

Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond The River City Lab Gab

Message From the Board

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2010 has started with a bang. In the short 8 weeks of the new year, Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond has taken in 15 Labradors!

Our program is forever expanding, from volunteers, to vet clinics, to shelters, requesting our help.

If the first two months of the year is any indication, 2010 will prove to be a challenging year.

We ask for more folks to take the challenge and walk through this year with us.

Take the challenge to care for a lab in need, to support a program that extends itself to others, and to improve the future of Labradors across Virginia.

Contact us to learn about the different ways YOU can help a Lab in need!



"Happiness is a warm puppy."

- Charles M. Schulz

Adoption Corner

Jane Beall – Adoption Coordinator

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With 15 labs coming to us in the first 8 weeks of the new year, our coordinators have been quite busy.

Eleven of these sweet dogs have found their forever homes, due to the endless efforts of our volunteers. From our foster homes to the adoption coordinators, team effort is key.

When we get letters and pictures of our alumni, of how happy their humans are and how happy they are, we smile from ear to ear.

Each lab has different needs, and to find the right match can sometimes be a challenge. But we don't give up. Their home is out there, and together we find it.

When applications start flying like February snow, we ask that folks are patient waiting for their interview. That can be the hardest part, for that picture you see of "Fido" has stolen your heart.

Though the dog may seem ideal to you, we know the personality and needs of each dog, and will find the forever home that will best suit "Fido". That is **our** hardest part.

If you're an alumni, send us your pictures and stories. If you are waiting for your new family member, keep watching the *available dogs* section. You may be surprised at who steals your heart.



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FEATURED ARTICLE

WHY ADOPT A SENIOR LAB?

When Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond takes in a lab, we do not discriminate on age. From the young to the older, all these labs deserve to be loved and to give love. This article may shed some light on the advantages of giving an older lab a forever home, for however long that may be. Below are some great questions and answers on this subject.

Won't I be adopting someone else's problems? If the dog was so wonderful, why wouldn't they have kept him?

Older dogs lose their homes for many different reasons....most of them having nothing to do with problems the dog has, but rather with those of the person or family surrendering the dog. Many folks think dogs who end up at shelters or in rescue are all genetically and behaviorally inferior. But, it is not uncommon for very expensive, well-bred dogs to outlive their usefulness or novelty with folks who bought them on impulse and no longer want to take responsibility for them. Other reasons older dogs become homeless: death of a guardian....not enough time for the dog..... change in work schedule..... new baby.....need to move to a place where dogs are not allowed.... kids going off to college.... allergies.... change in "lifestyle".... prospective spouse doesn't like dogs. (All these reasons are taken from real case histories.)

What advantages do older dogs have over puppies or young dogs?

Older dogs who are offered for adoption by shelters or rescue agencies generally have had some training, both in obedience and house manners. (Some dogs, due to the confusion and upset of being uprooted and finding themselves in a chaotic shelter environment, may temporarily forget their housetraining. Inevitably, once established in their new home, they remember.) Older dogs have learned what "no" means and how to leave the furniture, carpets, shoes, and other "chewables" alone. (If they hadn't learned that, they wouldn't have gotten to be "older" dogs.) They have been "socialized" and learned what it takes to be part of a "pack" and to get along with humans and, in most cases, other dogs, and in some other cases, cats, as well. Older dogs, especially those who have once known it, appreciate love and attention and quickly learn what's expected of them to gain and keep that love and attention. Older dogs know how to let you finish the newspaper, sitting calmly next to you, while your workday stress flows away and your blood pressure lowers. They are also instant companions, ready for hiking, riding in the car, walking on leash, fetching, etc. Finally, older dogs are a "known commodity." They are easy to assess for behavior and temperament, and you also don't have to guess how big they'll grow.

Aside from any advantages an older dog has, is there any good reason to adopt an older dog instead of a puppy, who has his whole life ahead of him?

Just about everyone who enters a shelter is looking for a puppy or a young dog (three years or under). There are also many people who go to breeders to buy puppies. By adopting an older dog, we can make a statement about compassion and the value of all life at all ages, as well as register a protest against the indiscriminate and inhumane breeding of dogs, whether it is for profit or to "teach the children about birth." And, of course, just as a puppy has his whole life ahead of him, so does an older dog have the rest of his life in front of him. You can give that older dog the best years of his life while at the same time bringing a wonderful addition into your family. Another consideration is the larger goal of making the U.S. a "no-kill" nation. By setting the example of adopting a dog who would be otherwise euthanized just because of his age, you can help create the climate that will enable the U.S. to attain that goal.

Is there anything special I will need to do during the dog's "adjustment" period?

Again, this will depend on the individual dog. In general, with a dog of any age, it is a good idea to set aside a period of several weeks during which you can spend more time than usual in reassuring the dog, establishing good communication with the dog, and creating the special bond that will ensure a good future together.

I just lost my old dog. What if I lose another soon after I adopt him?

Grief is a very personal matter. Some people feel that giving a home to an older dog in need is a tribute to their former dog and actually eases their pain. Also, knowing that adoption has saved a dog from euthanasia and will allow her

quality time for whatever period she has left, often enables people to focus on the positives and to deal better with loss.

Consider also that there are never any guarantees about length of life with any dog. Quality of time together can matter a great deal more than quantity.

Why are older dogs good for senior citizens?

Pam Bishop has written a wonderful pamphlet that discusses the many benefits to be derived by senior citizens who adopt an older dog. Click on this link to read this extraordinarily good information: [Senior Dogs Living with Senior Citizens.](#)

Original article located at www.srdogs.com (The Senior Dogs Project).

Don't forget, Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond has a [Seniors For Seniors Program](#). If a senior human (Aged 60 and above) adopts one of our senior dogs (Aged 8 and above) the adoption fee is reduced by 50%.

Go to www.labrescue-richmond.org for more information.

HAPPY TAILS

Hi Folks,

My name is CJ and I was adopted from Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond on November 9th, 2009 and I couldn't be happier. My new home is in Quinton, Virginia and I share it with Chip & Jean. They absolutely adore me! I have learned new tricks with the help of a wonderful dog trainer by the name of Valerie. I can now walk without pulling, sit and stay on command. I can even say my prayers. Pretty soon I'll have my GDC (Good Dog Citizen) and then I'll start working on my therapy dog training. That way I can help other's who may need a helping hand. All of this is because of Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond who gave me a second chance to be a first rate dog. I'll keep you posted on how I'm progressing.

Doggy Kisses to all,
CJ



Baby, you ought to be in pictures!

We have successfully concluded our 2nd annual Doggie Photo Contest Fundraiser. We had 27 folks enter 104 photos. Wow! The judging was a difficult task as we received some wonderful pictures. The winners were announced on Feb 27, and they are:

Puppies: Natalie Orrock

Average Joe: John Heckman

Labs: Aaron and Erika Isler

Grand Prize: Brigitte Fanelli

The winning photos can be found on the LRGR website. Thank you to all of our sponsors and participants.

I cook with wine. Sometimes I even add it to the food – WC Fields

If you are a wine or music lover, our current fundraiser will be of great interest to you. We are currently raffling off 2 tickets to Chateau Morrisette's Black Dog Wine and Music Festival. A \$3 donation buys you a raffle ticket to your choice of their Jazz, Blues or Beach Wine and Music Festival. Go to the LRGR website for more details and to purchase a ticket.

EVENTS

During the course of the year, LRGR staffs a booth at several community events. At these events we speak to people interested in many different facets

of LRGR, from adopting to fostering, from volunteering to donating. Below is a list of events scheduled to date:

February 13 – PetCo Grand Opening – Richmond, VA

April 24 – Meet and Greet at Bass Pro Shops – Ashland, VA

May 15 – RAL's Woofstock – Richmond, VA

Come out to an event. We would love to see you!

Foster News Christine Wilson – Foster Home Coordinator

What exactly is a foster home?

A foster home is simply a temporary home for a dog until the dog's "forever family" is found. At LRGR, we expect our foster homes to provide a safe, loving and healthy environment for our foster.

Fostering expenses:

LRGR covers all medical expenses, medications, and boarding. We expect the foster home to cover the day-to-day expenses like food and toys. Fosters should supply the dog with a healthy dry food from a local pet store. Suggested toys include: Kongs, tug rope, Nylabones, tennis balls, etc....You will be provided with a crate and your foster will come with a collar and LRGR tags.

When your foster dog arrives:

The first thing you should do when your foster dog arrives is to take him on a walk. This helps the new foster to release energy and form a bond with you. Next, allow your foster to explore your yard. Do not let him off his leash unless you are

in a secure area. If you have other pets you will need to introduce slowly and on lead. Once comfortable, allow dog to enter your home on lead and supervise his behavior.

Training and behavior:

We rely on our foster homes to not only let us know what our foster dog's training and behavior needs **are**, but to also work on teaching them basic manners and commands (house training, no jumping on people, leash walking,

sit, stay, etc.) If needed, we have volunteers who can assist you in this area.

Fostering a dog is a very tangible way to make a difference. Our dogs greatly benefit from being in a foster home. The foster home is a stop on their journey to their "forever home."

If you are interested in becoming a foster, please fill out a foster application at www.labrescue-richmond.org.

"Dogs' lives are too short. Their only fault, really."

- Agnes Sligh Turnbull

Lab Rescue of Greater
Richmond

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Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond is a non-profit, all volunteer organization serving Richmond, Virginia and nearby counties.

We rescue Labrador Retrievers and provide them with foster homes and veterinary care until they can be adopted into new, loving homes. Each one of our Labs is housed in a foster home, instead of in a kennel.

We feel this is the best way to get to know the Labs we rescue. We are not affiliated with any other Lab Rescue.

Please keep in mind that there are many purebred Labs available in your local shelters so please visit them as well!

We're on the Web!

[www.labrescue-
richmond.org](http://www.labrescue-richmond.org)

Resources – Training and Behavior

Resources that cover multiple aspects of dog ownership

Positive Perspectives by Pat Miller. Dogwise Books, 2004.

Labrador Retrievers for Dummies by Joel Walton and Eve Adamson. IDG Books Worldwide - 2000

Books about dog behavior

The Culture Clash by Jean Donaldson. James & Kenneth Publishers, 1996.

The Other End of the Leash by Patricia B. McConnell, PhD. Ballentine Books, 2002.

Dog Behavior by Ian Dunbar. Howell Book House, 1999. situations.

Training resources

The Power of Positive Dog Training by Pat Miller. Howell Book House, 2001. This is a great step-by-step manual that trains you to train your dog.

How to be the Leader of the Pack by Patricia McConnell, PhD. This small booklet tells you how to love your dog without spoiling him and set limitations and boundaries without intimidation.

Feeling Outnumbered? by Patricia McConnell. Managing and enjoying a multidog household.

