



# The Retriever

Labrador Education And Rescue Network's Newsletter

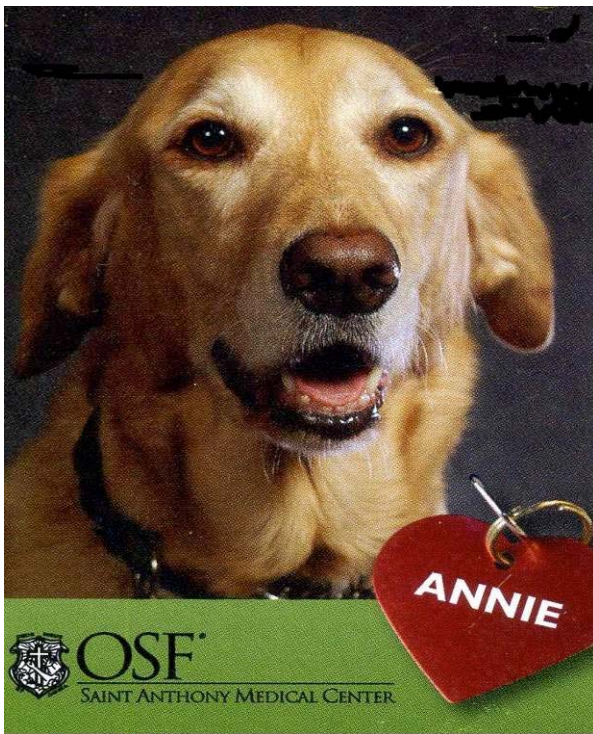
Volume 10, Number 1, March 2009

LEARN's 9<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Silent  
Auction and  
Luncheon—  
See page 3!

*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.*

## Annie is Finally Home

By Nancy Kraft



During the summer of 2007, I decided it was time to expand our family. I already had Little Bear, thanks to LEARN. He is the perfect dog, so I immediately returned to the web-site to look for a perfect match. At first glance it did not seem to be Annie (Katy). At 5 1/2, she was older than I was planning, and had already been re-homed once. Plus she had a medical condition. But the more I looked, the more she seemed to be my dog. When I met her I knew we needed each other so she came home to join Bear and me, forever. At first we struggled. Little Bear had moved in, unpacked his bags and made it clear that I

was his by the end of the second day. But not Annie. She was demanding and yet aloof. She sat in the yard for hours, not playing, just holding her toy and letting people pet and brush her. She loved the attention, but it never seemed enough. We even ended up making a trip to the Emergency Clinic one night because she seemed in so much distress. As the weeks and months passed she relaxed and fell into our routine. Her diva personality began to shine through. She even stopped a burglary one night. She loved car rides, long walks and being petted. But still, she would never run or play. She was fine, but I wanted more for her.

Last summer we found it. A friend heard about a new project at OSF St. Anthony's Hospital in Rockford, Illinois. They were launching the Animal Assisted Therapy Program and looking for dogs to train for hospital work. The program would temperament test and observe dogs in hopes of selecting a few that



Annie with Little Bear and Nancy

would meet their criteria. If accepted the program, they would then train the dogs and handlers for visiting patients and their families in the hospital. I knew immediately Annie would pass the temperament test but was not so sure about the obedience part. Annie tends to believe “no” means “not while I’m looking”; “sit” means “Bear, sit so Annie can get by you”; and, “stay” is taken under consideration, but she seldom sees the need. Not good traits for a dog who would need to be under control at all times in elevators, hospital rooms and waiting areas. But we worked hard and were thrilled to be accepted into the program. After long hours of training and practice visits Annie became a full fledged therapy dog, certified with Therapy Dogs, Inc. and qualified to visit patients in pediatrics, oncology and general care as well as trauma waiting rooms.

And Annie shines! From the moment her special collar goes on she is a different dog. She walks through the halls of the hospital looking like she has always done this work. She is alert, attentive and obedient. She is a star who is loved by staff and patients alike. Annie is a therapy dog. And, maybe even better, Annie now runs and plays in the yard with Little Bear. Annie is finally home.

## ANNIE

**BREED:** Labrador Retriever

**DOB:** 11/01/01

**WEIGHT:** 70 lbs.

**OWNER/GUARDIAN:** Nancy

### BREED CHARACTERISTICS:

Labrador retrievers are gentle, family-friendly dogs. Millions of Americans own labs as pets because of their even temperament and trainability.

Annie adopted me through L.E.A.R.N., an organization that finds homes for labs who need help. Annie's former family had to give her up because a child developed allergies. I knew she completed our family the day we met. Annie likes to chase chipmunks with her lab brother, Bear, and go for car rides. She really loves to be petted by everyone she meets. A perfect day for Annie is riding in the car, getting some free affection and another car ride...which describes her day as a therapy dog.

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

1. **BEWARE: Cocoa mulch can be lethal to dogs and cats!** Cocoa mulch, manufactured by Hershey's, contains theobromine, lethal to dogs and cats, because of the super-charged caffeine effect that can lead to severe convulsions. It smells like chocolate and is in ALL chocolate. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine and theophylline. While the mulch's package includes no warning, Hershey's website says that “studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees (depending on each individual dog). However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it.” A number of deaths have already occurred, so please protect your pal from cocoa mulch!
2. **Plan for your pet in the event you become disabled or pre-decease your pet.** Make sure you have (1) a person ready to provide short-term care—this person should know your documented long-term plans; (2) a person or organization to provide permanent care (plus financial arrangements); and (3) a list of your pet's diet, any allergies/special needs, veterinary history/medications, and vet contact info. Ease transition by describing what your pet's routine such as when he/she goes out, gets treats, etc. Here are some resources for direction:
  1. [http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet\\_care/providing\\_for\\_your\\_pets\\_future\\_without\\_you/](http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/providing_for_your_pets_future_without_you/)
  2. <http://www.legacyforyourpet.com/overview.html>
  3. <http://www.professorbeyer.com/Articles/Animals.htm>

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**Would you like to “retrieve” *The Retriever* via email?** If so, please email [newsletter@Labadoption.org](mailto: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 cannot pro-rate subscriptions.) For back issues, please visit [www.Labadoption.org](http://www.Labadoption.org).

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*You're Invited to Join Us In Our*

**Sunday, April 5th!**

**10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION at  
LEARN's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction**

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and join us for LEARN's Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction. The luncheon and auction are key fundraisers for LEARN, and those who attend always have a fun, memorable time. We'll celebrate LEARN's 10<sup>th</sup> year and 1,400+ 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 Labs 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 April 1st. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Date: Sunday, April 5th**

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

**\$35.00 per person, or**

**\$240.00 per table for eight (\$40 savings per table; entire payment must be on one check)**

**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*.

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(please cut and return this portion)

*Menu:*

*Entrée – Choice of one:*

*Prime Rib of Beef*    *Broiled Lake Superior Whitefish*    *Chicken Marsala*

*Served with Garlic Whipped Potatoes & California Blend Vegetables, Soup & Salad, Cheesecake with Strawberry Topping*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 per person

Number Tables \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$240.00 per table of eight (each table's payment must be on one check)

I will be unable to attend, but would like to help with my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return with your check or money order on or before **April 1st**, payable to:

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

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

## ***Beware Blue Green Algae Blooms***

This season, please keep your dog far away from water with algae blooms. Scientists are not yet able to determine why or predict when blue green algae blooms become toxic. Experts cannot tell by looking whether an algae bloom is toxic, and many dogs and livestock have died from these toxic

blooms. This has happened in our geographic area of South-Central Wisconsin and Northern Illinois but goes well beyond. Please share this information in your community of friends, co-workers, and family.

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## ***GreenPaws –Safer Choices for Flea and Tick Prevention***

The National Resource Defense Council's GreenPaws initiative aims to help get better federal protections for products used to treat pets for fleas and ticks. (One NRDC spokesperson is Robert Redford.) What follows comes directly from the GreenPaws website:

### ***Better Flea and Tick Treatment: Make Safer Choices for You and Your Pet***

Flea and tick treatments may contain toxic chemicals that can poison pets and harm people. Even when applied as instructed on the box, these chemicals are not safe, either for pets or humans. Avoid toxic chemicals by taking care of your pet. Regular combing, bathing and vacuuming can reduce and control fleas. When chemical control is necessary, choose a safer treatment and avoid the most toxic chemicals. All pesticides should be used with caution and in consultation with a veterinarian. Ask your Vet about one of the products or treatments marked with a yellow paw in our [Guide to Safe Pets](#).

### **Control fleas at home without chemicals:**

#### ***Flea Comb***

Regular combing of a pet can help reduce fleas and also helps monitor the success of a flea control program. Fleas caught in the comb should be drowned in soapy water.

#### ***Regular Bathing***

Soapy baths are a great way to control fleas since any soap will get rid of fleas. Pet bedding should also be washed in hot water once a week. Fleas tend

to accumulate in bedding, so care should be taken not to spread the flea eggs and larvae contained in it.

#### ***Vacuuming***

Vacuuming picks up fleas and eggs from carpets, floors and crevices, and from under or on furniture. Immediately after vacuuming, bags should be thrown away to prevent fleas from escaping and re-infesting the area. Severe infestations may call for professional carpet cleaning with steam.

#### ***Maintain Outdoor Areas***

Keeping grass and shrubbery clipped short in areas where your pet spends time will increase dryness and sunlight, which will help reduce the flea problem. Nematodes-available at garden supply stores-can be used as a non-chemical, biological aid to help control fleas in these areas.

### **Using herbal or natural products to treat fleas?**

Not all essential oils used to treat pet pests are safe for pets or people. Herbal or natural products containing citrus, cinnamon, clove, d-limonene, geranium, tea tree, lavender, linalool, bay, eucalyptus, and rue oils should be used sparingly because they can cause allergic reactions in people - - and severe reactions in cats and dogs have been reported. Avoid the use of any flea or tick product containing pennyroyal oil. It can cause seizures, comas, and even death in animals. Herbal or natural products that contain cedarwood, lemongrass, peppermint, rosemary and thyme are likely safer. Learn more in our [Guide to Safe Pets](#) by looking under 'oils.'

Source: <http://www.greenpaws.org/better.php>

## ***From GreenPaws Toxic Fact Sheet:***

**Check the label!** If you do need to buy an off-the-shelf flea and tick product, avoid flea collars that list tetrachlorvinphos or propoxur as active ingredients. Other products to avoid include permethrin-based products, and tick-control products containing amitraz. Instead, opt for products whose labels list Lufenuron (Program®), methoprene (Nylar®) and pyriproxyfen (Biolar®). These are three common and effective insect growth regulators. See

[http://www.greenpaws.org/docs/GP\\_ToxicFactSheet.pdf](http://www.greenpaws.org/docs/GP_ToxicFactSheet.pdf)

## ***GreenPaws Pocket Guide***

Consider printing GreenPaws pocket guide so you always know what to use and what chemicals to avoid for both you and your pet. Give friends and families copies.

[http://www.greenpaws.org/docs/GP\\_pocketguide.pdf](http://www.greenpaws.org/docs/GP_pocketguide.pdf)

Please test your dog annually (in March) for heartworms and Lyme disease, both on the rise 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. 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.

## ***A note on the mortgage crisis:***

**It has also created a crisis for some household pets of foreclosed-upon owners.** Some former homeowners leave their pets behind, trapped in empty homes, because they can't take their pets with them for various reasons. They don't understand that weeks or months may elapse before agents inspect the home. Please take action when a home is foreclosed upon in your neighborhood. Be a Good Samaritan. Go stand

near the home and call out repeatedly for the pet; it may bark or meow or come to the window. Listen closely in case the pet is trapped in a closet and look in windows for signs of life. Do this several days in a row because some traumatized pets may be frightened, too frightened to respond at first. You may save a life!

Source: Sunbear Squad, at [www.sunbearsquad.org](http://www.sunbearsquad.org)

## ***Congrats to Labbies who found their new families!***

### **Prior to October 2008**

*Winnie* - Amanda Molkentine & Jason Cudahy

*Mimi* - Jennifer & Dana Olson

*Ebony* - Beth Frechette

*Duke* - Robert Hess

*Oliver* - Cathy Excell

### **October 2008**

*Delilah* - Kent & Joell Walters

*Jett* - Lynn & Dave Nygren

*Georgia* - Greg & Sheryl Lindmark

*Mylee* - Jeffrey & Doris Anderson

*Denali* - Greg & Diane Kosmider

*Brook* - Aimee Burst & Jeff Fillo

*Homer* - Jennifer & Ralph Davis

*Susitna* - Jennifer & Dennis Hogan

*Zoey* - Katie Schutt

*Kylie* - Doug & Christine Cain

*Sara* - Annette & Tom Reese

*Palin* - Annette & Tom Reese

*Sadie* - Terry & Barbara Goodwin

### **November 2008**

*Beau* - James & Melissa Curtis

*Brody* - Emily Steinke

*Kantishna* - Glen & Marcia Engel

*Wasilla* - Philip & Lia Koenig

*Delilah* - Dave & Patra Smith

*Kenai* - Cathy Gorski

*Junior* - Charlie & Jenny Coulter

*Lucy* - Andrew & Maggie Milton

*Colby* - Ron & Lynette Soave

*Beuford* - Al & Diane Phillips

*Emmett* - Dirk & Heather Thome

*Jack* - Dustin & Niki Ramsey

*Mary Jane* - Marie Eichinger

*Sitka* - Josh & Tonia Manka

*Charlie* - Michelle Broderick

*Juneau/Jade* - Jeffrey & Sara

Herrling

*Barney* - Brian & Karen Natoli

*Willie* - Gary & Laura Heitz

*Graham* - Dan & Maritha Miller

*Max* - John & Carrie Kauck

*Arrow* - Steve & Debra Ehmann

*Li'l Richard* - Jeremy & Jennifer Ross

*Oliver/Jake* - James & Victoria Tierney

*Fenris* - Scott & Amy Kleinfeldt

*Sandy* - Bill & Mary Murray

### **December 2008**

*Chewy* - Cathy Boxall

*Pebbles* - Mitzi Heytow

*Brutis* - John & Deborah Bird

*Nanna* - James & Birdie Sue Bonni

*Foster* - John & Jill King

*Sadie* - Mark Ahrens

*Buddy* - Kevin Hill & Sherry Zillmer

*Justice* - William & Melissa Stutz

*FeeBee* - Peg Pfannerstill

*Daisy* - Daniel & Bernadette Lang

**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. LEARN especially appreciates your generosity in challenging economic times as you keep us going!

Jeffrey & Doris Anderson  
Anonymous  
Baxter  
Laurie Becker  
Lisa Beckers  
Diane Benda  
Paul & Mary Benson  
Julie Bills, *in memory of Bill –  
“The Mayor of Timber Ridge”*  
Joanne Boettin  
Paula Bogdan / Tim Sawka, *in  
honor of Skylar*  
Susan Burek  
Gina & Shawn Connor  
Katherine Cunningham  
David Daray  
John & Kay Day  
Anne Duncan  
Michael Duren  
Nestor Dyhdalo  
The Farwell Family  
Herbert Flentye  
Golden Retriever Rescue  
Cathy Gorski

Julie Grosso  
Ann & Billy Guzzetta  
Rhonda Hemming  
William Herte  
Bob & Kathy Hess  
Susan Holmberg  
Georgene Hrdlicka  
iGive Holdings  
ITW Foundation  
Lind Jupp  
Carol Kaminski  
Edwin & Patricia Kindig  
David & Judy Kopp  
Nancy Kraft  
Cynthia Lease  
Gregory Lindmark  
Marcia Lockwood, *in memory of  
Sammy*  
Kathleen McCormick & James  
Powell  
Kenneth Myszka  
James & Heather Nargis  
Brian & Karen Natoli  
Robert & Thea O'Connor

Henry & Amy Olson  
Pages Healthy Paws  
Pedigree Adoption Drive  
Roundy's  
Jillian Russell  
Dale & Annette Schuh  
Zach & LeeAnn Short  
Shannon Steffen  
Steve & Diane Streck  
William & Jennifer Streid  
Patrick Toft  
Len & Lois Toll  
Len & Lois Toll, *in memory of  
Flash*  
Lisa Torrey  
Kathryn Vehe  
Vernon Hills Animal Hospital, *in  
memory of Stampee Heytow*  
David Wickham  
Nancy Witzigreuter  
Joe & Jeanne Woodman  
Nancy Zabadal  
Suzanne Brockman Zeigler

## **WANT TO HELP SAVE MORE LABS?**

LEARN needs foster homes to save more Labs! We have more Labs than Rescues and Shelters can save, so consider being part of the solution. You can make a tangible difference! Consider opening your home and your heart to a foster dog. Even fostering just once helps. It will mean a lot to the dog whose life you save!

Please visit LEARN's website for more info and an application:

[www.Labadoption.org/linkpages/HowToHelp/Fosters.htm](http://www.Labadoption.org/linkpages/HowToHelp/Fosters.htm) or contact Chris Wallen at [chris4labs@gmail.com](mailto:chris4labs@gmail.com) or call (847) 289-PETS (7387) and leave Chris a message. Thanks for considering it. ☺

### ***Our Labs Need Your Help!***

Many dogs desperately need our help, including expensive medical care that drains our funds. Donations are tax-deductible and 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](http://www.Labadoption.org) via PayPal.

## ***What's In The Food You Feed Your Dog?***

- ❖ *Do you want to keep your dog healthy and youthful with a strong immune system?*
- ❖ *Does your dog have health issues? Problems with allergies, skin, anal glands, thyroid, bad breath/teeth, stiffness, or coat?*
- ❖ *Make sure the food you feed lists ingredients you recognize—or change to a food that does list recognizable ingredients..*
  - *Half of dogs over age 10 now die of cancer, believed the result of poor quality food and environmental toxins.*
  - *Dogs at their ideal weight live nearly 3 years longer than overweight dogs! (Purina study)*
- ❖ *Quality food helps keep your dog healthier, enjoy a longer life, and save on vet bills.*

### ***Good Quality Food Means:***

1. Whole-meat source as one of the first two ingredients listed—chicken or chicken meal, beef or beef meal, **NOT** meat meal, poultry meal or meat byproducts.
2. Whole, unprocessed grains, vegetables, and other foods you recognize—oats, carrots, potatoes, apples etc.
3. Natural preservatives—Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C), tocopherols (Vitamin E), rosemary or clove oil, **NOT** BHA, BHT, Ethoxyquin or Sodium nitrite.
4. **NO** sweeteners(corn syrup, sucrose) and **NO** artificial colors or other appearance or taste enhancers. **NO** propylene glycol to keep food moist/chewy.
5. **NO** “generic” proteins or fats, e.g., animal protein or poultry fat.

### ***Important Tips:***

1. Variety is important. Rotate three high-quality foods every three months and transition between foods for 1-2, or even 4 weeks. Variety helps many dogs balance nutrition over time, but if variety doesn't work for your dog, whether due to allergies, a sensitive stomach, or other condition, focus on a high quality food that does work.
2. Look for organic or human-grade ingredients or meats produced without hormones and antibiotics whenever possible. As pet food is largely the waste of the human food industry, be aware that meats often come from rendering plants and include carcasses rejected for human consumption. It's legal in most states.
3. Store opened bags of dog food in airtight containers and check the expiration date. If the food smells rancid or bad when you open the bag or can, return it.
4. Your dog doesn't care what color the food is. Green kibble doesn't mean veggies are in it.
5. The following foods can be toxic to dogs, so please keep them out of reach: chocolate, coffee, onions, grapes, raisins. Contact your Vet with any concerns.

See “Dog Behavior Topics” at [www.labadoption.org](http://www.labadoption.org) for an article about choosing the right dog food and more info.



## *Happy Hunting Success*

Two Labs are better than one, right? Any right-thinking Lab-Lover knows that! So, when we had to have our elderly Black Lab, Jesse, put down, we started looking for a companion for ourselves and our 7-year-old Black Lab named Dixie Doodle. We adopted a Chocolate Lab from LEARN on 1/19/08. LEARN believed Buddy would make a great hunting dog, and we were hoping to find a Lab that would enjoy hunting; hunting was not an adoption requirement, but it certainly was a plus. We changed Buddy's name to avoid having two Buddys in the neighborhood. A bi-color coat, with the top layer a rich dark brown and the under layer a very beautiful reddish rust-colored brown told us his name: my wife and I both said, "Obviously, his name should be Rusty" so "Rusty" he became. Rusty spent the first month getting use to us while we were getting use to him. He knew "Sit" and "Come" but not much else. After a month with us, Rusty was doing well. He was fitting in with our 25-minute morning walks, our 20-minute evening walks, and the rest of our daily routines. He was showing himself to be the typical Lab -- loving, gentle, smart, and eager to please. By then he had added "Lie Down, Stay, Kennel/No Kennel, No Noise, Heel, Leave It, Off" and a few others to his list of commands. He had also established a firm grip on our hearts and became a full-fledged member of our pack. He and Dixie Doodle slept by our bed at night and kept us company during the day.

It was time to encourage emergence of the hunting skills his canine mother and father had passed on to him. He learned "Fetch, Dead Bird -- Fetch It Up, Hold, Drop It, Too Far, Hunt-Em-Up" and is learning how to quarter a hunting field. We also visited the trap range to hear the "Big Bangs" as he got accustomed to the noise of shotguns. He got his first retrieves of bird wings and then of dead birds. He really enjoyed searching for them when I hid them in our yard. Then he got to retrieve some live birds, which he didn't quite know what to think of at first, but which he took to rapidly.



*Rusty, Tom, and Dixie Doodle*

Then he was ready for the field. We worked him on a few planted pheasants at a game farm. He thought that was great fun. He picked up the scent of some of those birds at 50 yards when the wind was blowing it toward us. He was VERY interested in them, and very business-like. And, what a nose! Today, November 16, 2008, Rusty had his very first "Real Hunt". He picked up the scent of a pheasant at about 30 yards "back-wind", trailed the pheasant as it ran through heavy cover, stopped and watched it when it held, moved with it as it ran again, and then flushed it. He watched as the bird flew and then fell at the sound of the gun. He marked the spot some 50 yards away from him, ran to it, picked up the bird, turned, and in a business-like manner, brought it to me. I was SO proud of him!!! I told him so, too! He grinned with pleasure as if to say, "This was great fun. Let's do more!" So we did!

Quite a path -- from homeless to new pack member, to trained indoor family pet and hunting companion. All in 10 months. Gotta love those Labs. And LEARN.

Tom & Sheri DeKarske



## ***Invisible Fences: a False Sense of Security?*** *By Diane Streck*

Many, many people use invisible fences to keep their dog(s) in their yard, but are they being lulled into a false sense of security? Many, many dogs show up at Shelters still wearing their invisible fence collar. These dogs are the lucky ones; some dogs who escape their invisible fence are hit by cars, fall victim to a predator (2- or 4-legged) or become lost and never find their way home.

Some invisible fences have adjustable shock levels; others don't. Even if the shock level is adjustable, when the home has more than one dog, the dilemma becomes for which dog do you adjust the shock level? Individual dogs have different pain thresholds; a shock that seems mild to one may be severe to another. Older dogs and smaller dogs are more sensitive to electric shocks than younger or larger dogs. There have been reports of older dogs becoming confused, torn between something appealing outside their yard and the shock of the fence, and, as a result, incurring fatal injuries from being repeatedly shocked.

Invisible fences should never be used with a dog who has a strong prey instinct, that is, a strong desire to chase rabbits, squirrels, etc. Dogs with strong prey instincts will break an invisible fence without even hesitating. Even dogs without a strong prey instinct, in excitement or fright (fireworks, gun shot, thunder) bolt out of the invisible fence. Once a dog is outside the invisibly-fenced yard, they often won't return for fear of the fence's shock upon re-entering the yard.

Even if an invisible fence successfully contains the dog, it doesn't prevent things from entering the yard such as: children, other dogs, other animals, kids taunting your dog and people with mal-intent. Dog thefts are on the rise. Why? Dogs can be sold to Class B dealers who in turn sell the dogs for research. Dogs that aren't suitable for research are either sold outright to the general public or abandoned. (If a person is caught stealing a dog, they can just claim they found the dog running on the street.)

So, what's a dog owner to do? Conventional, "visible," fences are an option. While many developments have restrictions against conventional "visible" fences, often a homeowner can apply for and receive special approval from the developer or homeowners association to install a fence. Tie-outs are an alternative. The drawback is that dogs can get hurt, even break legs, by getting tangled up in the tie-out, or by running and suddenly finding themselves at the end of the rope.

Tie-outs and conventional fencing will keep your dog in your yard. However, neither will prevent others from coming into your yard. Dogs have also been stolen while tied-out or in a conventionally-fenced yard.

The solution really is to never leave your dog outside unsupervised. Don't use your yard as a babysitter. The risks are too great. If you can't supervise your dog while he/she is outside, bring him/her inside for their own safety. Invisible fence, conventional fence or tie-out, don't be lulled into thinking your dog is safe when unsupervised in your yard. Keep a vigilant eye on your dog whenever he/she is outside.

*Ever consider what they must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul -- chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth! -Anne Tyler*

*Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful. -Ann Landers*

*If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went. -Will Rogers*

*We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made. -M. Acklam*

*A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down. -Robert Benchley*

*My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to \$3.00 a can. That's almost \$21.00 in dog money. - Joe Weinstein*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit [www.labadoption.org](http://www.labadoption.org) for updates and details. This year be sure to watch for the Annual Spring Luncheon, Pawgust Fest and Laps for Labs to name a few. If you would like to volunteer at these events please e-mail us at [learndogs@labadoption.org](mailto:learndogs@labadoption.org).

### MARCH 8TH, 2009, LEARN REUNION

11:00am-3:00pm

[The Dog Den](#)

2821 Index Road, Madison, WI

\$10 / person or \$15 / family

Lunch will be available

RSVP to: [my3labs@hughes.net](mailto:my3labs@hughes.net)

### MARCH 14TH & 15TH 2009

[The RoRo Expo](#)

307 Salem St

Rockton, IL 61072

### MARCH 20, 21, 22, 2009

[Chicagoland Family Pet Expo](#)

[Arlington Park Racecourse](#)

Friday 11:00-6:00

Saturday 9:00-6:00

Sunday 9:00-5:00

### APRIL 5TH, 2009 Spring Luncheon!

Starting at 12:00PM

[The Country Squire](#)

### APRIL 18TH, 2009

9:00AM-3:00PM

[2009 Pet Wellness Expo](#)

Burlington High School

400 McCanna Parkway, Burlington, WI



LEARN

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