

Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond The River City Lab Gab

Message From the Board

Jane Beall, Lois Mickiewicz, Liann Snipes, Christine Wilson, Dewayne Wilson

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2010 has brought many challenges to LRGR. With the poor economy and foreclosures, we have seen an increase in owners surrendering their labs. In addition to helping owners who need to give up their labs, we have been saving Labs from euthanasia in area shelters. Our volunteers have helped organize, transport, foster and raise money for over 52 dogs so far this year, and these numbers are steadily rising.

The internet has become one of our main ways the public can look for their next Lab. LRGR can be found on PETFINDER.COM as well as our website: WWW.LABRESCUE-RICHMOND.ORG

We have over 100 followers on our [FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/lrgr) page. Our page will keep you up to date on scheduled events, any news from LRGR and you may even catch a glimpse of our wonderful Labs.

We have also partnered with Petco and joined their adoption day's events. LRGR participated in two adoption events at their facility. We had great success. The Petco events brought about adoptions, volunteers, fundraising and gave us a chance to get the word out about our organization.

Our gracious volunteers are the key to our success. It takes a team of dedicated individuals to make LRGR an outstanding rescue organization. The board would like to thank all of our volunteers for the time and effort they put into saving our precious Labs.

A door is what a dog is
perpetually on the wrong
side of.

~ Ogden Nash



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Jane Beall – Adoption Coordinator

“Hey, look, look out there. Through the cage. Someone is here!”

“Guys, we’re going outside!!! Get ready”

“Don’t jump on me. Move over. I want out too.”

“Oh, the sun is warm. Can you catch me?”

“Where are we going? This is fun.”

“This place smells different. Look, a big dog and toys to play with. Wow, this is GREAT!”

And so the story goes. Whether it is a bunch of beautiful puppies, or an adult lab wanting to understand what is happening to him, the process begins at the shelter. With begging eyes, and wagging tails, each one needs help. Little do we know HOW MUCH help they will need until they enter our program.

The journey has just begun. Their new life has just begun. All of our Adoption Coordinators dedicate endless hours of interviewing potential adopters, working for the best possible home for each rescued lab.

Last year we rescued and placed over 30 labs. So far, to date, we have rescued and re-homed 52!! What an amazing time it has been. What a hard working bunch of volunteers we have. And the year still has 3 months to go.

Each time we walk into a shelter, and the above scenario ensues, the process has begun. The dogs wonder what happened to them. Did they not behave well, did they eat too much, get too big, cost too much? What they need to know is that they WILL be loved so much, they WILL eat each day, they WILL learn that life is good.

Watching each of these wonderful Labradors find their forever home is the payback that keeps all our coordinators going. Hearing the wonderful tales of adventures they have, and experiences they get, makes walking into that shelter possible ONE MORE TIME.



LILY, BEFORE



**LILY, AFTER (with LRGR
alumnus, Cooper)**

Foster News

Christine Wilson – Foster Home Coordinator

A POEM TO MY FOSTER DOG

By Diane Morgan

I am the bridge,
between what was and what can be.
I am the pathway to a new life.

I am made of mush,
because my heart melted when I saw you,
matted, sore, limping, depressed
lonely, unwanted, afraid to love.

For one little time you are mine.
I will feed you with my own hand.
I will love you with my whole heart.
I will make you whole.

I am made of steel.
because when the time comes,
when you are well, and sleek,
when your eyes shine,
and your tail wags with joy
then comes the hard part.

I will let you go - not without a tear,
but without a regret.
for you are safe forever--
A new dog needs me now!

HAPPY TAILS

RILEY has been a joyful addition to our family! Rob and Terri, Newport News Va.



“Angel Dog” Riley

MAX

*We took Max and Reese to the Chesapeake Bay this morning. Max loves the water! He’s a good boy and cute as a button. We’re getting better at leash skills. He is delirious in the dog park and LOVES to ride in the car. We’re now working on behaving when he sees another dog or human; very gentle with toddlers; loves to play “please try to catch me because I have something in my mouth that I’m not supposed to have” – we’re working on that too. He will often lie in his crate when I’m in the office working and loves to be close by. Reese and Max even played tug-of-war with the Frisbee Kong the other day and love to go to the coffee shop. Max is learning the fine art of hanging out!

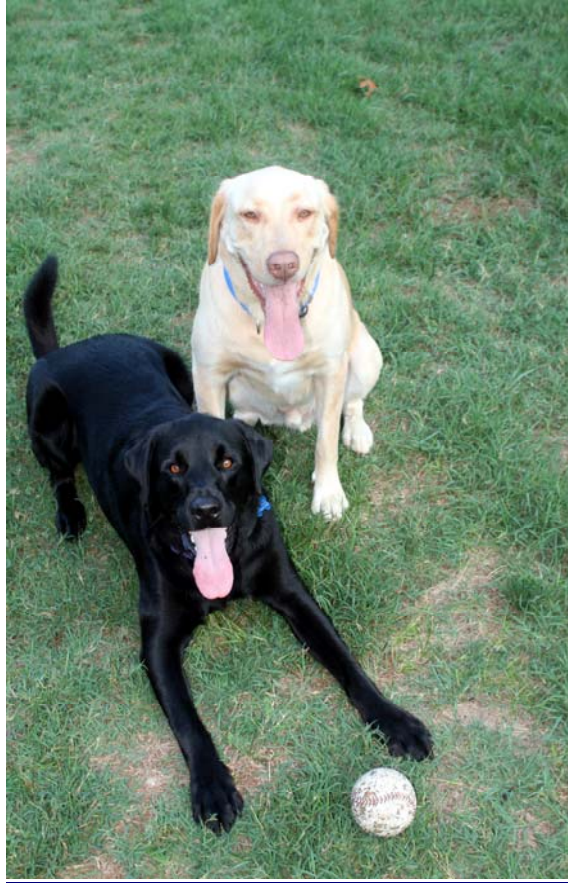
He is a handsome animal and smart. As he grows older, I am considering therapy dog training down the road; for now we may do some obedience training so that I can eventually walk him off lead when we are at the beach.

Jay, Portsmouth, VA

HARLEY AND TOKEN – ADOPTED MARCH 2010

They have taken over our hearts and our house and if given the chance, they will take over the bed. Harley has lost about 8 pounds and loves to play ball with his brother Token.

E. Harvey



HARLEY AND TOKEN

The Boys of Summer

Myth or Reality?

Not sure what to believe when it comes to the health and behavior of your dog? We have browsed the internet to find the answers for many common dog myths and will be sharing them over the next few newsletters:

Spotted tongues or gums are proof of a mixed or pure breed.

Spotted tongues and gums are proof of some crazy pigmentation, but not of mixed or pure blood.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

Dogs can learn new skills and commands within their physical capabilities until the day they pass away. What's more, they want to learn. Their minds need stimulation—just like ours.

Dogs are sick when their noses are warm.

The temperature of a dog's nose does not indicate health or illness or if they have a fever. There is an "old wives tale" that cold wet noses indicate health and warm or dry noses indicate a fever or illness. The only accurate method to access a dog's temperature is to take it with a thermometer. Normal dog temperature is 100.5 to 102.5 degrees F.

Fundraising is such an integral part of keeping Lab Rescue going, that I am happy to announce SEVERAL fundraisers, both current and upcoming

Macy's Shop for A Cause

Buy a ticket to Macy's Shop for a Cause event, being held October 16th and enjoy mega savings at any Macy's store nationwide. LRGR keeps 100% of the money raised, while you enjoy fantastic savings. Go to our website to purchase a ticket.

Pay for Work

LRGR will be working at three upcoming events and is being paid for

our time. Look for us at Field Day of the Past (Sept 18) The State Fair of VA (Oct 2) and the U of R football game (Nov 6). We might be directing you in the parking lot or selling you a ticket!

Community Chest Night – Capital Ale House (NOVEMBER 2010)

Present the coupon (available on LRGR website) at ANY Capital Ale House location, on ANY Thursday in November and LRGR gets 25% of the food bill total. Imagine, raising money by eating!!!

EVENTS:

LRGR has teamed up with PetCo to

join their adoption day events. LRGR had a booth at both the SwiftCreek and WestChester Commons stores, in July and August.

Upcoming events at which we will be:

September 25th – ChesterFest, Chester, VA

October 16th – Macy's store – Virginia Center Commons (Shop For A Cause Day)

For additional details, check out the EVENTS page on the LRGR website.

Come out to an event. We would love to see you and have you meet our wonderful Labs!

Training Tips – Don't Let Fido Get You Down

Christine Wilson – Foster Home Coordinator

Have you been considering giving up the idea of walking your dog? Do you get frustrated every time you take your canine friend out on a walk? Do your arms, hands and shoulders ache after a stroll with Fido? If any or all of these questions apply to you, take heart. It is never too late to train your dog how to properly walk on a leash.

No matter the size of the dog, being pulled during a walk takes out the pleasure and enjoyment of the activity. Fortunately, learning the basics of leash walking can transform your walks into the peaceful time that it is meant to be.

The walk starts in the home. Before attaching the leash to the collar your dog must be in a calm state of mind. To help your dog achieve a calm state before a walk, you must stay calm yourself. Many owners make the mistake of asking the dog, "Do you want to go for a walk?" or "Are you ready to take a walk?" This is usually done in a high pitched tone and spoken in an excited manner. The best approach is for the owner to remain calm. Ask your dog to sit before you

attach the leash. When at the door, ask your dog to sit and wait for the command to go outside. This in itself can take time to learn, but with patience your dog will catch on quickly.

There are two methods that bring success to leash walking. The first is to just stop walking. Begin walking using a four to six foot leash. When the dog begins to pull and the leash tightens, just "Stop." Say nothing, do nothing. When the dog relaxes and the pressure on the leash is released, praise and begin walking. This takes patience. You may only make it a few yards before you stop and wait. But with correct timing and praise you should see results within a few days. Continue at least once a day until your dog understands that a tight leash means "no-go."

The next step in training is changing direction. When your dog begins to pull, just change direction, praise and treat. Practice your walks in a quiet area. Pick a place that does not have many distractions. Little by little add

distractions (other dogs, people, different locations etc..). Start slow; set your dog up for success not failure. Don't become discouraged if success does not come overnight. The effort is worth the benefit of not being dragged down by an over exuberant walker.



Lab Rescue of Greater
Richmond

Address: P.O. Box 1574
Midlothian, VA 23113

Phone: 804.417.7527

E-mail:
[generalinformation@labrescue-
richmond.com](mailto:generalinformation@labrescue-richmond.com)

“Join” us on Facebook!!



We're on the Web!

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

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!

Give Richmond

Lois Mickiewicz – Public Relations and Philanthropic Chair

Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond is proud to announce it has been chosen by The Community Foundation, in partnership with GuideStar and a collaborative of local funders, to be listed as one of their partners in the new Give Richmond effort. This new website contains comprehensive information about your favorite nonprofits, including Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond!

This site empowers residents of Richmond and Central Virginia to become informed and inspired givers.

You can **FIND** local charitable organizations working in the areas that interest you.

You can **LEARN** about issues affecting our community and identify the organizations that are working in these areas.

You can **GIVE** with confidence, either through your fund at The Community Foundation, a direct credit card gift or by volunteering your time.

Please be on the lookout for information and the schedule of events surrounding the public launch of Give Richmond, October 11 - 16, 2010!

You can check out our profile now, at:

<http://giverichmond.guidestar.org/>

When a dog wags her tail and barks at the same time, how do you know which end to believe?
~ Anonymous