at a 45 degree angle. The movement should be in an oval pattern. Be sure to gently place the bristle ends into the area around the base of the tooth as well as into the space between the teeth. Ten short back and forth motions should be completed, then the brush moved to a new location. Cover three to four teeth at a time. To be effective, teeth need to be brushed at least every other day.

Hard food will help remove plaque from teeth. Chew toys can help keep teeth clean but chewing on objects harder than teeth, like cow hooves, may lead to dental fractures.



Dental chews, rawhide, and dental bones can help keep teeth white and free of disease. Each dog is different so finding the right chew toys for your dog is important. Not every dog tolerates rawhides or chews them completely and some dogs are more destructive than others when it comes to other types of toys.

If you suspect dental disease, talk to your veterinarian about scheduling a professional dental cleaning. Many owners worry that their dog is too old or sick to undergo anesthesia for a dental cleaning. The goal of the dental cleaning is prevention of dental disease so as to avoid putting a sick dog under anesthesia to extract a diseased tooth. The frequency of professional cleaning depends on the dog and the degree of plaque and tartar accumulation. If you are able to brush your dog's teeth fewer cleanings will be needed.

by Melissa Resnick, Veterinarian, BLRR Volunteer

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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