



The Retriever

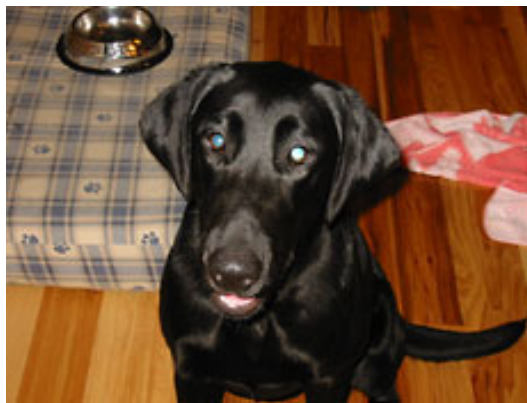
Labrador Education And Rescue Network's Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 1, March 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

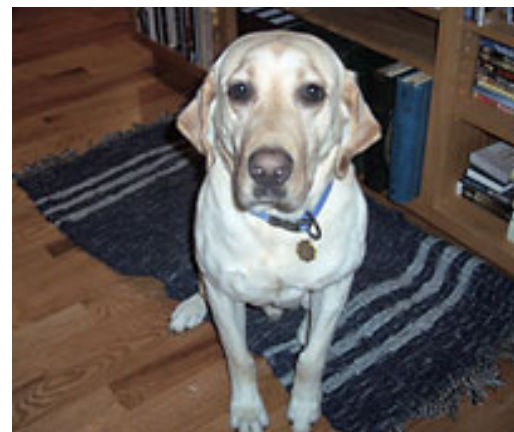
Helping Labs Get Healthy

Surgery complications, falling downstairs while tangled in a leash, severe hip problems, pneumonia, more—this has been the sad saga for many LEARN foster dogs recently.



Jada, a 9 month old female, suffered complications from her spay surgery. After bringing her home the day of the surgery, her foster mom noticed that her incision continued to bleed. A pressure bandage stopped the bleeding. But an hour later Jada the bleeding was out of control. She was rushed to the emergency clinic and arrived there in shock. Tests showed all lab values in the normal range and nothing could explain why her blood was failing to clot. Once sufficiently stable, Jada went into surgery again. Everything internally was fine from the original spay operation; the blood flow just wouldn't stop. The vet applied more sutures until the bleeding finally subsided—after over an hour in surgery. Jada spent the night and the next day at the emergency clinic until she gained enough strength to go home again. After a necessary recovery period, Jada did

well in her foster home and recently hit the jackpot when a wonderful family adopted her.



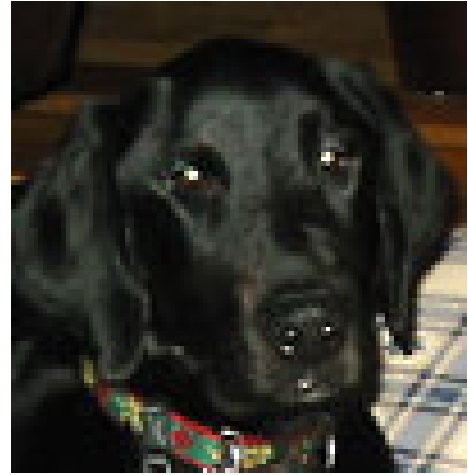
Astro's owners left him at a shelter after he got tangled in a leash and fell down a flight of stairs. They couldn't afford the very expensive surgery that was required to repair his leg. The shelter contacted LEARN. Knowing that Astro's future was less than bleak if we didn't help him, took Astro to an orthopedic surgeon to see what could be done. Astro had severe damage to his rear leg that resulted in transverse fractures to both his tibia and fibula, and a spiral fracture that went most of the length of his tibia. Astro would likely lose his leg without surgical repair. Astro underwent surgery and came out as Robo-Dog! A plate, twelve screws and five wires now held his leg together. He had to be confined to his crate for six weeks to allow the bone to regenerate and get strong enough to support his weight. Astro proved a trooper through the whole ordeal, never losing his goofy, happy Lab personality. Astro is now doing great! His leg has healed perfectly, and he can walk and run without any problems—not even a limp!



Mousse came to LEARN from another Rescue in May, 2006. He had been purchased from a pet store, then surrendered when it became evident that he had severe hip problems. The first Rescue group fell in love with him, but didn't have the funds to pay for his surgery. Since coming to LEARN, he's had surgery on one hip. He started rehab and hydro-therapy to strengthen the repaired leg. Mousse was lucky enough to be adopted by a wonderful couple in December. He continues his therapy and will still need surgery on the other hip in the future, at LEARN's expense. He is a GREAT dog!!



Bentley came to LEARN overweight and under-exercised. He had been living in a basement because he was unable to climb and descend stairs. He settled in very nicely at his foster home and loved to go for walks and to fetch. Then he started vomiting. He needed to have emergency stomach surgery. He then suffered several setbacks due to complications. This resulted in him staying at the hospital for 8 days. When he came home he was on sub-Q fluids and several post-op medications. He needed to have blood work done each week until his bilirubin and white counts came back normal. He is now recovered and doing fairly well.



Gus came to LEARN from a shelter in northern WI. He was surrendered because the older people who had him didn't know what it takes to care for and train a puppy. He was underweight but had the sweetest Labby personality. Those big eyes that just looked up at you and said 'Save Me, and I will Love You Forever!' Shortly after getting into his foster home he became very sick. He was taken to the vet who quickly transferred him to the Emergency Clinic. He had come down with a very severe case of pneumonia. He spent 5 days at the emergency hospital getting antibiotics, fluids, oxygen, and Great Care before he was well enough to come back to his foster home. Since that time he has made a remarkable recovery, one would never know that he'd almost died. He still has that Terrific-Happy-to-Be-Alive personality. Great news! Gus has recently found his forever home.

LEARN wishes to thank all the Vets, Staff, and volunteers who helped these dogs not only to live, but also to have futures. Special Thanks to: Emergency Veterinary Service of Madison, Veterinary Specialties in Madison, Fox Lake, IL & Mazomanie, WI Animal Hospitals. Best wishes to this wonderful pack of happy, and now just about healthy, Labs.

We continue to face the reality of the vet bills, cumulatively higher than ever before. Jada, \$1,100; Astro, \$3,000; Mousse, \$2,600 and more to go; Bentley, \$5,000 and more to go; Gus, \$1,900. That's approaching \$14,000 and still climbing. We exist to help Labs but depend on the help of others like you to keep dogs in need alive and well and to keep the adoption fees at reasonable levels. We hope you'll give extra consideration to making a donation to LEARN at this time.

LEARN's 7th Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction

You're Invited!

Sunday, March 25th—Reply Today!

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, March 25th and join us for LEARN's Annual Luncheon and Silent Auction. The luncheon and auction are key fundraisers for LEARN, and those who attend always have a fun, memorable time. We'll celebrate our 7th year and 800+ Adoption Anniversary—with, of course, a Lab Theme. As well as a delicious meal, we'll have an ongoing silent auction with many items for bid before, during, and after lunch.

All proceeds help Labs in need, from puppies to seniors. The more people who come to share the fun, the more LEARN can help. LEARN is pleased to hold the luncheon and silent auction once again at *The Country Squire* in Grayslake, Illinois, so it's sure to be delicious again!

Please reserve your space by March 18th. And, just like last year, please bring a picture of your pet with your name on the back so you can join in on our "dog" prize! We look forward to seeing you there!

Date: Sunday, March 25th

Time: 12:00 P.M. Cash Bar. 1:00 P.M. Lunch

\$30.00 per person

Place: *The Country Squire*, Routes 120 & 45, Grayslake, Illinois

(847) 223-0121

Note: You'll find us through the banquet room doors at the west end of *The Country Squire*.

(please cut and return this portion)

Menu:

Entrée – Choice of one:

___ *Roast Sirloin of Beef* ___ *Broiled Lake Superior Whitefish* ___ *Chicken Kiev with Orange Sauce*

Entrée served with Garlic Whipped Potatoes and California Blend Vegetables, Soup & Salad

Cheesecake with Strawberry Topping

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Number Attending _____ @ \$30.00 per person

I will be unable to attend, but can help with my donation of \$ _____

Please return with your check or money order on or before March 18, 2007, payable to:

LEARN, P.O. Box 164, Island Lake, Illinois 60042

Please reply early! Questions? Please call Lois at 847-949-7021 or email tollhouse@sbcglobal.net

A Student's Initiative, Heart, and Awareness Club Save Dogs



Meetra Nahavandi, a junior at Monona Grove High School in Wisconsin, is known for her kindness to others and love for animals. As a sophomore, she founded an animal awareness club called PAWS. PAWS does awareness campaigns and fundraisers (to donate money to Rescue organizations), and student volunteers work at an adoption center. She plans to study elementary education in college and do Rescue on the side. Meetra is an inspiration to other young people who want to help the welfare of animals.



How did you get the idea to start PAWS? What did it involve?

This club was formed in 2005 and started when I realized that there were no animal/dog-related clubs at Monona Grove. So, why not start my own? I had to go through the principal and our activities director. This process wasn't at all easy and took quite some time to set up both meetings. I had to tell them the

purpose of the club and what we might be doing. Finally I got the okay to start it.

How would you describe PAWS--what it does, who's involved and where?

It's a student club, at Monona Grove High School. A variety of high school students are interested in animals and learning about them. The goal of the club is to educate students about animal safety, care, and behavior, and ways that they can help animals in their community (e.g., volunteering at animal organizations).

What does your volunteer work involve?

I volunteer with Shelter from the Storm. It is a non-profit organization that started with Hurricane Katrina. They rescue animals (mostly dogs and cats) and foster the animals until they are ready for adoption. I volunteer at the Petsmart location where they set a station for potential customers to visit the animals. My job is to make the animals more sociable and people-friendly. I spend time with the animals, take them on walks, and talk to potential pet owners.



What motivates you to volunteer to help animals?

Why do you like to do it? I do what I do because I like helping animals, especially dogs, and because I love being with dogs of all kinds. It's a great way to see how dogs are, and learn more about raising them, and I love being able to show the dogs to potential owners because I know that they are all great dogs and that they deserve the best. There are some dogs, however, that come in with sad backgrounds. For example, we received a litter of Schnauzers that were taken from a puppy mill; most of them had badly matted fur, long

nails, and some had general health problems. At first, the dogs were terrified of people, and we had to socialize them for many days to trust people, so that they would be able to get adopted. I love it, because in cases like these, I love to make animals' lives better. They should not have to suffer like that,

especially those dogs who are so sweet. They don't deserve that kind of treatment from anyone.

Thank you, Meetra, for the work and education you've initiated and the tangible difference you're making for the animals and as a result, the humans who adopt them.

LEARN Tips

These tips have been compiled from questions that adopters have asked and the experience of LEARN volunteers. We hope everyone finds them helpful and plan to make this a regular column.

1. 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 roadways that have been salted or consider using dog boots.

2. Anal gland problems? Try adding more fiber to your dog's diet. Good sources of fiber include unsweetened applesauce, canned unsalted green beans, canned pumpkin (no spices) or other squash (very easy), oatmeal or raw veggies (many dogs love carrots and broccoli; never add onions as they are toxic to dogs!). If you use large pieces of veggies, dogs benefit from the fiber only, but if you put them through a food processor/blender, dogs benefit not only from fiber but from many nutrients as well. If

you live near a natural foods store with a juicer, they may happily give you veggie pulp for free if you ask!

3. Trouble losing weight? Reduce your dog's food in small increments. A gradual weight loss is much better for your dog than a sudden one. For severely overweight dogs, substitute canned pumpkin, cooked oatmeal or veggies for food (one for one substitution: example ¼ C for ¼ C). This gives your dog the feeling of being full without all the extra calories. Also, make sure that you feed the correct amount of food for your dog's level of energy and exercise.

4. Want to prolong your dog's life? A Purina-funded study found that dogs live 2.8 years longer if kept at their ideal weight. These dogs also have a lower incidence of cancer, arthritis and diabetes.

5. Notice a bump or lump on your dog? Have the Vet check it with a needle aspiration as soon as possible. According to a Veterinary Oncologist "Let's just watch it" are 4 words that can kill.

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. ☺

The Starfish Story

While walking along a beach one morning after a violent storm, an elderly gentleman saw a figure in the distance leaning down, picking something up and throwing it into the ocean. As he drew closer, he saw that it was a young man, picking up starfish one by one and tossing each one gently back into the water.

The old man came closer and called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The youngster paused, looked up, and answered "I'm throwing starfish into the ocean. After last night's storm, they washed up onto the beach, and if I don't throw them back into the water they will die."

Upon hearing this, the old man responded "But, my dear fellow, don't you realize that there are *thousands* of starfish that have been washed up along this beach? You can't *possibly* make a difference!"

The young man paused for a moment to consider what had been said. Then he bent down to pick up another starfish before throwing it past the breaking waves into the sea. "Well", he replied, "it made a difference to *that* one."

This story has been circulated around the web in many versions, usually with no mention of author. It is said to be paraphrased from "The Star Thrower" by Loren Eiseley, 1907 - 1977.

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.

Jennifer Gaab & Brian Axell
Matthew Bauer
D. Benda
K.E. & Kathy Boeger
Christina Bowler
Elizabeth Brown
Tania Connell
James Corey
Randy Coutre'
Nancy Craft
Katherine Cunningham
Chet & Sue Cusick
Darlene Daray
Barbara & Michael Doyle
Polly Duchow
Nestor Dyhdalo
Barbara Eichorst
Michele Erickson
Wally Farwell & Family
Sheila Fawcett
Howard Friedman
Lisa & Paul Genson
Stacy Gibbs
Gail Gleeson
Gwenneth Glanville
Jeff Goldman
Gene Goldring
Lisa Grayson
Karen Grikstas

Elizabeth Halpern
Paul & Beth Hardy
Vince & Liz Hellenbrand
Mitzi Heytow
Leon Hintz
F.J. & B.L. Hlavacek/MacLagan
Susan Holmberg
Kathleen Hruby
Mike Hunt
Carol & Katherine Kaminiski
Arnold & Jan Kemper
Margaret Killian
Jill King
Patty Kingston
Julie Konieczka
Misty Lindstrand
Carol Lockwood
Marcia Lockwood
Mike & Stacy Love
Madison Veterinary Clinic Ltd
Doug & Nancy Maurer
Kelly Mclhone
Doug & Ginny Mills
Jennifer Moore
Ken Myszka
Meetra Nahavandi
Amy Olson
Samantha Wright
Diane & Edward Peschl

Gary & Mary Pluta
Jerome & Marsha Rather
Brian Rener
Roberta Ricci
Steve & Mary Rindo
Logan & Leyton Ritchie
Charles Roloff
Amy Ronner
Richard Rosen
Paula & Tim Sawka
Alice Schneider
Susan Schneider
Jason Schroeder
Amy Schuett
Jeanne Schuett
Eileen Sherburne
Joseph & Valerie Splavec
Robert & Judith Stephens
Traci Stevens
Stephen Stewart
Diane & Steve Streck
David Therkildsen
Kenneth Voight
Gerald Wallen
Mary Williams
Leslye Winslow
Nancy Zabadal

Congrats to Labbies who found their new families!

October 2006

Reese - *Kelly Barclay*
Dillan - *Kecia Doyle & Dan Greene*
Milo - *Mike & Dawn St. Clair*
Sophie - *Linda Flansburg & Joe Pulvermacher*
Aziah - *Sally Ward*
Jake - *Gina & John Lull*
Boomer - *Susan & Tom Callahan*
Hunter - *David & Ellen Bonk*
Chance - *Doug & Nancy Maurer*

November 2006

Coco - *Alan Farrell*
Tilly - *Denise Aulik*
Riley - *Dave & Monica Dawson*
Shelby - *Mike & Stacy Love*
Tequila - *Jean Tullis*
Mosey - *Carron & Darrell Zietlow*
Amber - *Kay & Fred Kruse*
Vincent - *Polly Cisco*
Abby - *Heather & Bill Oliva*
Dino - *Jessi Pacetti*
Chelsey - *Randall & Lisa Torrey*
Wilma - *Daniel & Beth Harvey*
Louie - *Allison Johnson & Karl Dahlin*

Pearl - *Bernard & Robin Lucansky*
Comet - *Lisa Keen*
Buddy - *Mitzi Heytow*
Scrappy Do - *Robert Goldman*
Fiona - *Mark & Alicia Winnen*

December 2006

Chelsea - *Kristen Lehker & John DeBacher*
Fisher - *Michael & Jennifer Kuhr*
Jack - *Barb & Todd Endres*
Choko - *Maria Santiago*
Mousse - *Norb & Sandy Klincik*
Nala - *Blane Poulson*
Clyde - *David & Stephanie Dean*
Lola - *Laurie Nettesheim & Michael LeMoine*
Bryon - *John Edgcomb*

January 2007

Leia - *Steve & Lisa Zajc*
Rocky - *Diane Benda & Benjamin Schoepfle*
Bruiser - *Deb & John Newman*
Rory - *Leon & Margaret Hintz*
Chopper - *Mary & Scott Dallmann*
Astro - *Katie & Bill Priaulx*
Dakota - *Ryan & Michele Dutkiewicz*
Ringo - *James & Kathleen Walker*

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 non-refundable. We regret that we cannot pro-rate subscriptions. For back issues, please visit www.Labadoption.org.

Our Labs Need Your Help!

Many dogs desperately need our help, including expensive medical care that drains our finances. Donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. LEARN's Labs thank you!

I want to support the efforts of LEARN as they rescue homeless Labrador Retrievers and Lab mixes and place them in permanent adoptive homes.

Name: _____ Address _____

For donations of \$25+, you may receive our printed newsletter. Please check to stretch your donation further by receiving our Newsletter by email _____ Email address: _____

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**.

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. The two volunteers featured in this issue both foster and not only do an amazing job with their fosters but in the process, also educate their children on the proper care and training of dogs.



Julianne with foster Otis (recently adopted)

Julianne Gillen loves all animals but “there is something about dogs that touches my soul.” Regardless of the circumstance, Julianne has always been the one who pulls over to help a stray dog. Last May, she and her family had to put down one of her two black Labs. Julianne explains, “I can't even begin to explain how much that affected me as a person. I never realized how much of a positive impact he had on me each day, and when he was gone I felt like there was a hole in my heart. I decided that my way of filling that hole was to give something back to the animal that has never let me down. So I contacted LEARN and that night I announced to my husband and 3 children that I signed up to foster dogs with LEARN!” She knew her family wasn't surprised, but that her husband was thinking she'd never be able to let the foster dogs go—“but knowing the great life this dog will have is worth it!”

Julianne believes that we all could learn a thing or two from Labs and their way of giving love unconditionally. Since volunteering she has met “amazing Labs, and they each have touched me in a special way. Waking up



With her own dog, Phoenix, and foster Otis

to a wet nose in the morning is all worth it.”

She stresses: “I hope that more families like mine will realize that opening your home to fostering is really rewarding for not only the dog but the family too . . . the most rewarding thing is watching my children interact with the dogs. They truly love each Lab, and enjoy playing with them. [I love] knowing that I'm teaching my children about helping [others], the most valuable lesson in life—whether it be with people or animals, do whatever you can to help. They know that when a ‘new Lab’ comes that he won't stay forever, and that our job is to take really good care of him, and give him plenty of love so that he can find his way to his forever home!”

Last September the Milbrath family lost their yellow Lab Bailey of 14 ½ years. With children ages 13, 10, and 7, Bailey was Betsy and Jeff's first “kid” and “a huge part of our lives. We miss her dearly.” Betsy explains: “We figure that Bailey gave us so much joy we just have plenty to give back to other Labs who need a foster family. And as all Lab-lovers know, it's tough to be without the company of a slobbery-faced pooch and our house felt so empty after Bailey was gone. Eventually we'll adopt another Lab of our own, but this way we get our Lab fix, and we get to help others, too – all in the memory of our Bailey.”

Betsy and Jeff learned about LEARN from friends, looked into it, and immediately signed-up to foster. They are on their third foster. “We absolutely love doing this! It's a great feeling to know we're helping some wonderful dogs, get to know their personalities, work with them and love them like our own until they



Current foster Tyler, in his favorite pose, with Betsy

First foster Rocky with Adam and Ryan

find their forever family. We fall in love with every one of them, and it's very hard to see them go but also very rewarding to see them go home with a great family.”

The fostering experience has also proven invaluable for the Milbrath children: Adam, Megan, and Ryan. They observe their parents working with each Lab—on basic

obedience, behavior, leash etiquette, and more—and learn how to be the leader of the pack. “We feel this is so important because they’ll carry this with them for the rest of their lives and go on to have well-behaved and loving dogs of their own. I’m so proud of my kids. They are so great with dogs and very aware of the do’s and don’ts of handling them. This has been a great experience for our whole family, and we hope to help many more dogs find their forever home!”

Indisputable Truths about Dogs

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. --Gandhi

A good man will take care of his horses and dogs, not only while they are young, but also when they are old and past service. --Plutarch

If people were superior to animals, they’d take better care of the world. --Winnie the Pooh

Nobody can fully understand the meaning of love unless he’s owned by a dog. --Gene Hill

All knowledge, the totality of all questions and all answers, is contained in the dog. --Franz Kafka

If you don’t own a dog, at least one, there is not necessarily anything wrong with you, but there may be something wrong with your life. --Robert Caras

Critical Reminder to Adopters! Please update your address and phone with LEARN

Should your dog become missing, our network of volunteers across IL and WI and other organizations we work with can help return your dog to you. A LEARN tag stays with all alums for life and that tag number and/or microchip, combined with current adopter info, has enabled a number of Labs to be reunited safely with their families.

It's Almost Tick, Flea, & Mosquito Season—Please protect your dog now, before the insect season begins!

Please make sure you have your dog tested annually (in March) for heartworms and Lyme disease. Canine cases of heartworms and Lyme disease have increased dramatically in WI/IL. Note: LEARN has treated an increasing number of dogs for Lyme disease and heartworms. Both are curable if caught early; otherwise both can be fatal.

Please see <http://www.Labadoption.org/linkpages/Misc/February2006Newsletter.pdf> , page 8 for an article about ticks, fleas, and mosquitoes and the diseases they can cause.

Please Come to LEARN's Biggest Fundraiser!

The 7th Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction—March 25th See inside for details, p. 3.



LEARN
PO Box 164
Island Lake, IL 60042
AND
P.O Box 292
Cross Plains, WI 53528
(847) 289-PETS (7387)
Website: www.Labadoption.org
E-mail: learndogs@Labadoption.org

LEARN & Lab Events! Mark your calendar

► March 16th, 17th, & 18th

Chicago-land Family Pet Expo

Renaissance Convention Center,
1551 Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL

for info, see
www.petchicago.com.

LEARN is in booth #621. Please
stop to say hello!

► March 25th

7th Annual Spring Luncheon & Silent Auction LEARN's biggest fundraiser! Grayslake, IL
Invitation inside.

► March/April

Candy Bar FUNdraiser Please visit www.Labadoption.org for info. All proceeds go towards LEARN's vet expenses

► April 14th,

Pet Wellness Fair

9am to 3 pm

Burlington High School, 400
McCana Parkway, Burlington,
WI

► August 11th

3rd Annual Pawgust Fest, 10
am to 4 pm
Libertyville, IL