



## Success Stories 2006



### Lady

I wanted to take some time out between my two favorite times of the day (breakfast and dinner,) and tell you how I've been doing since my people brought me home back in February 2003.

They call me Lady, I think, because sometimes when I lay down I cross my front paws on the floor. Somebody thought I was being lady-like, so I guess the name stuck. I was brought from a place where I spent a lot of time

chained up in a barn. Every so often someone would show up and leave a bag of food and then go away. I eat a lot and I eat very fast to this day because I just don't know when I'll actually get fed again.



Things are a lot better now, though. Mommy puts her bread on top of the big cold box in the kitchen and I used to spend so much energy jumping up to get it that my paws actually erased the dry board markings up on the freezer! That's just too much work these days. I love to run outside and yap at all kinds of critters. We live out of town so I get to do a lot of both. When my big brother Tucker was still here I'd stalk him in the yard, going slowly step by step, until I got close enough to lunge at him and knock him over. He always saw me coming so he must have liked it, too.

I'm pretty low maintenance (for a girl) and when nobody is eating I amuse myself by chewing on rawhide "cigars". I do love to eat, though. I'm a big girl at 106 pounds. I should be around 90 or so but I manage to get a good score on a forgotten bag of potato chips, fish food flakes, whatever I can find. Daddy says I start to get into good shape and then I get on what he calls a "winning streak" of finding little treasures of food (I \*love\* carbs!) and up goes the weight. Oh, well. I love my home and my people. When I'm allowed to, I like to cuddle up on a bed or the couch with my family and let them love me. I love treats and belly scratchins. My coat is very thick so I love to have my head and face scrubbed good, too.

I have many blessing in my life and I have L.E.A.R.N. to thank for it all!





## Maggie

Thank you so much for the opportunity to adopt Maggie into our home. She has been a pure joy to have and the laughter and love she brought to us in truly a blessing both ways. She so desperately needed it and we were right there to give it to her. Maggie just fit right in from day one with us. We went on a long trip to South Dakota the week after we got her. She loved the motorhome and found her spot right away. YUP right on the couch. We didn't mind and our other dog Chelsea sleeps on the bed so they all had a place to call their own. My 14 yr old and 7 yr old are her biggest fans they don't go anywhere without her. Football in the yard is now a free for all. Whoever gets the ball first runs the fastest and we all tackle — yes including Maggie who i think has the most quarter back sacks out of all of us. The kids just love it. I have learned to trot with her while on our walks because she would rather trot than walk to the field and hurry up to play once there. She has done so well in learning all of her commands ie: sit, stay, come and walk on a leash that is seems as though she has known them all her life. We just celebrated her 4th B-Day and for Halloween she was a giant bumblebee. The neighborhood kids just loved her. There's nothing like coming home from a hard day at work and being greeted by a loving wet kiss from the Maggster. My 7yr old calls her Maggie Pie Pie and she comes a runnin from where ever she is. We have so many compliments from others who meet her and it's a pure joy just to have her around our family. No matter where we are she is in the room with one of us and boy did she learn quickly about treats when you come in from outside and going potty. YUP she runs leaps over Chelsea our weinner dog and sits waggin her tail which is similar to a base drum just patiently waiting for the treat.



I could go on and on about her and the laughter she brings to our family but it's time to play cause she is looking out the door with toy in mouth. Gotta go for now. Thanks again Learn for giving us Maggie. I hope i did this right and you got to see some of the pictures I sent. If not let me know and i will send them alone. Oh and the bumblebee pictures are being picked up today so i can send them later on.

Best Wishes to everyone!!  
*The Drew family*

Best Wishes to everyone!!

*The Drew family*





## Fizgig

Hello LEARN, It's me Fizgig (my family calls me Fizzy for short) and I wanted to write in and tell you how I am doing since being adopted back in March 2005 (previously known as Rex). I was a wee bundle of fuzz when I was introduced to my new family.



I immediately became best friends with my older brother, Moose, and shadowed him constantly. During this time I tried to make friends with my older sister, Shadowfax, but she didn't want anything to do with me. Sadly Moose passed away and it was just me and Shadowfax and we are the best of friends now. My mom says that Shadowfax is reliving her puppy hood with me since we are constantly playing and causing mischief.

Now it's September 2006 and I have grown into a handsome young man, err dog, that is.

I am enjoying living with my large family of both human and animals and love going just about everywhere a dog can go. I just love getting attention and I get lots of it because people think that I am so gosh darn cute. Though my favorite places are the dog park, the pet store, and to grandma's house (I get so spoiled there).

I just wanted to say thanks to LEARN for helping this Lab Wanna Be in finding a home of his own and for doing what you do. Keep up the great work!

Fizgig

*Oh yeah... I guess I can't for get my family. Jovita, Brett, Shadowfax and the feline siblings.*





## Annie

Hello, we adopted Annie from June 11, 2006. She is doing well for the short time we have had her. There are a few problems we are still working on such as the running part, but we know she has trust issues to deal with. She has been to beginning obedience class and did very well. She sits, lays down, and shakes hands on command if a treat is around. My husband takes her every day to our Freeport Friends Forever Dog Park, she has a lot of pals there and they run, swim and play do tag. She has fenced in yard so she enjoys a lot of ball playing and is really good at catching the balls, I baby sit and when we play she is our outfielder. She gets along very well with



children and they really enjoy her.



She also is a very well behaved dog when riding in the car she just lays down and sleeps. I give her foster parents a lot of credit we can see they worked with her. I think with Annie it will take her time to know she can trust us and she is here to stay, even though right now she is still adjusting to us and our home. She does well when we leave her for awhile in her crate; she gets her kong and a chew toy.

Some people are amazed at how calm she can be and don't understand why anyone would not have kept her. She just needs some love and a little understanding, which we or I should say my husband is giving her. She follows him everywhere in the house, if he leaves she will lay by the door for him for about 10 minutes then gives up and comes by me and will lie down or follow me all over. She likes people!

Thank you,  
*Garry, Vicki, and Annie Carr*





## Cinder & Max

Hello from the great state of Texas! My wife and I are former Chicagoans and 2 time adopters from L.E.A.R.N. In 2001 we adopted a female yellow, Cinder (Formerly Cindie) and followed up with our second adoption in 2002, a male yellow, Max. I wanted to drop you all a line with some pictures and let you know how they are both doing great.

When we adopted Cinder in November 2001, she had previously been an outside dog but has adjusted EXTREMELY well to the indoor life (She's the princess of the house). Unfortunately, this brought out some allergies that needed to be treated with antigen shots. No big deal, she was a trooper and the shots worked very well. Upon our move to Texas in 2003, we were concerned about her allergies and what would happen. Much to our pleasant surprise, the allergies have almost completely dissipated and she only need to take a daily antihistamine pill.



Max however has been a bit more challenging. When we adopted Max, he was 125 lbs (some 35 lbs overweight) and covered head to toe in scabs from scratching. We knew Max had food allergies and we along with his foster parents thought that was the cause of the scratching. So, after several trips to the vet and the allergist, we found that Max indeed had several food allergies and had inhalant allergies to almost everything imaginable. We got the food addressed with a special diet and unfortunately have not had any success treating Max with antigen shots.

We are able to treat Max's allergies with Prednisone and fortunately with minimal side effects. We had a couple of other scares with Max after moving to Texas where he endured two bowel infection, which prompted a reaction to one of his antibiotics. This took us to Texas A&M University vet school to see a specialist. It turned out that max had "target" infections, which were easily treated but took a long time to heal.



So Max was finally out of the woods! Nope, not yet! One of the results of Max's allergies was a very thin coat of hair, especially on his belly and tail. In turn, taking Prednisone, makes the skin very delicate and susceptible to nicks and cuts. Well, Max just happened to be in the bathroom one morning while my wife was getting ready and hit his tail against the edge of our vanity cabinet. Now normally this wouldn't be a big deal, but with barely any hair on his tail, Max cut into a vein. So off to the vet we went. To make a long story short, we had to remove about 8 inches of his tail to allow it to heal, but it has healed well and Max doesn't even miss it. So this sounds like a lot of trouble, but as you know you just can't help but love them. I wanted to tell you specifically about Max because as success stories go in our book Max is just one big success. Max is now happy and healthy and gets along with everyone. I swear he is one of the most lovable dogs I have ever met.

We just recently moved into a new home with an acre of land for the dogs to run and they are really enjoying it. We can't wait until the swimming pool goes in as we'll never get Max out of it. We'd love to continue to receive the newsletter, so here is our new address:



As an additional note, as if two were not enough we recently adopted an 11 month old female Black lab named Lexi. She's a real sweetheart and loves to cuddle up with Max at night. Cinder keeps her in line and makes sure to consistently remind her who really runs the house. They are all a joy and we couldn't imagine life with out them. So we wanted to say thanks to LEARN for all the great work you do and thank you for bringing Max and Cinder into our lives. (I've added a few picture of "The 3 Musketeers" as well.)

*Brent & Kris Gilot*

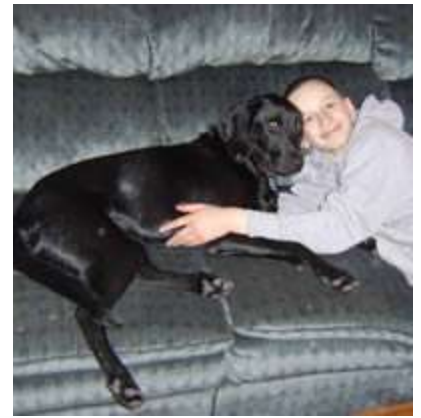




## Gretzky (aka Chance)

Hi all from LEARN:

We've had the dog formerly known as Chance, now known as Gretzky, for just 3 weeks now, and we LOVE him! Thanks for helping us adopt our first dog, and for bringing him over to us (as I thought I wanted an older dog, but now find we really wanted THIS dog!). Our cats still have some adjusting to do, but Gretzky does well in his doggy class, likes other dogs (we do trips to the dog park almost daily) and has been a wonderful companion.



It seems like he's been in our lives much longer.

*Marsha Cohen, Mike Pressman, Nina & Sammy*



## Ginger

We adopted Ginger about two months ago and she has been a great fit in our home. She enjoys playing with her 3 sisters, especially Dakota who is closer to her age. She also has learned to jump on the trampoline and usually has more fun on it by herself, running in circles and throwing her rawhide in the air.



She always greets us with something in her mouth; It doesn't matter what it is. When we come home from work, she will look at us and then run back into the house to find a bone or a toy or something to bring us.

Thank you all for the wonderful addition to our family!!

*Dale and Cari Noha*





## Hogan (aka Leroy)

I adopted a lab from your organization about 3 1/2 years ago. Just a quick update on how he's doing....

He is thriving in his new home, where we have a nice sized yard and where he can protect our family from all of the squirrels, rabbits and miscellaneous cats that dare to cross our fence line! He does miss the city life where he could always find a scrap of discarded food on his walks around town, but he definitely enjoys the abundance of trees, bushes and grass that he sniffs to his heart's content on his long walks around the neighborhood with the family.



Hogan has gone through a lot of changes in the past 8 months, with the addition of a new baby brother, and a cross-country drive with dad to his new home in New Jersey, but he has managed to stay his loving, crazy, energetic self through it all. His new favorite past-time is licking leftovers from his little brother's face after mealtimes, or even better, stealing soiled bibs from the counter to chew on! In fact, he loves his new brother so much that each night he checks on him before he settles down to bed for the night, and in the morning after eating breakfast, leaves his kong toy in Brady's room, in case Brady decides he may want to chew on that one day as well!

We definitely can't imagine our life without Hogan, he adds a good dose of humor to our home every day! We can't thank you enough for helping us find each other!

Thanks Again,  
*Tifani*





## Sonja

We contacted LEARN in September 2005 to adopt a lab to provide companionship for us and our 10 year old yellow lab named Goose. LEARN came out to visit our house at the end of October as part of the adoption process and brought a 1 year old black lab mix with them named Sonja. We had been interested in another lab on the website, but when Sonja came into the house and our yellow lab and 3 kids got to meet her, we all immediately fell in love with her.



Sonja had a tough go of it in her first year of life, as she had been a stray in Chicago and was brought to a shelter there with some discomfort in her hip. The shelter was not sure at first whether she had been hit by a car or had something else wrong with her. They contacted LEARN, who evaluated her and learned that she had hip dysplasia. LEARN chose to give Sonja a second chance at life and placed her with a foster home. While at the foster home, Sonja had surgery on the bad hip and made a quick and full recovery. However, it was now determined that she would have to have surgery on the other hip too for the same problem. We did not know that much about hip dysplasia, so we were not sure if we could cope with seeing her have to go through the surgery. After talking with a couple of veterinarians, we were assured she would not suffer and would make a full recovery. Therefore, we adopted Sonja on Nov. 9, 2005, from LEARN.

Sonja had her second hip surgery in December and again recovered very quickly. Today, she is completely healthy and just as fast as any other lab. She reminds us a lot of our previous black lab, as she loves to lay on the couch and sleep on the bed with us and "talk" to us when she really gets fired up. She is a real "lover". She will lick you until her tongue dries out. She cuddles up right next to you and lays her head on your lap. She kicks her feet and snores sometimes when she sleeps. There is always a pool of water on the floor by the water bowl after she gets a drink - I think more runs out of her mouth than stays in it! She always tries to get our other lab to play with her by nipping at his feet and head, but he will usually remind her who is king of the house and walk away. Sometimes, though, they will play tug of war with a rope toy they have. It is a real site to see, as our yellow lab, who weighs 114 lbs, will sit there in one spot with one end of the toy and Sonja, who weighs only 57 lbs, will stand up and tug with all her might with the other end. She eventually loses the battle, but gives our yellow lab an ear full to show her displeasure. Sonja also loves to run laps in our fenced in back yard with the golden retriever that lives next door. They will run on their respective sides of the fence up and down the entire line as fast as they can until they both finally drop from exhaustion.

As you can tell, we are very proud of Sonja and love her very much. We are so thankful to LEARN that they gave us the opportunity to adopt her and that she is now a huge part of our everyday lives. Thank you LEARN!!!

*The Lamb Family*





## Patsy

I'm Patsy; they thought that I had been through enough life changes and didn't make me change my name. I just had my 7<sup>th</sup> birthday. This was my first birthday party with my new family. 2005 was rather a tough year for me. My owner died and I got sent to LEARN. They found me a family with children; but after a few weeks, the family had a major change in their life and I couldn't stay there any more, either. I went back to LEARN with a different foster mom. Foster family almost kept me, but their life was in transition, in fact foster dad is now assigned out of the country.

Anyway, they found an older couple for me. (Mom would probably resent that characterization. Only Dad is gray.) We all hit it off pretty good right away. I went home with them and there was dog smell all over. I found out that was Murphy, who had died two months earlier of cancer.

The next day we went out to a place I learned to call the lake. Boy, that's a neat place - all kinds of animal smells. Mom taught me about "froggin." That was fun - watching them jump and swim, as I paw the water.

They have bought a number of toys for me. There was a rodent kind of thing and a puffy ball, that I liked so much that I shredded them. Then Mom got me Harry the Hedgehog. He fits very comfortably in my mouth for carrying around. When I pick him up he sometimes says "ugh." Dad sometimes teases me by squeezing Harry to make him go "ugh" while I am carrying him. I really like Harry. He sleeps with me and I run to get him to show him off to visitors.

Like I said at the beginning, I just wanted you all to know that I am very happy. It seems that everyone loves me. People think I am just a love-muffin, which I am; but Mom has seen me in the fenced back yard with all of the soft black hair on my back standing straight up in response to someone on the other side of the fence...I will protect those I love.

Love,  
Patsy





## Willie

Hi, I just wanted to give you an update on Willie (#1432). When we first inquired about Willie we were told that some was already adopting him. We were heart broken, we instantly felt a connection with Willie when saw his picture. A week or two later they call and said that Willie was available, we jumped at the chance.



Nearing a year after adoption, Willie has fit into our family well. He first met his older sister and became instant friends, and a few months ago we adopted a puppy (yes another lab). That's three, I know we are crazy; I heard that many times. But, all of our dogs are well behave and most people compliment them.

Anyway Willie has two sisters (chocolates) which is how he acquired his nickname "Willie Wonka and his chocolate family"

Ginger Snaps, Willie (Wonka), Molly Brown



## Tigger and Cedar

This is Tigger again. This has been a great summer for me. I have grown by leaps and bounds and have a great time with my brother and sister bouncing all around our back yard. I play Keep Away with Cedar and try my darndest to get Snickers to play with me. Cedar and I run like deer in the back yard chasing each other with the ball.



They are having a great time and I though you might like to see what kind of a little lady Tigger is growing into. She is a bouncer; she bounces everywhere, runs like a deer and is very obedient. She takes her cues from Cedar and Snickers and tries so hard to be like them. We are having a great time with them.



Thanks again for all you do at LEARN. We have two wonderful pups adopted through LEARN. We are proof you can not go wrong with these pets.

Best regards,  
Mike & Carolyn Agee  
Algonquin Illinois



## Ginger

Boy...have I hit paydirt! This is me (on the left with my adopted sister Molly). I adopted my family in December of 2002 and was I ever a mess! When I first came to my new home I was really confused! I didn't trust anyone and I was quick to judge people thinking they all meant to be bad to me! With the help of my sister I have learned that people are great companions and they can be trusted. My family and I go to Colorado every summer, which I love. I get to go to training now and then, although I think I now can teach the rest of the canine group!



I now have a new brother Captain, so my family is now going to have three labs in the family. We will soon be moving to a new home outside of St. Louis where I get to live on three acres on a lake! While I will miss my days at Lake Michigan, I will really enjoy going out my own dog door and swimming whenever I like! My life is really great as I really love my family.

Colorado is my favorite place and I get to enjoy hiking swimming and being loved. Life is Great!!! I could not be in a better place and I owe it all to Lab rescue!!!

Love,  
Ginger



## Riley

We got Riley from LEARN, a foster home (Anne) in Madison, Wisconsin, the Sunday after Thanksgiving last year. Riley is so full of energy, she never leaves my side and follows anyone that gets up from a chair or couch. She has never once tried to break through the underground fence that surrounds our 3/4 acre yard. She runs around the whole perimeter at full speed every time a car enters or leaves our courtyard, we're the first house off of the main street. She is great friends with our 5 yr old yellow lab Cleo. They just had baths at Pets Mart and the girls love them there too.



Thank you for all the good work you do, the kids on our block love playing with Riley each morning they wait for the school bus. We will be sending the "family" picture for our holiday card this year. Happy Holidays

The Taylor Family, Bartlett, IL,  
Bill & Mary Lou, Brad & Britt and Cleo & Riley



## Sandy

This is Sandy - I was adopted back in March '05 by my new family and I wanted to send some updated pictures to show you how happy I am and how much I love my new home! It's been almost a year since I got here and I love it. My little big brother, Odie, and I get along very well. We watch out for each other and play all the time. I even tire him out before I'm tired - I'm almost 9yrs old and he's 5 1/2! I got to experience my 1st Christmas with my new family. I love Santa Paws! He was so good to me! I got a new bed - I love it as it helps me with my arthritis and is so nice to cuddle in. I also got a bunch of bones and toys. My favorite is though that my new mommies and daddies took us to the doggy spa! Wow! My new mommies and daddies say I look so pretty and smell so good - I love these spa days! I can't wait to go back!



My new mommies and daddies say on Valentines Day is going to be my birthday party - I'm gonna be 9yrs old! I look forward to those birthday biscuits that mommies bakes!

Here are 2 pictures-one is me and my little big brother, Odie. Odie was being a big moose and took up the sofa, so I'm on the floor. The other is me after I got home from my doggy spa day. I was pooped but happy!



Thank you so much for helping me find my new home - I love it here and we're one big happy family and expecting a new little one in July for me and Odie to watch over and protect.

Thank you so much!!  
Sandy Likens





## LuLu

Hello! My name is LuLu and I was adopted June 24, 2005, from LEARN. My new forever home's parents wanted me to send you my blog (which is full of pictures and updates on my adventures),

<http://www.imagehat.com/index.php/lulu>.



My forever parents love me very much and cannot say enough great things about ME or LEARN's organization and their people (and dogs ;-). Once I become even more settled in my new-ish home, perhaps my Mom and Dad will think about adopting or fostering a canine brother or sister in the future.

Thank you LEARN!

Best wishes for 2006,

LuLu

...along with Carol and Mike Kroll





## TiGGeR (formerly Tawny)

Hello from TiGGeR (Formerly Tawny) and Cedar,  
 Hi to you all, I am TiGGeR (Formerly Tawny), I am one of Bridgette's Puppies. I got adopted recently and am having the time of my life, I have a new brother and sister and man they are huge but that does not bother me, we are getting along just fine. I am trying to train these new siblings to play with *ME* whenever *I* want. I have a ton of fun chasing them around the back yard in the snow. My new parents seem to want to get all three of us together and sit still for something called a picture; The heck with that I want to have FUN!!! I have no time to sit still, too much going on all the time and I have to get into and drive everything. You know I *MUST BE* the center of everyone attention.



We are so happy to have TiGGeR in our lives, she is so full of puppy energy and is truly a smart little girl. She watches everything Snickers and Cedar will do and then does the same thing. She already is sitting before being fed, is just now understanding her name. Understands NO for just a microsecond but will still listen. She knows how to show is it is time to go out. And is now almost fully crate trained. I am amazed she has grown and learned so much in one week. She is an intelligent little sponge and we are having a great time with her.



Than you LEARN again for rescuing Bridgette and her puppies. We are very fortunate indeed as we found Cedar through LEARN and now TiGGeR. Here are a couple of photos of the new family. Snickers is 11.5, Cedar is 4, and TiGGeR is 9 weeks.

Thanks again,  
 Mike & Carolyn Agee  
 Algonquin Illinois

