



The Retriever

Labrador Education and Rescue Network's Newsletter
Volume 11, Number 3, November, 2010

L.E.A.R.N.'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.

Buford's New Family: 100 Seniors and Caregivers



At 1 1/2 year old, Buford came to L.E.A.R.N. from Animal Control. His family had moved and left him at their empty and foreclosed house, from where he'd visit the neighbors for food.

Needless to say, Buford was more than grateful to arrive at his foster home where he enjoyed two other dogs, regular meals and a cozy bed. He earned the name, "Mr. Wiggle Butt," and foster parents Dan and Kim found him one of the calmest young dogs they'd ever fostered (they've fostered lots of Labs!).

Buford's forever home is now with 100 seniors at Pioneer Court Assisted Living. Tammy Bailey, Director of Admissions and Support Services, calls Buford "an absolute blessing at Pioneer Court" and says, "We ALL love him." Many compliment Buford on his temperament and excellent behavior,



Buford at Pioneer Court

but occasionally he is "naughty" and indulges in treats that residents have left unattended at his level which gives regular chuckles.

Buford has bonded with several staff members, residents and family members, and he enjoys the entire run of the facility except during mealtimes when he stays in the office area. Staff members take turns accompanying him outside. Buford quickly learned which residents keep a stash of dog treats and always makes his round to visit them. He also knows which residents give him the most attention.

Daily, Buford makes sure to visit one terminal resident and places his nose on her bed, "as if he's smiling at her and telling her it's all okay." Buford

also accompanies staff across the street to visit the nursing home Premier Rehab, where he is also greatly loved.

One resident, when touring, told Tammy that she wanted the room next to “Buford’s Office.” Tammy added, “that’s my office, and she was absolutely serious.” Buford has become Tammy’s business partner and attends nearly all meetings with her.

Tammy adds, “he is a perfect fit with us, and I couldn’t imagine a day there without him now!”

Great job, Buford! Many thanks to foster family Dan, Kim, Baxter and Sadie for giving Buford the opportunity to find and do such a great job. He will bring smiles to many faces and warm many, many hearts.



The Joys of Fostering (and Adopting) Seniors

In Loving Tribute to Chelsea Mae by Lisa Torrey

A little over three years ago, on a sunny, summer day, our first foster Lab for L.E.A.R.N. arrived. Chelsea Mae, a chocolate 10 year-old, immediately bonded with our extremely arthritic 12 year-old black Lab Max, and our Chelsey Belle, whom we had adopted from L.E.A.R.N. the previous year.



Left to right: Chelsey Belle, Ben, Astro, Chelsea Mae, and former foster Stormy, who was visiting for a week

We remember three things most about the day Chelsea Mae arrived. First, after meeting our two Labs, Chelsea Mae inspected the rest of her foster home, and once she found the front screen porch,

complete with warm spots of sun, Chels curled up for her first nap, as if she had found her special place. Except for the cold stretches of Wisconsin winter months when the porch is closed, the front screen porch would remain her favorite place to catch drops of sunshine and snooze (and snore). Second, beginning that very first night, Chelsea Mae took over Chelsey Belle’s role as Max’s nighttime guardian angel, awaking us to any trouble he might be having. From that first night onward to Max’s death two years later, those two girls took turns watching over our dear Max. Third, we remember Chelsea Mae did not want to be touched; in many places, her fur was thin or missing, and her skin as raw as red meat. It hurt her to be touched.

I should mention a fourth thing, integral to a joyful twist in Chelsea Mae’s story: from the day Chels arrived, my husband, Randall, kept reminding me that we would NOT be adopting her.

As a foster family, we first got Chels fully vetted and tried to find out what was causing the severe skin irritation. Fast forwarding through all the vet visits: with healthy food, no steroids, one simple allergy pill a day, and daily walks, Chelsea Mae blossomed into a soft-coated chocolate Teddy bear, who shyly—and

then not so shyly—began to ask for our touch. She made up her own games to make contact with us. One of her favorites was the morning wake-up call. Chels would tiptoe (not so quietly) to my side of the bed, and having already been awakened by her enthusiastic approach, I would pull the covers over my head. Chels would then snuggle her nose under the covers to touch my nose. Then, as if she thought this was the best fun of all, she would jump back and make her silly backwards bark, which seemed to be her way of laughing. Chelsea's complete joy at playing this game never diminished. Each morning, a new wake up call awaited! And I don't know who looked forward to it more, she or I.

To experience the joy a senior Lab expresses when she or he finally gets the chance to feel healthy, safe, and loved is one of the many blessings of fostering seniors. Chelsea Mae's gratitude seemed to have no end, and she showed us everyday in simple, clear ways how healthy and happy she felt. A walk was no longer just a walk, but a walk at a full trot with her tail wagging and head high in a respectful heel. And a meal was no longer just a meal, but a feast that needed to be celebrated with a happy dance. We were thrilled to see our first foster so healthy and happy—and ready to be adopted.

Then, we received a call letting us know that a potential adopter was interested in meeting Chelsea Mae. Well, I've never seen Randall make such a rapid reversal to his position about our not adopting Chels. "Why should she have to be the one to make another change at this point in her life?" he asked. "What if her allergies return?" *What if, what if, what if*, he sputtered. I simply printed out the adoption form, and we filled it out that same day. Another wonderful thing about seniors: they are so wise! Chelsea knew immediately that she was staying and went about rearranging the down comforter and four feather pillows to her satisfaction.

From that point on, Chelsea Mae became Den Mother to our pack and to the foster Labs who followed.

There was only one naughty eight-month-old pup to whom Chels objected, so we promised her, only seniors from that point onward.

Three years and three days after we adopted Chels, she suffered a sudden, massive seizure, from which she did not recover. The night before she died, Chels came to me in a dream, her soft chocolate face



Sweet Cal and Chels Belle

looking back at me over her shoulder. The night after she died, Chels appeared to Randall in a dream, running in a field with a pack of black Labradors, and we wondered if she and Max had found each other again.

Do our hearts break when they leave us? Of course they do. And sometimes it feels as if we humans will never recover. But to those who avoid fostering or adopting seniors because they think the heartbreak of saying good-bye will come too soon, I say that the heartbreak will come no matter what, and no matter what age, the dogs always leave us too soon.

In Chelsea Mae's memory, we adopted another 10 year-old senior, Liam. And now, this month, our new foster Lab has arrived, a 9 year-old senior and gentle, gentle soul named Calhoun. We think Chelsea Mae would approve.



"Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be."

--Robert Browning

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

L.E.A.R.N. needs foster homes to save more Labs! There are more Labs who need help than Rescues and Shelters can save. You can make a real difference! Consider being part of the solution. Consider opening your home and your heart to a foster dog. Even fostering once helps. It will mean a lot to the dog whose life you save!

L.E.A.R.N. also needs VOLUNTEERS for home visits, transportation, fund raising, and more. **Please join us!**

Please visit L.E.A.R.N.'s website for more info and an application:

www.Labadoption.org/linkpages/HowToHelp/Fosters.htm or contact Chris Wallen at chris4Labs@gmail.com or call (847) 289-PETS (7387) and leave Chris a message. Thanks for considering it. ☺

L.E.A.R.N. Tips...compiled from questions adopters have asked and experience of our volunteers.

- 1. Want to prolong your dog's life?** A Purina-funded study found that dogs live 2.8 years longer if they are kept at their ideal weight. These dogs also have a lower incidence of cancer, arthritis and diabetes. (See the article "Ideal Weight" at www.labadoption.org/education.)
- 2. Why teach your dog to stretch?** After periods of inactivity, it's important to have dogs stretch before any physical activity. It's easy to teach them to "stretch" on command. Dogs stretch naturally, after sleeping or laying down . . .and whenever your dog does, say the word "stretch." Soon, your dog will associate activity with word. Then you can ask them to "stretch" before they begin any physical activity--extra important to protect older dogs from injury.
- 3. Enjoy taking your dog to Dog Parks?** Dogs can get hookworms from the feces of infected dogs. Hookworms can live in the soil a long time before finding a suitable host which they do by either ingestion or passing right through a dog's skin. Hookworms can be fatal. They can be easily transmitted to humans. Discuss parasite/worm precautions--such as different heartworm preventatives that also prevent hook worms--with your vet. Ask your vet the pros and cons of keeping your dog on year-round heartworm preventative, which also prevents hookworm. Please be sure to pick up any "mines" your dog deposits.
- 4. Need to exercise your dog, but it's too cold?** Mental exercises can be as tiring as physical exercise. Inside activities/games and training sessions are a good way to exercise your dog when it's too cold for them to stay outside for very long. Other options: use Doggy Day Care; attend an Obedience or Agility Class; schedule play dates.
- 5. Ice on the sidewalk/driveway?** Salt can be very irritating to a dog's pads. Avoid using salt to melt your ice. Instead use one of the many ice melting products on the market that are pet friendly. Also, avoid walking your dog on sidewalks and roadways that have been salted or consider using dog boots.
- 6. Is your dog dressed for the weather?** If your dog has arthritis, diabetes or another condition that impairs their circulation, consider a doggy coat this winter. Seniors, as well as dogs with impaired circulation, may need help staying warm. Dogs with arthritis benefit from a doggy coat that covers both the shoulder and hip joints.
- 7. Does your dog have dry, flaky or itchy skin?** Winter's dry air outside and inside can dry your dog's skin. Try adding a supplement with Omega 3's and 6's. . . . Good sources of Omega 3s and 6s are Fish oil and Flax seed oil.



♥ Sponsor a Lab ♥

For that dog lover who's hard to shop for and has a heart, please consider sponsoring one of L.E.A.R.N.'s Labs in his or her honor. That special someone (or family) will receive an elegant certificate with the sponsored dog's name and photo.

This way, he or she will both receive and give the gift of life. Please email L.E.A.R.N. at learndogs@Labadoption.org for more information or call 847-289-PETS (7387). Purchasing a sponsorship is tax deductible.

Bringing Home a Buddy by Laura Farwell

We've been in-between dogs since Wally passed last May (L.E.A.R.N., 2000 alum). And we've been waiting to inherit Tessie, my father-in-law's very athletic, 10 1/2 year-old Lab (aka L.E.A.R.N. alum Texas Rose). She can fly through a hula-hoop off the end of a diving board and make a cannon-ball splash. And, since my father-in-law adopted her, open a frig. The problem with inheriting Tessie is that her arrival happens only after my father-in-law passes on. He has lived a rich, full life but is now extremely frail and ill with 24-hour care. Our 7 year-old son, Cody, is well aware of the circumstance so does not wish for Tessie to come soon.

My husband suggested we foster a dog from our local and excellent shelter here in Marquette, Michigan. (We used to live in Madison but now live on the shores of Lake Superior, so distance would present complications for fostering for L.E.A.R.N.)

Cody immediately insisted that we: ". . . foster the oldest dog at the shelter because the oldest dog needs our help and love most, since nobody wants old dogs. I don't care if the dog doesn't want to play with me. The dog's happiness matters more than that."

Who can argue with that logic, from a 7 year-old? So, in mid-October we brought home Buddy, a 10+ year-old black Lab mix. Think hot dog on top of a turbo-charged sports car chassis, with a good dose of Basset Hound and a ham-ish personality.

Buddy was too stressed to respond to humans, both when we brought him home and at the shelter. He spent days in his kennel and unavailable for adoption because he was too terrified for temperament testing. As I walked past him to walk other dogs, labeled available, Buddy's pot belly made me assume he was an expectant mother waiting to give birth.

After Buddy let the shelter temperament test him, and appreciating that this dog was in clear need of de-stressing, we decided to foster him. Buddy's age met Cody's criteria for a senior in need.

We fostered Buddy because his needs seemed the greatest, not because we felt special affinity towards him or planned on actually adopting him--a humanitarian act. Little did we know that it was part of a grander plot for him to adopt us.

On our way home from the shelter, Buddy very slowly began to change. We stopped at the beach with a 30' training leash. He expended tons but not nearly enough energy, bounding through the waves like a porpoise and racing up the beach as the epicenter of a sand storm. Back at the parking area, we learned he could fly: when he leaped over Cody, out of the car, and took off to the north, across and along the road. His sprint ended, a half mile away, where a dog being walked had too fragrant a scent for Buddy to ignore. I secured Buddy on the leash.

At home, Buddy urinated twice and defecated once on the same rug in the first two hours. Nerves, perhaps, or was he an outdoor dog? Nature's Miracle helped me stay calm. He defecated very frequently for the next two days (outside); the poor guy had been badly constipated. Soon he no longer looked expectant. Those early days he still seemed traumatized, and I didn't see him nap once.

I took him to the woods to run and to swim in the rivers, and he loved it. That became a daily ritual, and combined with a calm and quiet household, Buddy had begun to relax. He did, however, manage to escape three more times in that first week, but he eventually retrieved us, unharmed.

As each day went by, Buddy became calmer and more secure, and didn't resemble a frantic sausage anymore. The shelter called after a few weeks to let us know Buddy had a suitor: someone was interested in adopting him. This spurred a few hours of household panic, and happily resulted in us proudly joining the ranks of "foster failures."

While making Buddy's adoption official at the shelter, I read the sheet that his previous owners had filled out. (They moved and left him behind.) Basic words were misspelled, and by checking boxes they described Buddy as being aggressive, barking, jumping on people, growling, snapping, chewing, chasing cars and bikes, bad with children and babies, terrible in the car, no special talents. In short, this dog sounded like a project.

Our Buddy is not the dog described on that sheet; but we can imagine that Buddy may once have been fearful enough to be that dog. Initially, when we walked within a few feet of him in the house, he'd

jump up and move; sudden gestures caused him to cower. He thrives with positive reinforcement. We're helping him trim down so that he'll live a long life (see first Tip, page 4).

Fostering Buddy is simply one of many compelling examples of why fostering matters so much in the larger picture of animal rescue. He needed the chance to show his true character--and sense of humor. Otherwise, his angst in the kennel and paperwork would have hidden his real colors.

It simply doesn't feel like we have a "senior"--Buddy is FAST and 6-8 miles in the woods leave him happily energized--but we are thrilled that this senior chose us. He makes Cody gleeful with his dramatic but gentle games of fetch. Cody shows Buddy his school artwork and makes sure he's read stories, too. Buddy has instituted a dedicated quadruped couch. His signature stunt of "jumping-backwards-up-three-stairs-consecutively" is a hoot.

I must confess: I had aspired to adopt a much younger dog for Cody to grow up with and to keep Tessie youthful. I thought I knew what would be best. In this short time, Buddy has not only taught

me otherwise with his new-found zest for life and the joy he brings: Buddy has sold me on the senior dog concept. He doesn't even "get" or care that he's supposed to be a senior.

We know Buddy will welcome Tessie warmly and hope that Tessie will not teach him to open the frig.



Pretending to rest: the newly dedicated quadruped couch

Enormous Thanks!

The following people generously donated money, supplies, or services to help our rescued Labs. L.E.A.R.N. especially appreciates your generosity in these challenging economic times as you allow us to continue saving Labs!

Juliet Bartell	Melba Gustafson	Page's Healthy Paws
Mark Baumgardner	John Hanrahan	Cheryl Martin-Parra
Mary Beck	Andrew Heistad	Paul Pistorio
Paul S/Mary R Benson	Rhonda Hemming	DJ/HM Pollock, In honor of Mitzi
K.E./Kathy Boeger	Robert Hess	Susan Pomerantz
Jonathan/Diane Chappell	Tim/Michelle Higgins	Danette Puckett
Jan Cingatura, In thanks for	Daniel/Susan Hirschberg	Jerome/Marsha Rather
L.E.A.R.N. alum Jack, a cancer	Kari & Jay Homb	Mary Rindo
survivor	Georgene/Donald Hrdlicka	Chuck Roloff
Barbara Cnare	I give	Jillian Russell
Tainia Connell	Janis Kemper	Elizabeth Sabor
Gina/Shawn Connor	Katie's Canine Klubhouse	Jeanne Schuett
Michael/Dixie Connor	Edwin Kindig	Schuyler Co. Humane Society
James Corey	Laurie Baldwin Kontney	David/Patra Smith
Randy/Tracy Coutre	LABMED Inc	Josephine Soave
Randy Coutre	Sheryl/Gregory Lindmark	Ronald Soave
Michael/Katherine Cunningham	Carol Lockwood	Warren Somerfeld
Thomas Dekarske	Marcia Lockwood	Cheri Stockhausen
Marie Eichinger	Barbara Nagel	Mark/Elizabeth Swenson
Fur the Love of Dogs	Joe Nantz, In memory of Sierra	USBones.com
Neil Golden, In celebration of Mitzi	Natures Feed	Marsha Vaughn
Heytow hosting Pawgust Fest	Diane Newman	Vernon Hills Animal Hospital
GP Sprinkler Systems	Kelly Nicholas	Susan Wilson
Julie Grosso	Katherine Nitz	Dorothy Zeman

Congrats to Labbies who found their new families!

June 2010

Cosmo - *Babe Mirs*
Iris - *Carla McMullen*
Brandy - *Rosanna Ray*
Monty - *Barbara Cnare*

July

Layla - *Fred & Sarah Van Riet*
Jazzy - *Annette & Keith Sroga*
Muffin - *John & Luanne Schaefer*

August

Dakota - *Dan & Maggie McAuliffe*

Callyn - *Dorothy Vetovec*
Buford - *Pioneer Assisted Living*
Daphne - *Paula & Butch Erspamer*
Cooper - *Kim & Brian Harper*

September

KoKo - *LeAnn Rauter*
Grady - *Mitzi Heytow*
Morgan Waters - *Karen & John Ippen*

October

Gerri - *Chuck & Susan Schmidt*

Donut - *Brian Schultz*
Raven - *Tracy & John Burandt*
Finnigin - *Kim Merhar & Jeff Pecor*
Bella - *Michael & Mitzi Chappell*
Jimbo - *Charlotte Hall & Stuart Tentoni*
Bosley - *Jon & Kathy Eliason*



The Work of "Intake": Bringing Labs into L.E.A.R.N.

Babe Mirs and Kristin Richter-Toppe enabled this article through their significant contribution and dedicated work with the Intake Committee

Each day a team of L.E.A.R.N. volunteers fields calls and emails from shelters, vet offices other Rescues and owners who have Labradors that need new homes. One volunteer each month handles the voicemail and another does the email. The Intake Committee follows up on each request to surrender a Lab to L.E.A.R.N..

As Kristin explains, "It is very often an overwhelming, tireless and thankless job; [we] do it for the love of Labs."

She elaborates that L.E.A.R.N. frequently receives requests for placement of senior Labs. Those calls are very hard; these Labs have been devoted followers of their human, and now they no longer have a home. "In some cases it is easy to be angry with the surrendering owner, but in these situations we have to remember it is not about the people, it's about the Lab." However, in some cases we hear stories of home foreclosures; a Lab previously rehomed with a friend due to military service and now the family has a young child with asthma and allergies; and domestic abuse. These stories all happened in one week this September.

Babe recently fielded 10 calls in her local area. Of those, seven sought to surrender seniors. Even though

she promptly returned the calls, two of those seven were already "taken care of" (i.e., euthanized). Half of the people were "in a hurry" to get "rid" of their senior because of moving or divorce. "While few people move on a minute's notice, [they ask] 'when/how soon can you take him/her?' [with no regard for] the trauma the dog will experience. Most people will wait only a few days or, at best, a week to get 'rid' of the dog."

As Kristin reminds us, L.E.A.R.N. can only ever help as many Labradors as we have foster homes. If you have ever thought about fostering, fostering a senior is a great place to start. Their personalities are amazing...each one seasoned with their experiences.

* * * *

A few recent stories from the "trenches" of Intake:

--A man in his 60's was injured and could no longer support himself. He thus moved in with his daughter and her family, including a granddaughter severely allergic to dogs. The family had spent thousands trying to "remedy" the allergy and nothing worked; they had to re-home their own two dogs. The gentleman did not want to give up his 10 year-old dog and choked up talking about him. He said he would continue to pay for food and future expenses.

--An abuse case, displayed publically, was reported and is now under investigation with a local Animal

Control. (Despite how much we all love animals, according to the ASPCA, studies consistently indicate that *over 80%* of U.S. domestic violence cases have also involved animal abuse. See www.asPCA.org for more information.)

--A man has been laid off since last November. His wife left him and his two sons and took everything. With nothing left, the man needed to sell his house to move to an apartment with his sons. He asked everyone he knew to find a home for his 12 year-old Sampson. He planned to hide Sampson in the apartment, even if it meant eviction. He would continue to buy food for a foster home. *This story ended well. The man spoke about Sampson to anyone who would listen. A woman heard him talking about Sampson at a local Starbucks and said that she would happily take a Sampson. (Sampson had been on L.E.A.R.N.'s Intake list awaiting an open foster home.)*

* * * *

Babe: "I just picked up another senior to foster. An 8 year-old male . . . He's had two families so far . . . basic vet care, oblivious to the fact he is overweight and his back end is hurting him. Again, L.E.A.R.N. will get him healthy and get him the necessary veterinarian care and simple food supplements. . . . My new foster is lying all alone by the door wondering 'where in the world am I and why am I here?' This is a smart boy, a loving boy to the point that the previous owners let the baby crawl all over him, and he was happy as a clam. Once again, a senior who has at least 4-5 good years left has been surrendered by his family. . . . [How can we find people] to adopt our 8+ year-old perfectly trained, loyal, loving, sad eyed old boys and girls? The pain you will feel in your heart when their time is up, is never ever as painful as a cold table in the vet's office

with no family to cry for and celebrate them. Tonight, I will lay on the floor with my new foster boy to play and snuggle and assure him we will find him a forever loving home."

* * * *

The many happy and fun reasons to welcome a senior into your home:

- ★ Easy fosters: they come with manners, are very appreciative, and bring wisdom along.
- ★ Better sense of humor than younger dogs.
- ★ Deep eyes that mirror something much deeper.
- ★ "Senior" isn't in the canine vocabulary. Many don't know they are seniors and love walks, jogs, swims, fetching, and have good years yet to live.
- ★ Healthy for your dog. A new friend provides stimulus in ways that humans cannot.
- ★ Helps younger dog(s) with manners!
- ★ Gentle and not over-powering around young children.
- ★ Seniors are addictive. Try fostering one just once--it's ultra easy with the support of L.E.A.R.N.--and then you will understand.
- ★ Foster or adopt a senior and provide a role model for family and friends as to how seniors (including yourself someday) should be cared for!



From a recent email to all L.E.A.R.N. volunteers . . . [After introducing two new Labs, rescued from a shelter, now in foster] . . . "They are the lucky ones. We currently have several more that need to be rescued. L.E.A.R.N. receives many inquiries everyday from shelters and owners who are looking for help in re-homing labs. The only way we can help them is if we have open foster homes. Do you think that you might be able to open your home to a Lab so that they could join the lucky ones? Fostering has been one of the most rewarding, fun and challenging thing I have ever done. The feeling that you get when you know you have saved a Lab from a shelter or helped a family in need to re-home is the best. If you would like to discuss the details of fostering please contact me at chris4labs@gmail.com [or (847) 289-PETS (7387) and leave Chris a message]. Please consider fostering a Lab so that he or she can join the lucky ones."

Instant Love At Pawgust Fest!

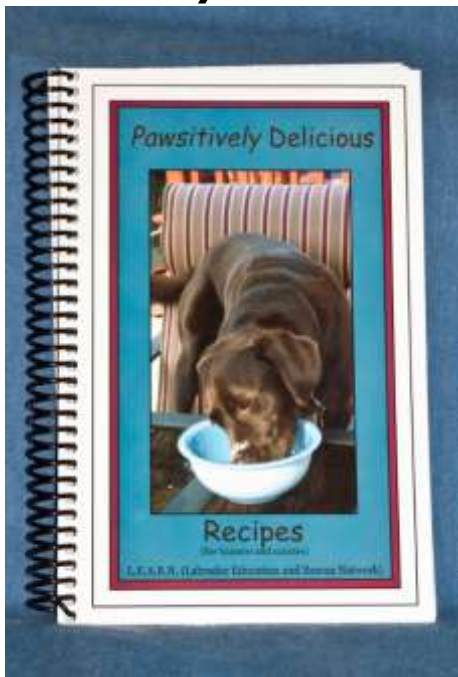


Mitzi Heytow hosts Pawgust Fest, L.E.A.R.N.'s largest annual fundraiser. This patron Saint of Senior Labs has six special senior souls, a pack whose paradise includes 25 beautiful acres with a pond and in-ground pool.

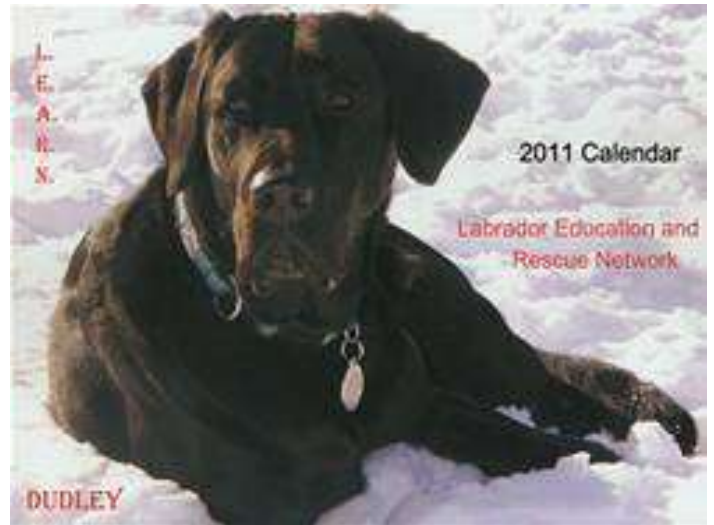
“To everyone who doesn't believe...it was instant love during Pawgust. I walked into a room near the pool and lay on the mattress. Grady Boy came over. Our eyes met, our hearts beat faster, and before one more moment passed, he went to the mattress and we hugged and hugged. And thus the sixth senior Lab joined my flock. I smiled at the heavens, spoke to the person who lives there, and said, ‘you did good real good!’ Since I am a senior senior, I love being surrounded by four legged me-s. We totally understand each other and love each other unconditionally. There are no throw-aways here. Hip Hip Hooray for the oldsters! And that's the end of my ‘you-wouldn't-believe’ story!”



Pawsitively Delicious



L.E.A.R.N.'s cookbook is now available! It includes many great recipes for humans and a special section just for canine treats! There are pictures of dogs on some dividers as well as dog-inspired sayings scattered throughout. Pawsitively Delicious would be a great addition to your kitchen and/or gift this holiday season. Pawsitively Delicious sells for just \$12 (plus \$3 for mailing).



L.E.A.R.N 2011 Calendars

Lab Lovers! Order your 2011 L.E.A.R.N calendars in time for the New Year. This season's calendar cover features our handsome boy, Dudley. Calendars are \$15.00 (includes shipping!)

All proceeds from our calendar and cookbook will be used to help save Labs. Both are available at LEARN events or by order via our website at www.labadoption.org. Thanks for your support!

FUNdraising Supports Community and Goes GREEN

For seven years, 4th and 5th grade students at North Cape Elementary School in Franksville, WI, and Washington Caldwell School in Waterford, WI, have helped L.E.A.R.N. bag gently used but clean tennis balls. Local tennis and fitness clubs donate the balls to L.E.A.R.N.. L.E.A.R.N. washes them; the students help bag them, and L.E.A.R.N. sells them at a bargain price. It's a WIN - WIN for L.E.A.R.N. and ball-loving dogs. L.E.A.R.N. sells 400 - 500 bags/year! L.E.A.R.N. is extremely grateful to the students and faculty at both schools for their continued support with this FUNdraiser. You may purchase bags of tennis balls at L.E.A.R.N. events. Please visit L.E.A.R.N.'s website at www.labadoption.org for a list of these events and for other "How You Can Help" opportunities and upcoming Green projects



involving L.E.A.R.N. and the communities in which we live and visit. If you have slightly used tennis balls you wish donate, please email us at learndogs@labadoption.org.

Meet our Seniors Newly arrived Calvin and Calhoun are 8 and 10 years young and total dears. Jack and Scout are both 8 years. Jack, near right, tried to go through the fence but got stuck. Scout, far right, is smiling at you. Each of these four guys has his own story and hopes to write you into his happy ending.



L.E.A.R.N. Events

December 4th, 10 am - 2 pm, **Meet & Greet** at Natures Feed, 2440 Westward Dr., Unit C, Spring Grove, IL

February 5th, 2011, **Great Lakes Pet Expo**, Milwaukee, WI. Watch www.labadoption.org for more info!

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. L.E.A.R.N. and their Labs thank you!

I want to support the efforts of L.E.A.R.N. 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 **L.E.A.R.N., PO Box 164, Island Lake, IL 60042** or donate at www.Labadoption.org via **PayPal**

