



The Retriever

Labrador Education and Rescue Network's Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 3, November, 2011

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.

Molly's Path to Mom-hood

One beautiful day last summer L.E.A.R.N. volunteer Mia received a call from Julie, another volunteer, who asked if she might be able to foster a dog. This wasn't the normal sort of fostering request for Mia. The Lab in need, a two year-old black female named Molly, was "very" pregnant—that is, due in a week and a half. Mia explained that she said "yes" simply because she didn't want to say "no" to Julie. She added, "After hanging up, I began to wonder how I was going to explain THIS to my husband!?"

Molly was surrendered by her owner to a local shelter together with her father Drake. The shelter, in turn, relinquished them to L.E.A.R.N. The father-daughter pair had lived entirely outdoors in a kennel, and neither had experience with indoor life.

Molly initially spent three weeks in foster with Kristin before anyone knew she was in an advanced stage of pregnancy. Kristin introduced Molly to the joys of domestic life: different flooring, housebreaking, ascending and descending stairs, doors, vacuuming, electronics, and more. While Molly was still in indoor-life culture shock, she was brought to the Vet for spaying. The Vet discovered that Molly was soon about to have puppies. This

chain of events resulted in the call Julie made to Mia to ask if she would whelp (help deliver and rear) the litter. Molly adjusted and adapted quickly to her different environments.



Molly with her Pups

Mia has a very full relationship and unique involvement with dogs. Last May she and her Lab Bandit hiked 220 miles on the Appalachian Trail with two back packs, 42 and 15 pounds respectively, and a tent. After hiking for a month, they returned home and had two weeks to prepare

for the CPE Agility National Championship held mid-June in Minnesota.

It was moments after returning from the Nationals that Molly arrived on their doorstep. Mia's other foster Bosco and her two Labs greeted Molly and gave her the tour of the mini-farm and house. (Bosco happily went to his forever home two days after Molly's arrival.)

Nothing outside fazed Molly—be it storms, 4-wheelers, lawnmowers, horses, cars, strangers, or a gun shot. Inside, however, *everything* seemed to frighten the poor girl. Doors and hardwood and tile flooring seemed to frighten her the most. Molly chose the white carpet in Mia's home office and claimed the dog bed there as her "safe zone."

Molly gave birth four days after arriving at Mia's. She turned out to be an excellent mother. (Please read "The Puppy Diaries" on page 8 for the story of her puppies.) Once Molly was finished providing

for the needs of her litter, a very happy adoption took place. Kristin, Molly's original foster home, became Molly's forever mom. Molly is now successfully spayed and will no longer have to bare the burdens of any more motherhood. Molly has adjusted and enjoys her new indoor life, a great testament to the adaptability of the Labrador breed. Many congrats to all!



Molly at the Vet's

WANT TO HELP SAVE MORE LABS?

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 just 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. ☺

This holiday season, please consider sponsoring a L.E.A.R.N. Lab! Please visit www.labadoption.org and choose a foster dog to help. Woof!

Simply Sammy's Story



One September day L.E.A.R.N. volunteer Tami received a call asking if she would be willing to foster a puppy. She drove to meet another volunteer who helped transport the little fellow and then brought him the rest of the way to her house.

Sam, the puppy, repeatedly vomited en route to Tami's house. Once at her house, she left him to settle in a crate. If he had been car sick, he would start feeling better. Poor Sam was extremely weak, and as Tami describes, "you could blow him over with the wisp of a feather." Sam didn't want to leave the crate, drink any water or eat any food—even a piece of cheese.

Tami had never seen parvovirus, but her "mommy instincts" kicked in and she became extremely worried for Sam. She called L.E.A.R.N. President Chris who, also very worried, recommended getting Sam to the Vet immediately. At the Emergency Vet, the test came back positive for parvo. Sam was admitted to the Veterinary hospital and began IV fluids. The Veterinarian explained to Tami that parvo isn't what it used to be, and that it's now 80-90% treatable with successful recovery; however, Sam's recovery would depend on whether he could get better in a day or a week. The Vet had never lost a puppy she'd treated for parvo, and this gave Tami needed encouragement after all she'd observed in the last hours.

Sam's days in the Emergency Room Clinic began in the isolation room. As the week progressed, Tami received news that he was getting better and made plans to visit him mid-week. "Oh, what a joyous day," Tami recounted, because he looked very good and was actually eating. A few days after that, Tami was told Sam was ready to come home. The Vet said it was time for Sam to "start being a puppy!"

At that time, Tami had a "REALLY" full house with her own two Schipperkes and her other foster named CJ. Tami had originally thought that they hadn't had a puppy around the house for 14 years and it would be fun to foster one. She notes, understatedly, "it proved to be interesting."



As the days and weeks went by, "Sammy my Samurai," as Tami lovingly called him, grew and ate. He figured out what playing was; he had come from a shelter where he likely hadn't the opportunity to experience play. Sammy Samurai bonded with Tami's female Schipperke Krickett, and they would roll around and play all day long. Krickett was very maternal and taught Sammy the rules of play and told him when he became too rough.

It soon became time for Sammy Samurai to be matched to his future forever home. This wasn't easy for Tami, as Sammy will always hold a special place in her heart, but he was ready to move on,

growing well, quickly catching on to potty training and feeling considerably better.

Tami was thrilled with the work the Lab Match volunteer Fonda did in finding a perfect forever home for Sammy. Sammy's forever home reported

that he's settled in nicely and even got to travel to his new "Up North" home for the weekend to play in the fields and the woods.

Best and happy wishes to Sammy Samurai and his new family.



What is Parvovirus?

Parvovirus, a canine viral disease, is more common in puppies than adult dogs because it likes rapidly dividing cells. Since the intestinal lining has the greatest concentration of rapidly dividing cells, that's where the parvovirus attacks. This results in diarrhea, sometimes bloody, and often vomiting; depression; and suppression of white blood cells (another group of rapidly dividing cells). The attack on the intestinal lining makes it difficult to absorb nutrients and liquids. In young puppies, it can infect the heart and result in sudden death.

The good news is that treated puppies have an 80% chance of surviving—but that depends on catching the virus sooner versus later. Left untreated, puppies have an 80% chance of dying.

The onset of parvo symptoms is sudden—often 12 hours or less—so please seek immediate Veterinary help if you observe parvo symptoms in your dog. The treatment vary. There is no official "cure" for parvo as the treatment focuses on the symptoms. However, there

are a number of nontraditional approaches which have "far too many testimonials to ignore."

For puppies who have suffered and survived parvo, it is important to make sure the immune system is given as much support as possible through a healthy lifestyle (good nutrition, comfortable amount of exercise, good water source, a non-toxic environment both indoors and out, etc.). Puppies weakened by the parvovirus can be at risk for congestive heart failure even after the intestinal parvo symptoms have long disappeared, even months or years later.

Most Veterinarians strongly recommend vaccinating on a specific schedule against parvovirus.

Sources: www.workingdogs.com/parvofaq;
www.dogparvosymptoms.net/;
<http://Vetmedicine.about.com/cs/dognz/a/parvodog.htm>

Congrats to Labbies who found their new families!

June, 2011

Bosco - Tom & Mary
Marley - Diane & Bruce
Dudley - Jean & Scott

July

Louie - Judith & Mitchell
Molly - Kristin & Barton

August

Madison - Tom & Kathy
Payton - Delta
Jackson - David & Beth
Moose - Kathy

September

Mystical - Jennifer & Kevin
Coco - Alice
Mia - Karen

October

Lindsey - Jackie and Matt
Jessie - Kellie
Remington - Patty & Bob
Roxi - Joni
Quincy - Rebecca & Patrick
CJ - Richard and Amy
Sam - Jane & Ned

Can you Help?

Do you want to help save a Lab, but aren't able to foster? L.E.A.R.N. needs help with Home Visits. Before an applicant can adopt from L.E.A.R.N., they must have a Home Visit. The Home Visit plays an important role in finding just the right home for L.E.A.R.N.'s foster dogs. The sooner we find the right home; the sooner a foster home opens up to save another Lab.

What does a Home Visit volunteer do? L.E.A.R.N.'s Home Visit volunteers are the eyes and ears for L.E.A.R.N.'s Board, LabMatch Committee and Foster Homes. During the Home Visit, the L.E.A.R.N. volunteer obtains information about the applicant's home environment and preferences for and expectations of a Lab, using a questionnaire L.E.A.R.N. provides. (You don't need to decide whether or not an applicant is approved to adopt from L.E.A.R.N. That decision is made by L.E.A.R.N.'s Board members.) Home Visit volunteers also explain a little about the L.E.A.R.N organization and L.E.A.R.N.'s adoption process. (Again, not to worry, an experienced Home Visit volunteer will train you until you're comfortable taking the reins.) After the Home Visit, you type up the report using the L.E.A.R.N.-provided questionnaire and email it to the Board.

What is the time commitment? The Home Visit itself takes about 1 - 1 ½ hours, perhaps more depending on how chatty the applicant is. As a volunteer, you have no commitment until you sign up to do a Home Visit. How often you do a Home Visit primarily depends on your availability . . . and, obviously, the location of the applicants.

So, if you've been waiting for an opportunity to help save Labs and want to play an integral role in helping our Labs find the right home, please consider becoming a Home Visit volunteer. We especially need help in the greater Milwaukee area.

Want more information? Please email us at L.E.A.R.N.dogs@labadoption.org

How do I sign up? L.E.A.R.N.'s volunteer application is under the How You Can Help tab on L.E.A.R.N.'s website: <http://www.labadoption.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer>. Just download and complete the application, and email it to us. Thank you for considering it. ☺



Enormous Thanks! *The following people generously donated money, supplies, or services to help our rescued Labs. Your help means these Labs are alive and happy. L.E.A.R.N. especially appreciates your generosity in such challenging economic times!*

Matthew Bauer
Sandra Bernhard, in honor of Louie.
Shawn & Gina Connor
Anne Carson Daly, in memory of
Marley Fisher-McPeak
Michael Deering
Tom & Sheri DeKarske
Laurie Drewson
Mia Erspamer
Gary & Gina Fry
Mary Gertz
Neil Golden
Eric & Julie Grosso
Kate & Harley Harms

Kara Hembrook
Alberta James
Jessica Johnson
Len & Mary Karson
John & Jill King
Ron & Mary Kozlowski
Nancy Kraft
Beatrice Leeds
Trust & Elizabeth J. Leonard
Sheryl & Greg Lindmark
Cheryl McCabe
Babe Mirs
Andy & Gretchen Moffatt
Tom & Kathy Nitz

Heather & Bill Oliva
Janet Paluch
Marsha & Jerome Rather
Shelley Reimann
Carolyn Samuel
Allison Schmidt
Dan & Kim Schroeder
Mark Schroeder
Jeffery Skaife
Matt & Jill Stalter
Diane & Steve Streck
Chris & Don Wallen
Pamm Wonsettler

Great Gifts for the Holidays – 2012 L.E.A.R.N. Calendars and Recipe Books

L.E.A.R.N.'s 2012 calendar is now available—and gorgeous! The calendars cost \$15, which includes mailing. Please order now as we have a limited supply. You can see a copy of the cover and the featured dogs at on L.E.A.R.N.'s website at:

<http://www.ladoption.org/how-you-can-help/2012-L.E.A.R.N.-calendars-on-sale>

Need a holiday gift? Consider L.E.A.R.N.'s recipe book Pawsitively Delicious. In addition to delicious recipes (for humans), it features photos of Labs and includes several recipes for dog treats. The recipe book also costs \$15, which includes mailing. Here's a link to more information:

<http://www.ladoption.org/how-you-can-help/L.E.A.R.N.-cookbook-on-sale>.



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 the Labs we save say thank you!

I want to support the efforts of L.E.A.R.N. to rescue homeless Labs and Lab mixes and place them in permanent adoptive homes.

Name: _____ Address _____

Please find my check for: ___\$25.00 ___\$50.00 ___\$100.00 ___Other Amount \$_____

Please mail to **L.E.A.R.N., 9853 N. Alpine Road Box 206, Machesney Park, IL 61115** or donate at www.Ladoption.org via **PayPal**. Please include your email to receive our newsletter: _____

L.E.A.R.N. Tips

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

1. Do you enjoy taking your dog to Dog Parks?

Consider keeping your dog on year-round heartworm preventative, like Heartgard or Tri-Heart, which also prevents hookworm. Dogs can get hookworms from the feces of infected dogs, and hookworms can be fatal. Hookworms can live in the soil a long time before finding a suitable host, which they do via ingestion or passing right through a dog's skin. Also, please be sure to pick up any "mines" your dog deposits.

2. Does your dog inhale his/her food? Try putting some water on your dog's food to slow down his/her eating . . . just enough so the food floats . . . or putting a racquet ball in the center of the food, again to slow down his/her eating. You can also buy a food bowl with a built-in obstacle in the middle which serves the same purpose.

3. Is your dog waking you up early, and it's not because they need to relieve themselves? Labs love food and often wake up their humans just so they can eat. If your dog is waking you up earlier and earlier, and if you feed your dog shortly after you wake up, consider changing your routine. For example, rather than feeding them first thing, take your dog on a walk before you feed him/her. Your dog will quickly L.E.A.R.N. that waking you up doesn't mean he/she will be fed.

4. Does your dog get into trouble when you're gone? That could be a sign your dog isn't getting enough exercise. Be sure to give your dog adequate exercise before you leave. Remember, a tired dog is a good dog. ☺

5. Does your dog insist on being petted, being fed or playing? Sometimes a dog barks or whines until they get what they want; sometimes a dog is just pushy until they get what they want. Pushy

behavior like this is also called demand behavior. The key to getting your dog to stop their demand behavior is to ignore the behavior. (Please note: Barking to go outside because they need to relieve themselves is not demand behavior and not something that should be ignored.) You can find more information about modifying any demand behavior in "How to Stop Demand Barking" under the Education tab on L.E.A.R.N.'s website <http://www.labadoption.org/education>

6. 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 for your dogs.

7. Is your dog dressed for the weather? If your dog has arthritis, diabetes or another condition that impairs their circulation, consider using a doggy coat this winter. Often seniors, as well as dogs with impaired circulation, need help staying warm. Dogs with arthritis benefit from a doggy coat that covers both the shoulder and hip joints.

8. Does your dog have dry, flaky or itchy skin? Try adding a supplement with Omega 3s which promotes skin health. Good sources of Omega 3s are Fish oil and Flax seed oil.

9. 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.



The Puppy Diaries

Entry One: Two days after returning from Agility Nationals and Molly's arrival: Bosco went to his Forever Home, and we began to round up whelping supplies and to setup a whelping room complete with a whelping box, fresh towels, heat lamp, and bedding. This room was just off the kitchen with tile flooring for easy cleaning with the pending delivery and messy puppies. We gave Molly much positive reinforcement over this room to make her comfortable with the tile flooring and her soon-to-be 'new room.' Female bitches can be very sensitive to 'where' they deliver and 'whom' they let help; I wanted to make sure this was a positive experience for her.

Entry Two: Four days after Molly's arrival, there were minor signs that things were progressing. Not too worried, I guardedly began working. However, Molly went straight from calmly sleeping to being

of four: two boys, two girls, two yellow, and two black. One of each flavor! And in only two hours! I was so impressed with how well Molly handled everything considering how much she'd been through in the month leading up to this delivery. What an awesome mother she was, cleaning all pups properly and willingly nursing.



herded into the whelping room to deliver the first puppy with little time to spare! Wow!

Unfortunately, all that activity on a tile floor in a relatively new environment sent Molly into 'hide' mode and she ran for her 'safe zone' on my white carpet with afterbirth trailing behind her! With gentle laughter and a kind tug we got her back into the whelping room. She delivered a beautiful litter
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Entry Three: Within 24 hours, it was clear that the little black female was in trouble. She refused to nurse and continually cried. She had no obvious birth defects. Understandably, both Molly and I were very upset when she passed.

Entry Four: Over the next few days the little yellow female was also having trouble gaining weight but continued to nurse and develop properly. Everyone checked out well at the post-delivery Vet visit. Dewclaw removal was done.

Entry Five: At 1-1/2 weeks the little yellow female developed pneumonia. Her nursing technique wasn't ideal and milk was getting into her lungs. A quick visit to the Vet showed she had a strong heart,

raspy lungs, and no visible holes in her throat which was the size of a pencil. An antibiotic did the trick. The boys were now twice her size but she held her own at nursing time.



Entry Six: Puppies are born with their eyes closed and their ears sealed. Right on schedule at two weeks, everyone's eyes slowly opened and you could tell they could now hear you. It is fun to watch this stage with puppies as they discover their litter mates, their mother, and their world. Initial steps are taken and the wrestling begins. You now must be quiet in the house so as not to wake the sleeping litter.



Entry Seven: At three weeks, each puppy was given a L.E.A.R.N. name, the black male Jackson, the yellow female Madison, and the yellow male Phoenix. The whelping box could no longer contain the active pups and they graduated to sleeping in a

crate and being corralled in the whelping room with baby gates. Molly no longer spent all her time in with the pups but would take time to catch up on her sleep outside the room, nursing well on a 5 times a day schedule. Molly dined daily on 12 cups of kibble mixed with milk supplement, four times her normal ration. Despite this, there wasn't an ounce of fat on that girl.



Entry Eight: As the puppies grew, they went on daily trips outside under a shade tree to nurse. It was now July and an unusually hot one. Our old farmhouse, not being equipped with air conditioning, drove the puppy's home from the room off the kitchen into a basement concrete mud room where it was much cooler. The litter didn't do the normal puppy pile to stay warm, actually, quite the opposite. They preferred to lay spread eagle style right on the floor to cool off. The morning and evening routines included play time out on the back deck when it was cooler outside. By noon, everyone wanted to be back hiding in the basement.

Entry Nine: Individual personalities began to emerge. Jackson was to be an Alpha, not liking to be on his back and making sure to both bark and growl a lot. Phoenix was non-Alpha, not minding being held in your arms on his back and not taking the lead on anything. Madison was always the curious one and not afraid to explore her world.



Entry Ten: Latest development with the puppies is they now use the “puppy poop pads” about 50% of the time. Yes!!! Love that! Madison continues to do awesome. I have seen NO milk come out of her nose in a very long time now. She continues to occasionally vomit a small amount once done nursing and her breathing seems raspy when nursing. Several times a day now, once nursing is done, I have been offering the puppies, puppy chow mixed with water. Molly's diet has been reduced from 12 cups to nine cups of food daily. Molly and the puppies really enjoy the nursing time, so I've decided the weaning will be very slow and accomplished simply by reducing the amount Molly eats. Also, we are moving from five nursing's a day to four.

Entry Eleven: I picked up the wormer from the Vet. Liquid Panacur, which Molly receives over three days. My Vet noted that my two dogs probably won't need it if they are on Heartworm meds, but I could certainly bring in a stool sample for testing. All three puppies were treated with Pyrantel Pamoate and will be retreated in two weeks. Molly needs to have her stools rechecked in two weeks. I proceeded with my normal every-other-month worming of my dogs/cats/horses with Pyrantel Pamoate. This I do because of our farm setting. Molly's latest stool sample was the most normal I have ever seen her have, then the next was softer. Yippee.... we are on the right track!

Entry Twelve: Since my last update, the pups went from nursing 5 times a day to being weaned. As the number of nursings went down, kibble soaked with water was introduced.

Molly gradually went from her daily 12 cups of food back down to 3 cups. Her milk supplement was gradually reduced as well. On July 27th at the morning feeding, Molly finally gave the queues that nursing was finished. She whimpered at the sharp teeth and claws and made a mad dash for the open door. She made almost the full 6 weeks! What a great mommy! The pups now eat 3 x daily, each feeding 2.5 cups of kibble. Molly also came out of this pregnancy in extremely good condition and weight. She continued to exercise and swim a lot which was very healthy for her. She has now gone to her Forever Home with Kristin, her original foster mom!

Entry Thirteen: The puppies' individual personalities continue to emerge. Jackson appears to be an Alpha, Phoenix the Omega, and Madison the explorer. Sharp puppy teeth are fully in now and the small rawhide sticks are working well. Keeping plenty of fresh plastic recyclables and cardboard boxes in the pen keeps everyone busy. The wrestling matches are pretty serious now and require monitoring. Visitors are unsettled by the ferocious growling and biting that ensues with this activity.

A window air conditioner was added. Happy puppies and happy college boys! In the morning and late in the evening, when it is cool outside, the puppies are moved to our deck. They are enclosed there as if in a rather large puppy playpen. They have their toys and water bowl there. Most meals are held there as the deck is easy to hose off in the evening. Morning drill now is to have the pups exit the basement door and climb, all by themselves, the stairs to the deck. Evening drill is for them to come back down the stairs and incorporate a field trip to the plumbing shop and pool before heading back off to bed in the basement.

At first, I was having a 'chase Mia' session on the deck in the a.m. because they are pretty energetic then. It was a great game of chase, but the deck quickly became not big enough. Morning game is now 'chase Mia' twice around our house with a stop to see the chickens and horses. "Twice" because Mia can't run any farther than that!



Phoenix

Entry fourteen: Back at 4 weeks old, I started putting down a puppy pad on the floor after cleaning up each morning. Brief sessions were held after the pups would wake up to show them to pee on there instead of the floor. Gradually over time, they have L.E.A.R.N.ed to do most of their peeing on those pads.

"Pooing" hasn't been so efficient, but they do leave their bedding area and target the area of the pads. Potty training should be on the right track for this age, yes. This a.m. I got a wonderful surprise. Jackson took off down the stairs and out into the grass. I stood there staring after him along with Madison and Phoenix. Was he really taking off on us? He turned around in the grass twice, poed, and came scampering BACK up the stairs! I fell over!

Entry fifteen: We have had a bought of roundworms. Molly was positive for roundworms

when the pups were 4 weeks. All were treated. At 6 weeks, the pups' test came up positive for roundworms, but Molly's test was now negative. All were treated again. And will be again at 8 weeks, with repeated tests at 8 and 10 weeks. Everyone has had their 6 week vaccinations along with their microchips. Everyone passed their Vet exam this week and looks really good to go to their Forever Homes next week.



Jackson

Entry sixteen: Our field trip to the Vet today was fun and exciting. Everyone whined about being in a cat carrier but loved running around the exam room and standing on the scale. What a hoot! Everyone passed out when we got home.

All, including Madison, got a clean bill of health and will get a nice shining CVI certificate to prove it. That is, once the Vet figures out how to fill that new form out.

Madison's heart and lungs sound good and clear.

Dr. Hilary recommended that while under anesthetic during her spay, the Vet looks closely at the back of Madison's throat for any possible holes. Right now, all looks clear, but based on her nursing techniques it would be wise to investigate further.

Also, when Madison drinks water, she likes to stick her whole nose in the water and gets water up her nose that way. Thus more reason to investigate.

Their round bellies are due in part to round worms and in part to a small litter with a good supply of milk. Dr. Hilary noted that the pup's elimination of

the round worms was exactly what she wanted to happen—the result of the worming meds in proper amount. In 8 weeks we should re-worm and two weeks after that, check another stool sample.

Entry 17: The puppies are now ready to spend some time separated from each other. I do this by putting each into their own kennel where they can see each other, talk to each other, but they can't touch each other. First for an hour, and then increase the time over the course of the last week they are here. This helps them adjust to living away from the litter and reduces their initial stress to their new life. Makes for some really good barking sessions

Final Entry: The Sad Day: Today is extremely quiet on our farm. All the puppies are gone. It is a sad, sad, quiet day here. All three of Molly's puppies have been successfully matched with great adoptive families. All three went to their Forever Homes over the past 48 hours.

So, you ask, do I miss them? That is the bittersweet question of the week. I am so tired that it will be a relief to have them placed. Now the pining for them starts. I will wish they were all back. But if

you asked me to puppy-sit within the next week, I'd probably still say no :-)



Madison

Postscript *Madison, the curious, was named Eva by her new family. Sadly, Eva's lung situation deteriorated and her life ended way too soon. She taught and shared much given her short time with us, and our prayers and sympathies are with her and her family.*

Happily, the two boys are thriving. Jackson, the leader, is keeping his name Jackson in honor of his forever family's previous dog. Phoenix, the cuddler, is now Payton (as in Walter Payton!).



February 4, 2012
10:00 am to 6:00 pm
State Fair Park
8200 W. Greenfield Ave
West Allis, WI 53214



*****We have a new mailing address:**

L.E.A.R.N.
9853 N. Alpine Road
Box 206
Machesney Park, IL 61115