



# The Retriever

Official Newsletter of the Labrador Education and Rescue Network

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**Greetings from L.E.A.R.N.! We wish all our friends Peace and Joy this holiday season!**

## Maggie's Story

When Maggie was first seen by her rescuer, she was living in a vacant field next to a subdivision near Indianapolis. It appeared that she had just delivered a litter of puppies... but the rescuers never found them. Coyotes had been seen in the area, and they had surely killed the litter. But poor Maggie found a substitute for her dead puppies: a stuffed toy carelessly left out by a child. This became her "baby." She always had her "baby" with her for comfort.

Two neighborhood ladies tried for months to make friends with Maggie, but she was too fearful of humans. After 6 months she still didn't let the women near her. As time went on, it became apparent that she was pregnant again. She had been seen with an American Eskimo, so the puppies were most likely Eskimo crosses. The two women made a shelter from bales of straw and as her time neared, Maggie began nesting in the shelter. One day one of the women cornered the terrified dog and literally dragged her to the car. It was the only way to help Maggie.

After a visit to the vet, the rescuer took Maggie home and helped her deliver her litter. Once the puppies were all weaned and placed in loving homes with spay/neuter contracts, Maggie faced another battle - heartworm treatment. The rescuer turned to LABMED for funding for the treatment of the heartworms.

By this time, Maggie had been taken into foster care by L.E.A.R.N.. She was transported to Madison, along with her stuffed toy she still carried around for comfort. She was painfully shy, and kept her tail tucked between her legs. She was so traumatized by her life experiences that her foster mom had to drag her outside in the beginning just to go potty!

Finally the perfect home for Maggie was located. Her new family is committed to helping her overcome her fears, and she is learning how to play and enjoy the company of humans. She follows her "mom" everywhere, and her tail no longer stays tucked between her legs. Instead, she wags it with such enthusiasm that her whole body wiggles! Despite the hardships she endured in her short life, Maggie is a gentle, sweet and loving girl. She was definitely worth rescuing, and L.E.A.R.N. is grateful to have played a role in another happy ending.



# Help L.E.A.R.N. by Shopping Online with iGive.com

We have some extremely exciting news! L.E.A.R.N. is now a registered cause with iGive.com! And just in time for the holiday shopping season!

www.iGive.com is an online charity mall. The Evanston, Illinois-based company's mission is to enable the economic power of individuals to benefit their chosen communities. The company enables consumers to shop at over 240 online merchants while directing up to 15 percent of every purchase to support their favorite causes.

iGive.com's network now delivers shopping opportunities for millions of consumers, donations to more than 11,000 worthy causes, and new customers for more than 230 merchants. How does the company do this? When registered users make purchases, iGive.com is paid sales commissions by merchants in the

iGive "mall" (over and above the charitable contribution percentage). Also, many merchants pay to advertise on the iGive.com Web site.

How can you help L.E.A.R.N. at no extra cost AND get your shopping done online at the same time? It's easy! Follow these simple steps:

1. Go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)
2. Enter your e-mail address and register as a user!
3. Choose L.E.A.R.N. as your cause. (Be sure to include the periods between the letters!)
4. Then, whenever you feel like shopping online, go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com), select a merchant in the igive "mall," and start spending! It's easy, fun, safe, and absolutely FREE!



## iGive.com Receives Good Housekeeping Web Site Certification iGive.com is First Charity Mall to Earn Certification

EVANSTON, Ill., May 10, 2000 - iGive.com, the e-Philanthropy pioneer and creator of the online charity shopping mall, recently received the Good Housekeeping Web Site Certification. The first e-Philanthropy organization to earn this distinction, iGive.com enables individuals to support their favorite causes while shopping online at hundreds of well-known merchants. There is no extra cost to shoppers or causes.

"Presenting iGive.com with this certification lets the public know that the organization's Web site offers privacy, quality, efficiency of delivery, and reliable return availability," said Pat Haegele, publisher of Good Housekeeping magazine. "Consumers can be confident that iGive.com is safe and easy to use."

Web sites eligible for review for the certification must be in good taste and be consistent with the editorial philosophy of Good Housekeeping magazine. Before receiving certification, iGive.com was scrutinized for site integrity, privacy, customer service availability, and usefulness of the information and products provided.

iGive.com directs up to 33 percent (depending on the merchant) of a shopper's purchase to his or her selected cause. In addition, iGive.com is the only charity mall that donates \$10 to every first-time shopper's favorite cause.

"Receiving the Good Housekeeping Web Site Certification reinforces iGive.com's mission to provide a reliable, valuable and easy-to-use tool to help individuals support their favorite causes while shopping," says Robert Grosshandler, founder and chief executive officer of iGive.com.

Jeff Roberts, executive director of Good Mews, a cause supported by iGive.com members, explained, "I am absolutely delighted that iGive.com has received this certification, as it helps validate the value the company provides to causes such as ours. The initial \$1,000 we raised for cats in need through iGive.com was unbelievably easy and simple." Good Mews is a no-kill, no-cage, non-profit cat shelter in Marietta, Georgia.

iGive.com is the Internet's first venture for turning online shopping into a vehicle for charitable giving. Users can support any cause they wish, especially those close to their homes and hearts. They can also track, directly on the site, their individual donations to their causes and the total amount their causes have raised. The site also offers shopper a choice of more online merchants than any other online charity mall. Since its debut three years ago, iGive.com has raised more than \$780,000 for thousands of nonprofit organizations and worthy causes, ranging from animal shelters, school marching bands, medical research foundations to women's shelters and missing children's advocacy groups.



## L.E.A.R.N. Volunteers Attend WAR Conference

The Fall 2000 Wisconsin Animal Rescue Conference (WAR) was held on October 14 at the UW Vet School in Madison, WI. This conference was started a few years ago as a way for residents of Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota who participate in animal rescue to get together and share ideas and lend support.

Topics covered in this year's conference included anxiety disorder treatment in dogs, fundraising, early spay/neuter, and animal caregiver/rescuer burnout. Fourteen L.E.A.R.N. volunteers attended the conference and found the experience tremendously valuable.



## First L.E.A.R.N. Volunteer Training Session a Success!

Sunday afternoon, November 19, 2000, L.E.A.R.N. held its very first volunteer education and training session. The entire Board of Directors and over 25 volunteers attended the session, which was held at the Community Building in Johnstown Center, WI.



Topics discussed at the session included:

- A dog training demonstration and discussion by Dr. Rebecca Addington of Dog's Best Friend, Ltd. (See story below)
- A discussion about fundraising opportunities
- A review and discussion of the L.E.A.R.N. policies and procedures, such as temperament testing, expense reimbursement, fostering, home visits, etc.
- A vaccine training session so volunteers can begin administering vaccines themselves (except Rabies)



## Dr. Rebecca Addington on Dog Behavior and Training

At its first volunteer training session, L.E.A.R.N. had the distinction of hosting Dr. Rebecca Addington (Becky), of Dog's Best Friend, Ltd., a Madison-based training school/consulting business operated by Dr. Patricia McConnell. Becky works as a trainer at the school, and has her Ph.D. in Animal Behavior from UW-Madison.

Becky demonstrated training techniques based on the natural way dogs learn and the use of positive reinforcement. She also discussed issues concerning dominance in dogs and offered some pointers on handling common problems.

### ***How Dogs Learn***

Becky's training demonstration centered around the following three main points:

1. **Dogs are visual learners.** They respond best to non-verbal cues such as body language, postures, and hand signals.
2. **Dogs learn by doing things themselves.** For example, rather than forcing a dog into a down and saying "down," use a piece of food to draw the dog to the ground himself. When his elbows touch the floor say "down." He will learn the command faster by performing the behavior himself.
3. **Timing is critical.** Make sure you are reinforcing the correct behavior by offering the reward immediately after the desired behavior.

## ***Dominance in Dogs***

Sometimes people still have behavior issues with dogs that have gone through obedience training and know all their basic commands. To successfully manage these issues, Becky explained, we need to look at canine society, such as a wolf pack. Understanding how wolves behave in their pack provides clear insight into how our dogs behave with our families. The most important rule to understand in canine society is that in every group there is always a clear leader, or “alpha” figure. For companion dogs, this figure must ALWAYS be a human. It CANNOT be the dog. If the human does not clearly communicate his/her alpha status to the dog, a naturally dominant dog may try to assume the leadership position himself. That’s where dogs get themselves into trouble. According to Becky, the best thing you can do for your dog is to make sure he knows YOU are ALPHA!

How do you accomplish this? Becky taught us that in a wolf pack, the alpha figure enforces its position as leader by doing two things: 1.) Controlling resources, and 2.) Controlling space. Both of these things are accomplished by incorporating obedience into the dog’s daily routine. Make the dog work for what he wants.

### ***Controlling Resources***

What do we mean by this? Obviously, food is a resource. By controlling access to your dog’s food, you are the alpha. Make sure you ask the dog for a sit or a down before feeding him. Make sure he will accept you taking his food away from him while he’s eating.

The same goes for toys. YOU determine when playtime begins and ends. And it always ends with you controlling the toys.

When playing games with your dog, a few good ones are fetch and chase (where the dog chases you, not the other way around). Try not to wrestle or play tug-o-war with your dog. Not only does these games encourage growling and aggressive behavior, but he is stronger than you and you will ultimately lose. Alphas cannot lose. If you insist on playing tug-o-war with your dog, make sure that YOU end every game with a release command and YOU put the toy away.

### ***Controlling Space***

What does this mean? Observation of dogs in groups shows us that some dogs will “block” other dogs from going somewhere or getting something. They accomplish this by “body-blocking,” or sometimes even body-slammng each other. What they are doing is asserting their dominance by controlling space.

Humans can mimic this behavior to assert their own alpha status. We can do this by body-blocking the dog when he tries to rush out the door before us. We teach him to wait, blocking any attempt to go forward with our body. Once the dog defers to us by waiting, then we can release him and let him go. We are controlling space.

Jumping up is another way dogs try to control space. Again, when the dog jumps up, turn your body away from him or body-block him with your hip. NEVER use your knee. It’s dangerous for both you and the dog.

Finally, we all think it’s cute when our dog comes up to us and nuzzles our hand with his nose so we pet him. Well, guess what? The dog is controlling you. He is dictating to you to pet him. Keep in mind that in canine society, grooming/petting is a submissive behavior. The lesser dogs groom the alpha dog. This doesn’t mean you shouldn’t pet your dog, but rather that YOU decide when the dog shall be petted, not him. The next time your dog comes up to you demanding to be petted, simply ask him for a sit or a down first.

Control his resources, control his space, and make him work for what he wants. Incorporate obedience into your dog’s everyday life. That is the key to maintaining your role as alpha.

## ***For More Information***

If you have questions concerning dog training or dog behavior, you can contact Dog’s Best Friend, Ltd. For additional information and help. Dr. Patricia McConnell is the author of several acclaimed books, such as *How to be the Leader of the Pack...And have Your Dog Love You For It*, *Puppy Primer*, and *Beginning Family Dog Training*. These and more titles by Dr. McConnell are available through Dog’s Best Friend (608) 767-2435 or Amazon.com (part of the **iGive.com** mall)!



*Becky and her dog Kennedy offer L.E.A.R.N. training tips.*



## Enormous Thanks!

The following people have generously donated money, supplies, time, or services to our wonderful rescued Labradors. We could not make it without their help!

Algonquin State Bank, N.A., Algonquin, IL

Dr. Bohdan Rudawski, DVM and Staff - Fox Lake Animal Hospital, Fox Lake, IL

Dr. Dave Stehr, DVM and Staff- And Dogs, Too, Veterinary Clinic, Middleton WI

Dr. David Mentjes, DVM and Staff- Alta View Veterinary Clinic, Greenfield, WI

Dr. Joseph Frost, DVM and Staff- State Street Animal Clinic, Belvidere, IL

Dr. Leslee Ann Larson, DVM and Staff- New Glarus Veterinary Service, New Glarus, WI

Dr. Lloyd Shaw, DVM and Staff- Woodstock Veterinary Clinic, Woodstock, IL

Dr. Mike Petersen, DVM and Staff- Stoughton Veterinary Service, Stoughton, WI

Dr. Randy, DVM and Staff- Great Lakes Veterinary Clinic, Neenah, WI

Dr. Steve Cybella, DVM and Staff- Alta View Veterinary Clinic, Greenfield, WI

Dr. Rebecca Addington, PhD., Madison, WI

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Jean Petri, Naperville, IL

Judy Berg, Belvidere, IL

Judy Hayes

LABMED

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Patricia Walden, Chicago, IL

Penny Smith, Rockford, IL

Stu and Maureen McNames, Rockford, IL

Wendy Nelson

Winnebago Labrador Retriever Club

Wrightstown Veterinary Center, Wrightstown, WI

## We Need Your Help!

As we prepare to take in our 150<sup>th</sup> rescued Labrador, we keep finding more and more dogs that are in desperate need of expensive medical attention. This is placing a huge drain on our finances. As you begin your holiday season, please consider sending us a modest donation of \$10, \$25, or \$50. Don't forget, tax season is right around the corner, and all donations are tax-deductible. Thank you for your help!

Yes! I want to support the efforts of the Labrador Education and Rescue Network (L.E.A.R.N.) as they rescue stray, abandoned and unwanted Labrador Retrievers and place them in permanent adoptive homes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my check for:

- \$10.00
- \$25.00
- \$50.00
- Other Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



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