



# The Retriever

Labrador Education And Rescue Network's Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 2, July 2008

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*LEARN's mission is to assist in the rescue of unwanted Labrador Retrievers by placing them in homes through fostering, adoption and referral. In addition, we strive to provide public education regarding Labrador Retrievers and to promote responsible ownership and the humane treatment of all dogs.*

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## The Story of Beothuk

by Lisa Genson

Beothuk, "Tuk," was born about 8 years ago in Michigan. A Wisconsin family purchased him as a puppy. His name derives from an extinct Indian tribe of Newfoundland and Labrador.

After a few years, Tuk's family decided that they could not give him the care and attention that he needed, and their veterinarian helped them find a new home for him. The new family kept Tuk for several years and made the hard decision to surrender him to their veterinarian after he fractured one of his back legs in September 2007. The family could not afford the cost of the surgery, so they felt that re-homing Tuk was the best alternative. A Tech at the Vet Clinic contacted LEARN in October 2007, and LEARN rescued Tuk and paid for the medical care required to fix his leg.

Tuk joined my family October 13, 2007, as our foster Labrador. Two weeks later, Tuk's surgeon, Dr. John Silbernagel, implanted a surgical plate. Discharge orders included 8-10 weeks of crate rest and a sling to assist with walking.

After clearance from Dr. Silbernagel, in January we began the arduous journey of rehabilitation. Tuk was anxious to get started. We began with slow and short leash walks while using a sling for support. With each subsequent re-check, we were allowed to increase Tuk's walk time. After a month, he was up to 20 minute leash walks and practicing stairs. What a great day it was when Tuk received the "okay" to walk as often and as long as he wanted!



In March 2008, Tuk experienced a minor setback when Dr. Silbernagel determined Tuk's leg has healed so well that the implant was bothering him and needed to be removed. Implant removed, Tuk began another 4 weeks of rehabilitation. This time, only hours after surgery, Tuk stood on all 4 legs again! It was sight to behold. Within days, he began using his repaired leg almost 100%. Four weeks later, Tuk did his first tennis ball retrieve since coming into foster. Tuk ran to the ball and brought it back to me for more. We increased from one retrieve that day to 2 the next day; then 3, and so on, as the days progressed, to build up his leg and stamina. All of these steps were vital to Tuk's success, and he proved over and over that he was up to the challenge. Now fully healed, Tuk has no restrictions in his activities.

Despite all of these challenges, Tuk exudes a happy aura with an always wagging tail. First in line for kisses and treats, he loves to be the center of attention. He's an active boy, so confinement during the healing process was tough on him. Tuk enjoys the simple things in life like dead worms on the road,

crumbs that fall to the floor, sitting by your side, and helping in the garden. Open a car door, and you've got yourself a doggie co-pilot.

Tuk asked me to let everyone know that he may be eight years old, but he is a puppy at heart. He hopes that a great person or family will soon open their hearts and their home to him. He offers that home years of unconditional love and companionship.

*Tuk thanks everyone who helped with his recovery, especially LEARN for recognizing his potential and for paying the bills, Dr. Frame and his staff at Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic, and all of the folks at*

*Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Care in Madison, especially the awesome Dr. Silbernagel.*

*Please contact LEARN if you'd like to meet Tuk. He has staff reading his mail and taking his calls 24/7.*

*Of LEARN's approved adopters, 80 to 90% want to adopt a Lab five years or younger. That means only 10 to 20% consider dogs over 5 years. We hope this story will encourage more people to consider adopting a Lab over age five. Adopting an adult or senior dog typically results in an especially appreciative dog and unique bond with a dog who knows the ropes. †*

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## Email to LEARN –Adopters seek Senior:

“We definitely had our reservations about adopting an older dog but our soft spot for them is greater than our hesitation. The experience of watching and supporting our previous dog from puppyhood to an "old man" was difficult but rewarding in ways we never imagined. Some of our most tender and most memorable moments with our dog happened when he was a senior. There is

something remarkably wonderful in the personality quirks of older dogs. They transform into such quiet and almost reflective souls. So different from the wild Labbies they once were. It would have been absolutely heartbreaking to have had to surrender our dog after seven years. I would have wanted people like us to adopt our dog if that had been the case . . .” (February, 2008)

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**LEARN Tips...** compiled from questions adopters have asked and the experience of LEARN volunteers.

**1. Keep your buddy safe.** Always supervise your dog when he/she is chewing on a rawhide. Choking is a huge risk, even for dogs who aren't passionate chewers. Do not give your dog rawhide bones or anything that can break into small hard pieces when he/she is unsupervised.

**2. Does your dog bark too much at activities outside or feel lonely when left alone?** Try leaving a radio or TV on when you leave the house. It keeps them company and drowns out outside noises. Also, be sure to exercise your dog before leaving, and try leaving an interactive toy to occupy them, like Squirrel Dude or Chuckle (Premier's Busy Buddy line).

**3. Considering sunscreen or insect repellent for your buddy?** Avoid using sunscreens or insect repellents not labeled specifically for use on animals. Some ingredients, like DEET, can cause problems. A great safe option for protecting dogs from insects: Neem Tree Farms' Sprout's Spray at [www.dancingbeeacres.com](http://www.dancingbeeacres.com) in "pet" (Inquire about their Neem Bark Powder, too. Avoid Neem products if you have cats!)

**4. Want a companion for those trips around town?** Wait until the weather is cooler. Never leave your dog in an unattended vehicle on a warm or hot day. Even on a warm day and with the windows open, a parked car can quickly become a furnace and cause heat stroke or death in a dog.

**5. Timing your dog's exercise:** Early morning or evening walks are best in hot, humid weather. Remember your dog, too, can suffer from heat exhaustion or worse, heatstroke. Canines depend on their humans to exercise good judgment.

**6. Does your dog love to swim?** Watch out for the blue-green algae blooms. It's toxic! Some dogs have become very sick; others have died after swimming in water with blue-green algae.

**7. Does your dog love to go on car rides with you?** Be sure not to open your windows too far. Dogs can and will jump out of moving vehicles! Also, don't let your dog hang his/her head out the window. The wind, dust and dirt can damage your dog's eyes.

**Thinking About Doggie Daycare?** by Giene Wicker, Owner, The Dog Den, LLC

Would your friends describe your dog as “hyper”? Is your dog the type that thinks a 30-minute walk is a “warm-up”? Could your dog continue to fetch the ball even after your arm became too tired? Then your dog might be a good candidate for doggie daycare!

Doggie daycare started in the US about 15 years ago, to provide a service to dog owners that for one reason or another didn't want to leave their canine companions home alone all day. Some dogs have separation anxiety and simply cannot be left alone. Some get too bored and become destructive. Some owners love their dogs, but just don't have the time (or energy!) to give them the exercise they require on a daily basis. That is where doggie daycare comes in! Doggie daycares provide your dog with exercise, stimulation and hopefully a little training also.

*What to expect from your dog:*

After a day at doggie daycare your dog should come home dog-tired! When he first starts going to daycare, you can also expect his muscles and paw-pads to be a little sore. Dogs should not go to daycare every day of the week, but rather every other day, or 2-3 days per week. It is best to take your dogs to daycare on the same days each week, that way they will most likely be with the same staff, and they will be seeing the same group of dogs (yes, dogs build friendships too!). Your dog might come home a little dirty (some slobber more than others!), will probably be thirsty and will

definitely be tired for a long time! “A tired dog is a good dog!”

*What to expect from a doggie daycare:*

A good doggie daycare should know your dog by name when they see him. They should know his typical behaviors so well that they are able to notice when something is wrong. The staff should be skilled in dog language and behavior, as well as dog training. A good doggie daycare should also separate dogs into groups, either by size, age, or play-types. You should be able to come and visit the daycare during their open hours without making an appointment. You should also be able to watch the dogs playing and how the staff interacts with them.

Not all dogs are right for doggie daycare. Daycare dogs should be extremely dog friendly and people friendly. They need to be non-aggressive and non-possessive. Daycare is not intended to teach your dog socialization skills. This is something they need to work on and have perfected before they enter a daycare situation. They need to be physically healthy enough to run around all day, and mentally social enough to tolerate all the different personalities and play-types of the different dogs!

Owners that take their dogs to a good daycare wouldn't change it for the world! They love the enrichment their dog gets and appreciate the relaxing time they get to spend with their dogs at the end of a busy work day.



Giene Wicker is the owner of The Dog Den, LLC. The Dog Den provides positive, structured doggie daycare on Madison's West Side. Giene is also a dog trainer and behavior specialist in Southern Wisconsin. She divides her time between teaching group classes and private lessons – Specializing in aggression cases. Giene also works with rescue groups and shelters, helping to evaluate dogs for adoption, developing Canine Aggression Management programs, Harmony In A Multi-Dog Household programs, and educating volunteers and staff on dog language and behaviors. She is the Behavior Consultant for a service dog organization and a number of rescue groups. She is also an Instructor with the American Red Cross in Pet CPR and First Aid.

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***Stay Happy and Healthy—Help Dogs Avoid Toxins and Pesticides***

Did you know that it is against federal law to claim that pesticides are safe? Pesticides can cause a large range of adverse health effects on dogs, humans, and other animals. These effects include acute neurological toxicity, cancer, and dysfunction of the immune, endocrine, and reproductive systems.

Despite the dangers of pesticides and toxins, you can make simple and practical changes to help your dog, your children, and yourself. Healthier, viable options now exist for flea and tick prevention. “Green” cleaning and personal care products can help protect dogs and young children from a host of hazardous chemicals and other suspect chemicals whose effects have yet to be known. They will also help protect our fresh water. If you haven’t already eliminated toxins and pesticides from your home and yard, consider the following:

Earlier this year, USA Today reported that the Washington D.C.–based Environmental Working Group found much higher levels of chemical exposure in dogs and cats than in humans. The analysis uncovered . . . “levels of brominated flame retardants (used in furniture, fabrics and electronics) in cats 23 times higher than in humans, and mercury levels (likely from fish in pet foods) five times higher. In dogs, levels of perfluorinated chemicals (from stain- and grease-proof coatings) were 2.4 times higher than in people. Overall, 35 chemicals in dogs and 46 in cats were found.” These researchers, using blood and urine samples from 35 dogs and 37 cats at

Hanover Animal Hospital in Mechanicsville, VA, want to determine how widespread the contamination it and how connected it might be to adverse health problems. If dogs or cats eat only one type of food, toxins could be concentrated. Also, pets are close to the ground where chemicals and pesticides concentrate. They chew toys which can expose them to plastics. “There’s a 20-year body of scientific literature showing that pets can be sentinels for human problems,” so the findings give cause for serious concern.

The ASPCA ([www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)) lists foods and common hazards to keep your dog safe. Please contact your vet or poison control immediately if you suspect your dog may have ingested something hazardous.

### RESOURCES

\*\*Please see <http://www.nrdc.org/health/effects/npets.asp> for “Pet Products May Harm Pets and Humans” an excellent article about pet pesticides, their dangers to pets and their people due to organophosphates, and what you can do to keep everyone safe.

\*\*For a list of the 5 most dangerous chemicals in the home and what you can do, see <http://www.nrdc.org/health/home/fchems.asp>.

\*\*For environmentally friendly household cleaning products, see how different products rate at <http://www.greenhome.com/info/magazine/001/whichwork.html>

DO NOT feed your dog :	Common Household Hazards	Warm Weather Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcoholic beverages</li> <li>• Avocado</li> <li>• Chocolate (all forms)</li> <li>• Coffee (all forms)</li> <li>• Fatty foods</li> <li>• Macadamia nuts</li> <li>• Moldy or spoiled foods</li> <li>• Onions, onion powder</li> <li>• Raisins and grapes</li> <li>• Salt</li> <li>• Yeast dough</li> <li>• Garlic</li> <li>• Xylitol-sweetened products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fabric softener sheets</li> <li>• Mothballs</li> <li>• Post-1982 pennies (due to high concentration of zinc)</li> <li>• Christmas tree water (may contain fertilizers and bacteria, which, if ingested, can upset the stomach.</li> <li>• Electrical cords</li> <li>• Ribbons or tinsel (can become lodged in the intestines and cause obstruction —most often occurs with kittens!)</li> <li>• Batteries</li> <li>• Glass ornaments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue-green algae in ponds</li> <li>• Citronella candles</li> <li>• Cocoa mulch</li> <li>• Compost piles Fertilizers</li> <li>• Flea products</li> <li>• Some outdoor plants/plant bulbs</li> <li>• Animal toxins—toads, insects, spiders, snakes and scorpions</li> <li>• Swimming-pool treatment supplies</li> <li>• Fly baits containing methomyl</li> <li>• Slug and snail baits containing metaldehyde</li> </ul>

## *Genevieve and Indy Help Keep Dogs Safe*



Genevieve Lampert of La Grange Park, IL, (and human sister to LEARN alumna Indy) have been helping to keep dogs safe—she raises funds to help purchase protective vests for police dogs. K-9 officers often enter the most dangerous of situations with the charter of protecting their human at any cost.

As of February, Genevieve raised enough money for three dogs to receive vests. She collects used printer cartridges, distributes donation canisters to local stores, assists her mother with her dog-walking business, and makes and sells dog treats. At her 9<sup>th</sup> birthday last year, she asked her friends to bring a donation instead of a birthday gift. Illinois-Vest-A-Dog handles the donations and oversees accounts established by donors until the amount needed is raised. Then, a benefactor for a vest is found. Over 200 dogs have been vested to date! On [www.ivistadog.org](http://www.ivistadog.org), the Illinois-Vest-A-Dog website, K-9 Ingo's Blog entry for March 13, 2008 reads: "Wow! Little teeny weeny Genevieve, the coolest kid I've seen in a long time, just raised enough money to get another vest! She's a lot like the Energizer Bunny. She just keeps going and going! I'll keep you posted on her events. She's just way too cool!"



In February, Indy made her media debut on ABC channel 7 news as part of a church's community outreach that donated pet oxygen masks to local fire departments to assist in resuscitating animals caught in fires. Genevieve thinks that Indy is ready for K-9 duty!

(Sources: *La Grange Park Suburban Life*, August, 2007; ABClocal.com for WLS Chicago; [www.ivistadog.org](http://www.ivistadog.org); Mimi Lampert)

Top: Genevieve receives an honorary badge for her community service from Police Chief Dan McCullum (photo: *La Grange Park Suburban Life*) Above: LEARN alum Indy demonstrates an oxygen mask on ABC news.

**Huge thanks** to Kaitlyn (almost 9) and Kaleigh (6) Freimuth who assembled months worth of adoption packets for LEARN. We're well-prepared to assist future adopters seeking a new pal and to educate them about LEARN's commitment to rescued Labs and their new homes.



## Merle's Door—A "Must" Read

Ted Kerasote's *Merle's Door* is a book that people with no time make time to read. Not only a superbly and humorously told story about a man and the stray Lab who finds him on a outdoor adventure, *Merle's Door* explains much about dog behavior through a relationship that is a partnership. Merle and Ted live in mountainous Kelly, Montana, with very different safety risks than suburban or urban settings present: Merle's environment and his human allow him to develop into an adult dog with refreshing freedom. The insights from the duo's partnership explain much about dogs and humans together and how both learn about each other. In addition to many outdoor experiences, Merle expects his favorite radio program at a set time, loves to sing along with the Halleluiahs Chorus, and has an interesting social life. No human can read this book with out laughing loudly and learning much. A memorably great story that's available in paperback now and also on audio CD. Compassionate and outrageously funny.

**Critical Reminder to Adopters! Please update your address and phone number with LEARN. If your dog is lost, our network of volunteers across IL and WI along with other organizations we work with can help reunite you and your dog. A LEARN tag stays with all alums for life and that tag number and/or microchip, combined with current adopter info, has enabled several Labs to be reunited safely with their families.**

## *My Foster Dog* -- Author Unknown

My foster dog stinks to high heaven.  
I don't know for sure what breed he is.  
His eyes are blank and hard.  
He won't let me pet him and growls when I reach for him.  
He has ragged scars and crusty sores on his skin.  
His nails are long and his teeth, which he showed me, are stained.  
I sigh.  
I drove two hours for this.

I carefully maneuver him so that I can stuff him in the crate.  
Then I heft the crate and put it in the car.  
I am going home with my new foster dog.  
At home I leave him in the crate till all the other dogs are in the yard.  
I get him out of the crate and ask him if he wants "outside."  
As I lead him to the door he hikes his leg on the wall and shows me his stained teeth again.  
When we come in, he goes to the crate because that's the only safe place he sees.  
I offer him food but he won't eat it if I look at him, so I turn my back.  
When I come back, the food is gone.  
I ask again about "outside."  
When we come back, I pat him before I let him in the crate, he jerks away and runs into the crate to show me his teeth.

The next day I decide I can't stand the stink any longer.  
I lead him into the bath with cheese in my hands.  
His fear of me is not quite overcome by his longing for the cheese.  
And well he should fear me, for I will give him a bath.  
After an attempt or two to bail out, he is defeated and stands there.  
I have bathed four-legged bath squirts for more years than he has been alive.  
His only defense was a show of his stained teeth, that did not hold up to a face full of water.  
As I wash him, it is almost as if I wash not only the stink and dirt away but also some of the hardness.  
His eyes look full of sadness now.  
And he looks completely pitiful as only a soap-covered dog can.

I tell him that he will feel better when he is cleaned.  
After the soap, the towels are not too bad, so he lets me rub him dry.  
I take him outside.  
He runs for joy.  
The joy of not being in the tub, and the joy of being clean.  
I, the bath giver, am allowed to share the joy.  
He comes to me and lets me pet him.  
One week later I have a vet bill.  
His skin is healing.  
He likes for me to pet him.  
I think I know what color he will be when his hair grows in.  
I have found out he is terrified of other dogs.  
So I carefully introduce him to my mildest four-legged brat.  
It doesn't go well.

Two weeks later a new vet bill for an infection that was missed on the first visit.  
He plays with the other dogs.  
Three weeks later his coat shines, he has gained weight.  
He shows his clean teeth when his tongue lolls out after he plays chase in the yard with the gang.  
His eyes are soft and filled with life.  
He loves hugs and likes to show off his tricks, if you have the cheese.  
Someone called today and asked about him; they saw the picture I took the first week.  
They asked about his personality, his history, his breed.  
They asked if he was pretty.  
I asked them lots of questions.  
I checked up on them.  
I prayed.  
I said yes.

When they saw him the first time, they said he was the most beautiful dog they had ever seen.  
Six months later, I got a call from his new family.  
He is wonderful, smart, well-behaved, and very loving.  
How could someone not want him?  
I told them I didn't know.  
He is beautiful.  
They all are.

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## *LEARN Picnic—pictures worth thousands of words!*



*Water polo training . . . a ball for every canine*



*“No, the bones are really this way!”*



*Ultimate keep-away!*



*Longer laps in the pond*



*Belly-flop practice*

LEARN’s Volunteer Picnic was the place to be in June! Held at the site of Pawgust Fest, canines and humans enjoyed water, refreshments, fun & games, and the chance to see friends and meet in-person volunteers previously only known through email. Special thanks to Mitzi Heytow for hosting yet another great LEARN event.

**Like what you see? Join us for Pawgust Fest on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Please see page 10 for details.**

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**Would you like to “retrieve” *The Retriever* via email?** If so, please email [newsletter@Labadoption.org](mailto:newsletter@Labadoption.org) with "Mailing List" in the Subject line. To subscribe to our printed edition, please mail your name and address with a \$5 check to: LEARN, P.O Box 292, Cross Plains, WI 53528. Subscriptions are for a calendar year and are non-refundable. (We cannot pro-rate subscriptions.) For back issues, please visit [www.Labadoption.org](http://www.Labadoption.org).

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# ***Congrats to Labbies who found their new families!***

## **Prior to 2008**

Zeus--*Jim & Lisa Zoet*

## **January**

Hutch--*Kelley & Kristopher Rich*

Harley--*Marie Wolk*

Cosmo--*Sue Burnicks*

Goldie--*Connie & Lonnie*

*Poffenberger*

Tucker--*Mark & Catherine Gruen*

Allie--*Wayne & Susan Johnson*

Louie--*Mike & Terry Czarnecki*

Buddy--*Tom & Sheri DeKarske*

Lady --*Joanie Gaffney & Michael Chmiel*

Penny--*Charles & Darla Garlock*

Tucker--*Karl & Wendy Scheel*

Lennon--*Gary & Cory Entzinger*

Keller--*Terry & Sharon Alwin*

Honey--*Lynn Wilson*

## **February**

Chester--*John & Linda Goltz*

Mr. Ed--*Chris & Don Wallen*

Barney--*Katie Schmitz*

Dakota--*Chris & Lisa Duff*

Hershel--*Patrick Darby*

Hercules--*Stacy Baun & Nate Amble*

Hogan--*Steve & Susanne Lodes*

Bruno--*Terry & Pat Bridgman*

Elmo--*Dana & Jennifer Smith*

## **March**

Sammy--*Erin Pinkerton & Andy Lutz*

Coco--*Andy & Kerry Heistad*

Sadie--*Joshua & Amy Mock*

Sundance--*Russell & Valerie Kien*

Sonny--*Daniel Foster*

Buddy--*Judy Kopp*

Meadow--*Matt & Megan Skelly*

Daphne--*Patrick & Carol Haverty*

Mitchell--*Shannon & Dee Chapweski*

Emma--*Tracy & Laura Morland*

Maizie--*Shawn & Eileen McGinn*

Nova--*Scott & Tracey Schiferl*

Texas Rose--*Francis Farwell*

Yogi--*Philip & Jennifer Beu*

## **April**

Sabrina--*Lane White & Kristen*

*Vandewater*

Orvis--*Bruce & Linda Jahnke*

Jake--*Joey & Tim Torkelson*

Abbey--*Kara Hansen & Blake Thome*

Rosie--*Scott Neumann*

Dakota--*Colleen & Dave Whittier*

Riley--*Nicole Totoni*

Archie--*Gene & Vicky Kussman*

Mabel--*Mitzi Heytow*

Morgan--*Chuck & Donna Rohloff*

## **May**

Cooper--*Lois & Tim Harrison*

Luke--*Patrick & Renee Meloy*

Dominic--*Amanda & Lindsay Miller*

Peanut--*Dave & Connie Coady*

Jake--*Sue & Richard Pomerantz*

Ginger--*Charles & Robin Huttar*

Claire--*Daniel & Sue Brown*

Mia--*Pat Martin*

Bear--*Karla Stafford*

Toby--*Jeffery Skaipe*

Sandy--*Nick Tomaro & Blyth Meier*

Snooper--*Scott & Kara Pelowski*

Wade--*Betty Jarvi*

Izzy--*Steve Smith*

Tess--*Eric & Erica Gillhouse*

Storm--*Casey Meyers*

Eddie--*Don & Pam Richter*

Bailey--*Sue Gross*

Cleo--*Gil & Alicia Restrepo*

## **June**

Clarence--*Brian & Eren Kupczyk*

Lilly--*Rhonda Paulson*

Dakota--*James Newton*

Favre--*Jane Ottow & Megan Ilse*

Tiger--*Lisa Peliggi*

Wally--*Dale & Amy Elleson*

Maxwell--*Brian Farrell*

Grady--*Mitzi Heytow*

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***Enormous Thanks!*** The following people generously donated money, supplies, or services to help our rescued Labs. Without your help, these Labs wouldn't be alive today.

Anonymous, in memory of

Norton & Codi

Jane Baudelaire

Robert & Stacy Baumeister

Lisa Beckers

Diane Benda

Brian & Michelle Benko

Paul & Mary Benson

Eric & Julie Bills

Gina Connor

Michael Connor

J. C. Corey

Randy Coutre'

Chester & Susan Cusick

Harry J. Dahl

Fulton County Humane Society

Eric & Ellen Goodman

Julie Grosso

John Hanrahan

Justin & Julie Harris

Kerry & Andy Heistad

J.B. Henriques

Mitzi Heytow

Georgene Hrdlicka

Heather Hughes

Bruce & Linda Jahnke

Linda Jupp

Carol Kaminski

Donna Karolewicz

Katrina Knafel

Marcia Lockwood

Marinel Mateo

Paul & Linda Merkel

Michael Midona

Janet Mittelstaedt

Kenneth Myszka

Rebecca Proctor

Marsha Rather

Steve & Mary Rindo

Charles Roloff

Dan Schroeder

Shannon Steffen

Roundy's Supermarkets

Amy Schuett

Gretta Signore

Gary & Anne Slawny

Nick & Blyth Tomaro

Patricia Triola

Charles & Myrna Wernick

**LEARN Volunteers Inspire . . .** This column introduces LEARN's volunteers and tells what they do to save Labs and why. Our Labs have their own stories, and so do our volunteers who help them.



*Chase*

Lisa Genson first became involved with LEARN eight years ago. Her 14 year-old yellow female had died and she was looking for a way to honor her. "I came across LEARN and realized that helping other Labs would be the perfect way to accomplish that." And the rest is history! ☺

Lisa strives to stand up for those without a voice and for those who have been discarded. She would like to see each and every human being step up in some way and make a difference.

When Lisa joined LEARN she became active in fundraising, temperament testing, and some transporting. She has always been a special foster home, known affectionately by some as "chez Genson" because coming back in a next life as a dog at Lisa's would be a great life!

A few years ago one of Lisa's foster dogs suffered some health issues and needed to be euthanized.



*Rupert at nap time*

Lisa had worked harder than most of us can likely appreciate to bring this Lab out of his shell and set him on a path for a happy life. She then needed a break from LEARN responsibilities and time to heal and regroup.

Since she has offered her heart, her home, and her time again, there have been more lucky foster dogs. Lisa also volunteers at local events and has organized volunteers for Madison's annual Dog Fest.

Lisa is also a resident expert on home-prepared and raw diets, has helped Lily, her foster failure of many years, become a cancer survivor, investigates all sides of canine health issues thoroughly and thus continues to be a huge information resource for all volunteers. Labs can sense Lisa's big heart from miles away. Thanks for all you do, Lisa!

(above: just a few foster favorites)



*Mandy*

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## ***Our Labs Need Your Help!***

Many dogs desperately need our help, including expensive medical care that drains our funds. Donations are tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. LEARN and their Labs thank you!

I want to support the efforts of LEARN as they rescue homeless Labs and Lab mixes and place them in permanent adoptive homes.

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

For donations of \$50+, you may receive our printed newsletter. If you'd like to stretch your donation further by receiving our Newsletter by email, please include your email address here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please find my check for: \_\_\_\$25.00 \_\_\_\$50.00 \_\_\_\$100.00 \_\_\_Other Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to **LEARN, PO Box 164, Island Lake, IL 60042** or donate at [www.Labadoption.org](http://www.Labadoption.org) via **PayPal**.

# *Pawgust Fest is August 16<sup>th</sup>—Mark your Calendar!*



August 16<sup>th</sup>  
10 AM to 4 PM

25775 St Mary's Rd  
Libertyville, IL

\$10/person  
\$15/family

If you've attended previous Pawgust Fests, you know what a fun event this is for canines and humans! We invite everyone and their dogs (all breeds) to this year's Pawgust Fest!

As always, dogs can enjoy a pool and pond to swim in, lure coursing and just frolicking with other dogs. There will also be an animal communicator, pet photographer, doggie grooming services, dog massages, demos of dog training and agility, raffles, games, dog merchandise and more. Come, join us for this fun event . . . which is also a **great fundraiser for LEARN.**

For more information about Pawgust Fest, please visit the link on our website ([www.labadoption.org](http://www.labadoption.org)). For questions about Pawgust Fest, please **email us** at [pawgustfest@labadoption.org](mailto:pawgustfest@labadoption.org). Hope to see you there!

*Save October 11<sup>th</sup>! Laps for Labs comes to Rock Cut State Park, IL. Watch the website for news!*

## ***WANT TO HELP SAVE MORE LABS?***

LEARN needs foster homes to save more Labs! In a world of many problems, such as more Labs than rescues and shelters can save, you can make a tangible difference! Consider opening your home and your heart to a foster dog. Even fostering just once helps. It will mean a lot to the dog whose life you save!

Please visit LEARN's website for more info and an application:

[www.Labadoption.org/linkpages/HowToHelp/Fosters.htm](http://www.Labadoption.org/linkpages/HowToHelp/Fosters.htm) or contact Donna Spangler at [nortntrix@aol.com](mailto:nortntrix@aol.com) or call (847) 289-PETS (7387) and leave Donna a message. Thanks for considering it. 🐾



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