



The Retriever

Labrador Education And Rescue Network's Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 3, November, 2007

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

Diet and Exercise to the Rescue!

The shelter told Chub that he was too fat to be adopted. Harley's fat prevented him from scratching himself: his paw couldn't reach his ears. Mattie's extra weight made walking any distance too difficult. Bentley couldn't get up a ramp into a vehicle; once he did, he got stuck.

Like Bentley, many fat dogs experience great difficulty getting into vehicles. Shortly after Bentley was rescued, his fat got him stuck in a car. Another volunteer had to help transport Bentley to his appointments in a van. Most overweight dogs can't keep up with other dogs at the dog park. Many suffer unnecessary health problems as a result of their excess weight—ranging from diabetes to joint, spine, and ligament injuries. Dogs at their ideal weight live almost three years longer than overweight dogs. (Last issue's article explains how to determine your dog's healthy weight.) With less food and more exercise, Harley trimmed down and can now scratch himself. Mattie not only slimmed down; she even hunts.

Yes, "Chub" really was the name his family had given him, and it had become a self-fulfilling prophecy by the time he'd reached the shelter. He had been fed three times each day on an all-you-can-eat plan. Luckily, this story has a healthy and happy ending. A LEARN volunteer realized he needed to be saved and needed a new name. Renamed Cubby, he went on a measured diet of good, healthy food, and from 114 lbs, he achieved his vet-recommended weight of 85 lbs. He has maintained that weight for a year and a half and lives happily in his forever home (that is, his former foster home; they fell in love). Cubby loves to go to the dog park, runs with amazing speed and agility and also enjoys leisurely walks in the neighborhood.

Bentley had lived in a basement before LEARN rescued him from a shelter. He'd been left at the shelter because he "didn't want to walk." His foster home discovered that Bentley not only loved his walks, but went crazy at walk time, did a happy dance, and couldn't get out the door fast enough. His shelter paperwork also said he had no favorite toy—in fact, he loved his kongs and any toy he could tear apart. He allegedly stole at least six toys at this year's Pawgust Fest. The photos say more than words for what weight loss did for him.



Bentley at time of rescue



Bentley post surgery



The New Bentley

Some Ways Dogs Get Fat

Many factors contribute to excess weight in dogs. Ours is an easy world for a dog to become fat.

Pet food companies, like any business, have to keep pushing their products in an effort to keep their bottom line growing. One way to sell more products is to encourage dog owners to feed their dogs more food than they really need. A consumer must be well educated to take total responsibility—especially since lobbyists and marketers shape the food industry—not only for what to eat but also for how much to eat. Some bags of dog food may recommend quantities of food above what some dogs need. These dogs store the extra food as fat; their health suffers; they lose mobility; they experience more pain; and they live shorter lives.

This stored fat is at the root of many problems that newly rescued Labs experience. The good news is that fat dogs that come into LEARN usually become a happy and healthy dogs once they begin to shed excess weight. The bad news is that too many fat dogs have suffered serious and painful health problems, and those problems often require expensive veterinary care and/or orthopedic surgeries before the dog can gain a new lease on life.

Some Vets won't tell a client that their dog is overweight because they fear the client may take personal offense. These Vets also fear that the offended client may, in turn, not follow Veterinary recommendations and ultimately, may not return to their practice. In some cases, these Vets are correct. If your Vet does not comment on your dog's weight, and you are unsure if your dog is overweight, be proactive and ask your Vet for guidance.

Since dogs are domestic animals, humans have the responsibility for their care—including how much they eat. We all need to pay close attention to quantities fed and exercise. If your dog gets table scraps, feed less dog food. If it makes you feel good to give your dog treats and your dog is fat, consider reducing food at mealtimes and/or swapping high calorie treats for carrots. When it comes to weight, a calorie is a calorie.

Identifying the problem is the first step in helping an overweight dog. (See the article in the last issue for more guidance on determining and obtaining your dog's ideal weight on LEARN's website.)

The Collar's Role: Avoiding Neck, Spine and Other Injuries

Does your dog pull or even lunge as you walk down the street? Even if your dog pulls only on occasion, this article will help your dog live a happier and healthier life with you. Many different types of collars are available for your canine companion. For some, the collar is even a fashion statement. However, the collar decision should be based on more than appearance. Here's why:

Anders Hallgren conducted a chiropractic study in Sweden that showed that 252 of 400 dogs had misaligned spines, and 65% of the 252 with spinal problems also had behavioral problems. Only 30% of dogs without spinal injuries had behavioral problems. 78% of the dogs labeled aggressive or hyperactive had spinal problems. The dogs in this study were considered well-cared for and were volunteered for the

study by their owners, so the study did not include dogs where owners would have abusive handling to hide. (Cited in Paul Owens' *The Dog Whisperer: A Compassionate, Nonviolent Approach to Dog Training*)

How many of the spinal problems found in the Hallgren study could be related to leash dynamics—pulling by the dog, jerking by the human? After letting this question nag me for over 6 years, I finally began to research the possible roles that collars and leashes play in a dog's well being.

Dr. Julie Kaufman, specializing in animal chiropractic, (www.chiropracticforanimals.net) has treated dogs with "KNOWN" [her emphasis] injuries directly caused from a choke-chain; from a sudden jerk or pull

from the leash/chain/rope; or from being tied outside. A collar puts pressure on the neck in what, too often, results in injuries to the dog. Dr. Kaufman explains, “One dog was completely paralyzed in both front legs following a jerk on the collar. She had several discs blown as a result and eventually regained movement after weeks of chiropractic and acupuncture [treatments]. In fact, neck injuries from collars are so common that we see new cases every few weeks.”

Dr. Kaufman often uses a model dog skeleton to illustrate how pulling will affect the joint segments. This helps dog owners visualize how a small tug can easily injure or even slightly dislocate a segment of the spine. She adds, “Since research indicates that it only takes the weight of a dime to depress a nerve’s function by 50%, it’s understandable how a tug on a narrow collar could cause major pressure and trauma to a small area of the neck. If you catch the neck at a critical angle, you could blow a disc, cause nerve or muscle injury or worse.”

Premier, a highly respected company that provides safe, effective, and humane training tools for pets, found in a recent survey that 96% of Veterinarians report having seen or heard of a collar-related injury or death within the last year. That translates to thousands of suffering and/or dead dogs each year.

Tracheal collapse has happened to dogs who have only worn a flat collar for leash walking. When on a leash, regular pressure from the collar—whether because the dog or the human pulls—is often at the root of this.

What’s a human to do about collars?

Here are some collars to consider. They all should help a dog learn not to pull while protecting from neck trauma. (While this list is not comprehensive, you will want to consider collars that have similar and tested attributes.)

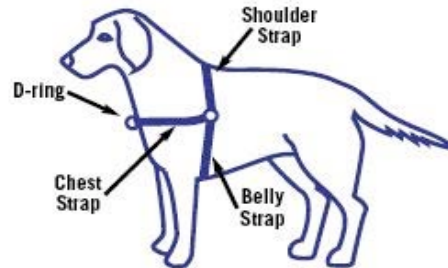
1. **Head Collar** (Gentle Leader by Premier or Halti Head Collar)



2. **KeepSafe Break Away collar (Premier)**



3. **Easy Walk Harness (Premier)**



4. **Prong/Pinch Collar, if, and only if, you are working with a trainer, using positive reinforcement training methods.**



This should be properly fitted and never worn unless you are actively training your dog. Your trainer can advise you which brand(s) to purchase.

Head collars, like the Gentle Leader or the Halti, consist of nylon straps—one fits around the base of the muzzle and the other, around the back of the neck. The strap around the base of the muzzle allows you to lead the dog in the direction you want to go rather than pulling on the dog’s neck. The strap around the back of the neck applies pressure to a point that triggers a dog to naturally relax and thus has a calming effect—some LEARN volunteers have called that glazed, relaxed look on a dog the “Zen Effect.” Head collars are not muzzles; dogs can eat, drink, pant, carry toys, and even howl while wearing one. Head collars can also be highly effective training tools. It is vital that the collar is properly fitted and introduced. LEARN carries a DVD on fitting the Gentle Leader as well as a

on training with the head collar, available for only the cost of mailing. See www.labadoption.org/merchandise.

The **KeepSafe Break Away** collar has a patented safety buckle or release mechanism if your dog's collar gets caught on a fence, heat vent, another dog's jaw (while playing), or tree. After researching this article, I purchased a KeepSafe for our Lab. This summer he got caught in large branches in a hard-to-access area along a riverbank. He returned without his collar. The KeepSafe may have saved his life as a traditional flat collar, like the ones he's worn for years, could have literally hung him over the river. I immediately purchased a second KeepSafe. The KeepSafe has two metal loops on either side of the safety buckle so that a leash can be attached without the collar releasing. (Make sure your dog isn't likely to bolt away if the collar releases in the woods. Micro-chipping is a great back up for identification.)

The **Easy Walk harness** discourages pulling because it attaches to the leash in the front. In contrast, traditional harnesses encourage the "sled dog" reaction which is to PULL. Again, after researching, I purchased an Easy Walk and have been very pleased. Our mostly leash-trained Lab would pull to grab anything edible that he saw before the human knew to say "leave it." This harness protects his neck and trachea.

The **Prong/Pinch collar**—do your research and talk to more than one trainer to see if this is right for you. Ask your trainer what his or her experience is with prong collars and how/when it's recommended to use them.

Deb Hamele, founder and former President of LABMED and experienced trainer, has strong warnings against the choke/chain collar but believes that the prong collar has been given an undeservedly bad reputation because of its appearance. Prongs/pinches must be fitted properly to be safe and effective. The user should be taught how to fit and use them properly—you could easily put your dog at risk if you try to figure it out yourself. Note: Prong collars should only be worn when the dog is being actively trained. They should not be used at any other time because they could get caught on something resulting in injury.

Prongs are considered a "self correcting" collar. Deb explains, "you do not have to give a jerk or pull on the

collar. The dog usually pulls once or twice and finds the collar tightens and then never pulls again -- I have seen that dramatic of a result in classes I have taught again and again. It then becomes the dog's choice to either pull or walk nicely; no correction needed on the part of the human partner." Deb cautions that in the case of aggressive dogs, a prong/pinch collar could make the dog more aggressive if used in a harsh manner.

Choke chains/collars are **NOT** recommended for the general dog owner; they do exactly what they say: choke! And they don't help the dog figure out how to behave properly unless through fear, not a productive training dynamic. In fact, most of the bloody injuries from collars come from chokers. LABMED has helped many recover from such injury. You may visit http://www.labmed.org/ss_angel.html or http://www.labmed.org/ss_rex.html to view photos of how serious these injuries can be.

A study in Germany highlights the distinction between prong and choke collars (quoted from <http://www.cobankopegi.com/prong.html>; the site also includes comments by Bonnie Dalzell, MA,)

- 100 dogs were in the study. 50 used choke and 50 used prong.
- The dogs were studied for their entire lives. As dogs died, autopsies were performed.
- Of the 50 which had chokes, 48 had injuries to the neck, trachea, or back. 2 of those were determined to be genetic. The other 46 were caused by trauma.
- Of the 50 which had prongs, 2 had injuries in the neck area, 1 was determined to be genetic. 1 was caused by trauma.

Des Hawgood, of the Institute of Animal Care Education in England, has a web article on the "Misuse of Choke Chains" and advocates legislation to outlaw the use of choke collars because of the huge number of injuries and death. Injuries from choke collars include: Injured ocular vessels; tracheal and oesophageal damage; severely sprained necks; cases of fainting; transient foreleg paralysis; recurrent laryngeal nerve paralysis, and hind leg ataxia. In some cases x-rays showed misalignment of the cervical vertebrae and in others, Horner's Syndrome was diagnosed. (X-rays were necessary because not all injuries are visible

without them.)

(<http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/dog/LA/hawgood1.htm>)

To reiterate, **avoid any and all choke chains or collars**. There is no good reason to use a choke to walk your dog. You will likely pay not only for a choke collar but also for a shorter life in your dog and more vet expenses from health/injury. Worse, your dog suffers.

Do not use **shock collars** or any device which aims to provide an electric-generated correction unless you have been properly trained in their use. This is another story in itself, but these devices can cause health problems, fear, and aggression/behavioral issues as well as physical and/or ear pain. Improper use of such devices has resulted in everything from a confused dog to a tortured dog. If you currently use them, research them thoroughly to understand their many risks and dangers.

While this article has focused on collar and harness options, remember that **retractable leashes**—even though they may let your dog have more leeway to explore and run during a walk—usually result in a big

jerk when the end of the line is reached. The unsuspecting dog always gets a big jerk, and sometimes smaller dogs experience a force which jolts them off the ground. With a flat collar, all this force is inflicted at the dog's neck. While retractable leashes have their strong advocates and opponents, I believe the risk of neck, spine, and/or tracheal damage is simply too great to recommend it.

In sum, your choice of collar may be the most important decision you make for your dog's health and longevity. Make sure to protect your dog's spine, neck, and trachea from the risks of a jerk or pull. Make yours a conscious and well-informed choice.

A special thanks to Deb Hamele and Dr. Julie Kaufman for their sharing their expertise and experience.

For additional chiropractic information, visit <http://members.tripod.com/chlmera/tutorials/wadog.html>; this site, a primer in chiropractic, describes the risks associated with flat, choke, and prong collars and harnesses.



Smitty



Lyle

LEARN's TV Celebs!

On Wednesday September 26th, LEARN Labs Lyle and Smitty escorted volunteers Julie Bauer and Christine Lisiak so that they could appear on "The Morning Blend" for a brief segment of this hour long talk show. The Morning Blend is a live broadcast which can be seen on WTMJ Channel 4 from 9-10am. Julie and Christine promoted LEARN, explained how LEARN rescues Labs, and also advertised Laps for Labs. Big thanks to Michele Erickson for making contact with WTMJ to make this appearance possible.

The 5th Annual Laps for Labs, as many of you already know, was yet again a huge success—lots of dogs, fun, and food, plus over \$3,000 was raised to help Labs!

Lyle and Smitty have since been adopted and live happily in their forever homes.

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

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

2. Does your dog have dry, flaky or itchy skin? Try fish oil or flax seed oil for Omega 3 Fatty Acids, (EPA and DHA) that help your dog's skin and provide other benefits (heart, coat, joints, immune). Make sure fish oil is free from mercury and other contaminants. Omega-3's from plant sources must be converted to EPA and DHA for a dog to utilize, so dogs unable to do that fare better with fish oil than flax oil/ground flax. Refrigerate these oils if in liquid form!

3. Would your labs never jump on the counter or table? Think again. One volunteer's Labs had never before jumped on the table, and the time they did, they possibly ingested a toxic level of NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). Because there was no way to tell if one of the Labs ingested all of them or just part of

them, the volunteer had to admit both of them for 48 hours in an animal hospital. Take the time to make sure all of your medications are out of the reach of your pets; e.g., place them in a cabinet or (high) drawer. "Now, after terribly missing them both this weekend, putting their future health at risk, and over \$2,000+ later, I regret my neglect as a dog owner."

4. Eating too quickly? Try putting some water on your dog's food to slow down his/her eating . . . just enough so the food floats . . . or putting a racquetball 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 that serves the same function.

5. Agitated during the night? One senior Lab started panting and shaking and behaving during the night last summer. It would happen shortly after everyone in the family had gone to bed. After much troubleshooting, it was discovered that he needed a night light. When he wanted to move from one room to another, he couldn't see, would sometimes slip on the wood floor, and thus became frightened and anxious. The nightlight gave everyone in the house to have a good night sleep.

Congrats to Labbies who found their new families!

June 2007

Hershey - *Terry & Laurel Tinkle*
Leo - *Richard & Margaret Bilkey*
Mousse - *Keith & Catherine Hougard*
Nelson - *Thomas & Teresa Patek*

July 2007

Stella - *Janet & Mark Clear*
Cash - *Hugh & Dawn Head*
Katy - *Nancy Kraft*
Molly - *Herb & Bem Flentye*
Caston - *Dan & Susan Hirschberg*

Minnow - *Chuck Martin & Kari Smith*

August 2007

Charlie - *Wayne & Amy Wiedenbeck*
Dusty - *Tricia Noe*
Chelsea - *Lisa and Randall Torrey*
Bear - *Kristi & Shawn Carnahan*
Matilda - *David & Aimee Florez*
Jackson - *Shawn & Gina Connor*
Willie - *Linda Ketcham*

September 2007

Juggernaut - *Jeffrey & Kathy Millard*

Elli - *Katie Otzelberger*

Mindy - *Mike and Donna Karolewicz*
Chester (Casey) - *Donna Spangler & Jim Champagne*
Emma - *Charles & Cathy Binneboese*
Sherlock/ Jake - *Terrance & Cynthia Sykora*
Austin - *Jeffrey & Leslie Avers*
Duke - *Amy & Jonathon Overby*

Our Labs Need Your Help!

Many dogs desperately need our help, including expensive medical care that drains our finances. Donations (tax-deductible) 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 via **PayPal**.

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.

Jefferson & Vivian Aikin**
Vivian Aikin
Carolyn Aradine
Brian Axell / Jennifer Gaab
Susan Barnes
Mary Beck
Lisa Beckers
James & Sheryl Ann
Berkenfield
Julie Bills
Elizabeth Conwell
Steve & Amy Corbisier
Randy Coutre
Chet & Susan Cusick
John & Kay Day
Mari Divarco*
Janet Dobson
Tom & Linda Dodge
Dan & Cindy Dorf
Michael & Barbara Doyle
Dan & Jill Drzewiecki
Anne Duncan
Kathleen Easland***
Philip & Cathy Eck
Gary & Deborah Eichhorst
Mike & Barb Felten
Anne Flaten
Barbara Friedrich
Jennifer Gaab
Brian Giangregio

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Carol Guzy
Leah Rae Hartwig
Alan & Joan Haug
Vince & Liz Hellenbrand
Brenda Henley
Yolanda Hestekin
Wendy Hewitt
Mitzi Heytow
Jerome & Alice Hill
Susan & Dan Hirschberg
Stephen & Susan Holifield
Paul & Tracy Howard*
Kenneth & Ann Howell
Marian Hoyne
Joan Howard
Kathleen Hruby
Patricia Hummel
Carol Kaminski
Mary Kelly-Powell
Arnold & Jan Kemper
Edwin & Patricia Kindig
Helen Koblitz
Mark & Linda Kobylanski

Al Korbel*
Walter & Cindy Koschetz
Violet Kuczvara
Tori Lampert
Rachael Leiner
Vivian Littlefield
James Lyddon
Peter & Mary Ellen Murray
Kenneth Myszk
Jack & Marlene Martin
Kenneth Myszk
David & Anna Nagy*
Sharon Nellis
Sharon O'Connell
Philmar Mfg. Inc.
Ben & Caryn Putra
Chuck Roloff
Thomas Schirz
Jeanne Schuett
Larry Slupianowski
James & Vana Smith*
Shannon Steffen
Cheryl Tonn*
Lisa Torrey
Wellpoint Associate Giving
Edwin & Kathy Wirka*
Mark & Shawn Wood
James Woods
Laura & Paul Ziebarth

*In memory of Mike Hunt; **In memory of Louise Conchetti; ***In memory of Codi & Norton

Special Thanks to Helen Ireland

Helen Ireland has given LEARN Labs the single biggest monetary gift to date. In her Will, she left funds to L.E.A.R.N. and also left funds for several other shelters and rescues. (We wish we knew more about Helen's life to share with other supporters of LEARN. We would love to include an article about her in a future issue, so if you can help, please email newsletter@labadoption.org.)

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 and 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.

Merchandise for Holidays and Other Occasions

LEARN's merchandise selections have been recently updated and expanded. Please check our website for gift ideas. The selection ranges from T-shirts and toys to training books/tools and gift certificates. Also check out LEARN's 2008 new & improved calendar featuring many of 2007's former foster dogs and volunteers' dogs.

For that extra-special dog lover, consider sponsoring a Lab in his/her name.

Visit www.labadoption.org/merchandise. Prices below include mailing costs.



(left) Yellow Lab in contemporary format.

"Hope your holidays are like a Lab, filled with enthusiasm, warmth, joy and unconditional love!" 12 cards / \$15



(left) Chocolate Lab in contemporary format.

"Sit! Stay! Enjoy the Holidays!" 12 cards / \$15



(above) Traditional Holiday Card: Black Lab

"Happy Holidays May Your holidays be merry and bright!" 10 cards/ \$15



(left) Three Labs in more traditional format.

"Happy Holidays Its that time of the year to "PAWS" for a moment to wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season." 10 cards / \$15

2008 LEARN Calendars

Each month includes great photos of Labs fostered in 2007 and the last year's events. \$14 covers postage. E-mail your order to learndogs@labadoption.org.

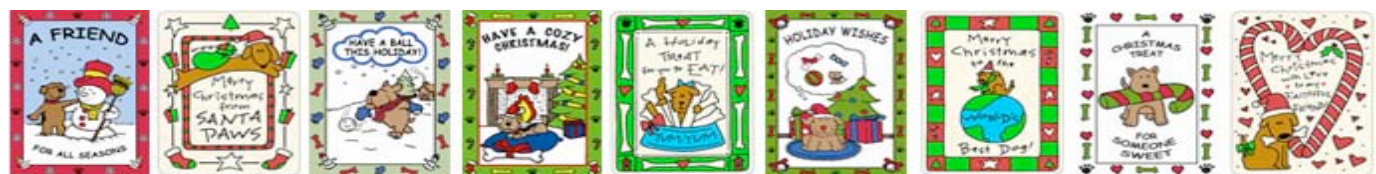


3 Lab Embroidered Hat. (left) Tan canvas baseball cap with black, chocolate and yellow embroidered Labs. Adjustable. \$21.

Nothing Butt Labrador T-shirt. (Right) Ultra pre-shrunk cotton. Short-sleeved, gray in color with 3 Lab color behinds – one black, chocolate and yellow. Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL \$20



Edible Holiday Dog Greeting Cards (100% natural rawhide cards printed with non-toxic edible ink, 4-3/8"x 6-3/8") \$6 each. Mail them yourself or LEARN will do it for you! Feline versions also available!



LEARN Volunteers Inspire . . .

This column introduces LEARN's volunteers and tells what they do, often behind the scenes, to save Labs and why. Our Labs have their own stories, and so do our volunteers who help them. As you may remember, in the last issue of The Retriever we featured LEARN's Board of Directors. Two of them escaped the issue . . . and one is our newest Board member. So, we like to introduce this dynamic trio.

Robin Kassees began as a volunteer for LEARN by fostering. She quickly became very involved with the numerous facets for LEARN...she just couldn't say, "No." She adopted one of her 'problem' foster dogs, Dudley, and has turned him into a terrific dog. She has always been willing to help with anything that comes up for LEARN. Even after having her son Jordan 17 months ago, she has continued to be just as involved and devoted to the Labs. Robin handles all intake and evaluations for the entire Milwaukee area.



Tammy with LEARN alum Willow helping at LEARN's booth

Tammy Rasey came to LEARN first as an adopter, then as a volunteer and most recently as a Board member. She adopted her first LEARN dog, Willow, in 2002 (she had a Lab named Sadie already)...then there was Tootsie in 2005....She adopted Levye after volunteering to help with the abandoned dogs after Hurricane

Katrina. She has been invaluable to LEARN. Her organizational and computer skills, combined with her endless energy and inability to say, "No," make LEARN very lucky to have her.

Tammy and Robin deal with the enormous quantity of WI intake calls and e-mails that arrive daily along with all the other aspects of LEARN.



Dawn with her devoted companions

LEARN has a new member of the Board, and her name is Dawn Hutchings. Dawn also started out by fostering and quickly started volunteering for more and more things....and couldn't say, "No," either! Dawn is now helping with Illinois intakes and evaluations along with everything else. Welcome Dawn!!

LEARN & Lab Events! Mark your calendar

Please visit LEARN's website for your **holiday gift needs**. Cards for humans, canines, and felines, calendars, plus many new products at www.labadoption.org/merchandise.

2008 LEARN Calendars now available! \$14 covers postage. E-mail LEARN to place your order: learndogs@labadoption.org. Great holiday gifts for all!

LEARN will hold a Reunion on February 10, 2008, at the Dog Den in Fitchburg, WI. Please watch for more details on the website.



Would you like to “retrieve” *The Retriever* via email? If so, please email 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 regret that we cannot pro-rate subscriptions. For back issues, please visit www.Labadoption.org.

It's time to renew! If you wish to renew or purchase a print subscription to *The Retriever*, it's time to send your \$5 renewal check or a donation of \$50 or more to LEARN at P.O. Box 292, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

WANT TO HELP SAVE MORE LABS?

LEARN needs foster homes. The more foster homes we have, the more Labs we can save.

Many people say they can't foster because they wouldn't be able to part with their foster dog. The adoption *is* bittersweet. Just keep in mind that when your foster dog is adopted, you've just helped save that Lab and started him/her on their way to a much better life—and by his/her adoption, you have now room to save another Lab's life. Still not sure? You wouldn't hesitate if you knew how many Labs are in need and cannot be saved because LEARN doesn't have any foster homes available. Even fostering just once would help.

Interested? Please visit LEARN's website for more information and an application: www.Labadoption.org/linkpages/HowToHelp/Fosters.htm or contact Donna Spangler at nortntrix@aol.com or call (847) 289-PETS (7387) and leave a message for Donna. Thanks for considering it. ☺



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