



Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.

Spring 2014

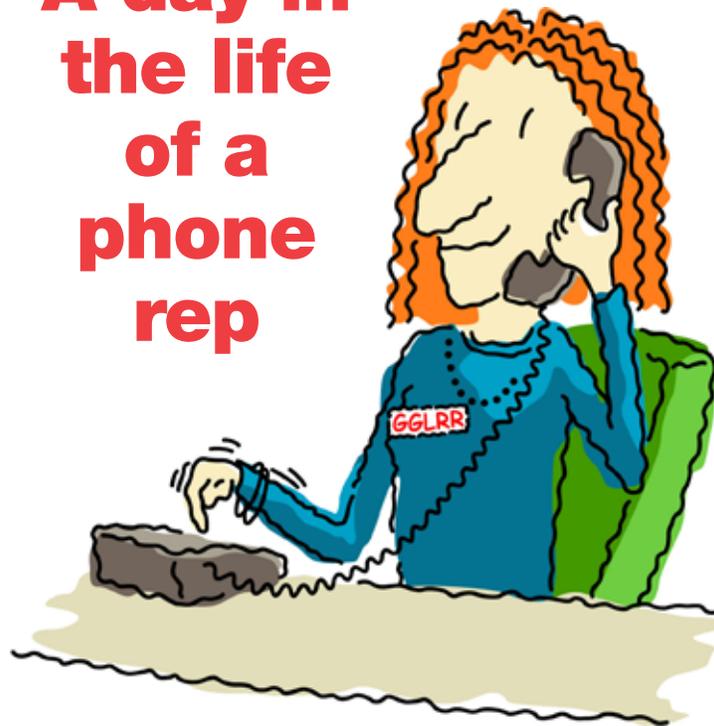
www.labrescue.org

In 2013, Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue found new homes for over 300 dogs. More than 20 percent of those dogs were special needs dogs, meaning they needed medical help or other rehabilitation. This issue of the newsletter highlights some of the wonderful dogs we were able to “rehabilitate,” physically or otherwise.

GGLRR Phone Reps are the wonderful volunteers who take the calls from families or shelters needing to find a new home for a dog. Some of the families are grieving over having to re-home their dog, but know it's the right thing for the dog. Some families have no choice. Sometimes Phone Reps get calls from people that had no business having a dog...ever.

Phone Reps also get happier calls from families looking to adopt a dog. Some are experienced dog adopters, while others are first time adopters. All of our adopters are wonderful people, and we love them for the loving homes they provide. We also get calls from prospective adopters that might not have the same approach as we do to dog raising. Phone Reps have to deal with everyone who calls.

A day in the life of a phone rep



Being a Phone Rep requires both diplomacy and investigative skills. Calls can be fun, and calls can be heart wrenching. So how do they do it? Let's ask **Fanny Phonerep** what its like to be a GGLRR Phone Rep:

Interviewer: Fanny, what kind of calls do you get?

Fanny: Most of the calls fall into one of three categories: general information calls, from people wanting to know about Lab Rescue, adoption calls, from people wanting to know about the adoption process, and surrender calls, from people with a dog they

need to re-home and are looking for help. I've also gotten calls from: people looking for help paying medical bills for their dog; people who want to visit our facility (which we don't have!); people who want to donate things; people who want us to foster their dog while they are in transition; and people who found a Lab and don't know what to do.

Interviewer: What's a typical call like?

Fanny: With a typical adoption call, I usually walk the caller through the adoption process, and tell them about

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the pre-approved approach and the general approach. If someone is interested in the pre-approved approach, I have a screening checklist I follow so that I can get a good sense of whether or not they would be a good candidate for the program.

Interviewer: How long does the typical call last?

Fanny: General information calls are the shortest, maybe 15 minutes. Surrender or adoption calls can take 30 minutes or more to get all the information we need to know if we can help.

Interviewer: How many calls do you get in a typical day?

Fanny: There is no typical day! Sometimes the phone does not ring at all, and sometimes it rings nonstop.

Interviewer: What is the most difficult call you've gotten?

Fanny: That's really hard to say, so I'll give a couple of examples. For adoption calls, the hardest ones are the ones when very nice people call and want a dog, but something about them makes them a poor adopter for our dogs. It might be that they don't have a fence, or they don't have a good sense of what they can handle in a dog. I really want to help them, but at Rescue we find the home that's best for the dog. Sometimes that means humans get mad at me.

Even harder than tough adoption calls are surrender calls. The hardest surrender calls are when good people have had something happen so that they can't take care of the dog, and the dog is not one that we can place. Perhaps the dog is aggressive with people outside the family or has such severe separation anxiety we can't take them. I could pass that decision on to one of our volunteers who assesses dogs. But if I know that we can't take the dog, why give the owner false hope and just delay the inevitable?

Interviewer: Why do people have to give up their dogs?

Fanny: There are lots of reasons people give up their dogs. The one I hear most often is "we are just too busy to give the dog the attention that s/he needs, and s/he deserves better." Also common are people who adopted small puppies while they have small children, and in a few months realize that the dog is already much larger than the children—chewing their toys, mouthing their arms, and

knocking them over. The parents don't have time to take care of their children AND do what's right for the dog, so they call us. The third thing I often hear is that people are moving and can't take their dog with them.

Interviewer: When people want to adopt a dog, what questions do you ask and why?

Fanny: I ask a lot of general questions to see if they might be a good adopter. I ask about their family—whether they have kids (and if so, how many and what ages). I ask about their experience with dogs in general and Labs/rescue dogs in particular. I ask about their lifestyle—how much time they spend away from home, what they would do with the dog if they went on vacation. I talk to them about the energy level of the typical Lab and how much exercise they require every day. All the questions I ask are meant to determine if they would be a good adopter for one of our dogs.

If it's a surrender call, I ask all about the dog: is it a purebred, what kind of training has it had, has it been around children and what ages, how is it around other dogs, is it healthy, and where is it kept during the day and at night. If it is a mix, I ask about what it might be mixed with. I ask how long the family has had the dog. If they didn't get it as a puppy, I ask about the dog's previous homes (if they know, which often they do not). I am trying to determine whether or not this is a dog that we can and should help.

Interviewer: Last question: Why do you do this? What do you get out of it?

Fanny: Even though it does take a lot of time, I love being a Phone Rep. I talk to all kinds of people and with most of the calls, I can be helpful to a family and Lab. When I see a Lab on our adoption pages, I know that I helped that Lab get there. When I read about a happy family and see those smiling faces in our newsletters, I know I helped that family. And with some of the stories, I know that I have literally saved a Lab's life. What's not to like!

— *Debbi Behrman*



Mocha

Hi, my name is Mocha. I am a purebred chocolate Lab, but my breeders might not have been the most responsible. By the time I was six months old, some physical problems began to appear. I started to walk funny, and sometimes I was in pain. My mom took me to the vet, who said



I had something called hip dysplasia. Then I started to have problems with my ears. They would get really itchy and I would shake my head, and suddenly my earflaps would swell up like a water balloon! That hurt, a lot, and my mom would have to take me to the vet. The vet would poke holes in the blister and things would get better for a while, but I kept getting ear infections and my ear flaps would swell up again. And I had allergies. My mom tried real hard to take care of all my physical problems, but over time she just couldn't afford me. She called Lab Rescue to see if they could help. My family did not want to give me up (they loved me very much) but they wanted to do what was right for me.

Lab Rescue took me to a special doctor who cleaned out my ears and put some kind of waxy stuff in the middle to get rid of the infection. They also put me on a special diet without many ingredients in it, so there were less things for me to be allergic to. I had to have a second surgery on my ear flaps, which was very scary. They opened up the flap, drained everything, scraped out all kinds of yukky stuff, and sewed it back up again. Everyone was kind of scared because, if this didn't work, they were going to have to cut off my ear flaps! How could I be a Labrador without my ears???

Stacy, my special foster mom, picked me up from the vet after the second operation. I was not a happy girl (as you can see in the picture!). I had to wear a stupid bandage

around my ears, and this big plastic cone around my head. I quickly figured out how to get my bandage off my ear, but my foster mom outsmarted me and made sure that I stayed all covered up so that I would heal well.

I was a little worried though: who would adopt me with all of my medical issues? Was anyone going to want to adopt me?

One day my Rescue Rep got a call from the perfect family. At first it seemed like it was too good to be true. My new mom told my Rescue Rep about their last Lab, and, oh my, he seemed to have had more problems than me! She said their family likes having animals that need extra love. They have kids for me to play with. They also have two cats... I wasn't so sure about that, but I kept an open mind. And here's the most amazing

part—my new dad is a vet! I can go to work with him! He knows about ear infections and skin allergies and dysplasia, and they didn't bother him a bit! Did I get lucky, or what? I now live in a 100-year-old home, near lots of parks and places to stay, and I know I am in a great place.



If it weren't for all the great volunteers at GGLRR and those wonderful Lab lovers who made donations so that I could have all this surgery, my story would not have such a great ending. I want to thank all of you who contributed. You are all part of my family!

*Love,
Mocha*



Dozer

We adopted Dozer last spring, and we feel so lucky to have him. We had lost our Basset Hound, Tank, about six months before and were ready for a new dog. We were committed to another rescue but, with two small kids in the house (ages one and three) we had to be very careful. Would we find a dog that was safe with the kids and didn't require massive amounts of exercise and training? Although I'm home most of the time, our walks around the neighborhood are very slow. We have a yard, but it's not quite big enough for a real romp. The reality for us was that we could not commit to a real exercise program that a young, healthy lab requires. Well, along came Dozer, and he is just perfect. He is great with the kids and he's happy with a mellow walk and lots and lots of love, which we are happy to give him.



I think other people had passed at the chance to make him part of their family for a few reasons. He had some behavioral issues that seemed pretty intimidating. He never

learned how to greet another dog calmly on a leash and, at 120 lbs., it's a lot to handle! He lunges, he jumps, he barks, the hair goes up on his back... yep, a lot to handle. Also, he's a bit of a cat chaser. But these are issues we can manage, even with a cat. He also had a large cancerous tumor on his leg, and he is 10 years old. What we get in return for managing some behavioral issues and accepting the responsibilities of an older dog with medical problems, is a safe, wonderful companion for our family. Despite how he acts on the leash at times, he is the sweetest, most patient, loving dog you can imagine. Not a bad trade-off! And thanks to the incredible generosity of GGLRR, its donors, and veterinarians, Dozer has been

given the best chance at a good, long life.

Thank you Kathleen and Linda (Dozer's foster mom) for allowing us to care for Dozer for the rest of his life.

— *The Backs Family*

Coming in next month's e-newsletter:

KID'S CORNER!

Hey Kids! Ever wonder what it's like to be a foster family, adopt a new dog, volunteer for GGLRR, or just have questions about dogs? Send your questions to starjuniorfoster@gmail.com and stay tuned for Abby's answers in next month's e-newsletter!

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters and pictures!

Please send to:

GGLRR Editor

268 Bush Street, #4322

San Francisco, CA 94104

or e-mail to: labrescuesfbayarea@gmail.com

You may also use the above e-mail address to notify us of an address change or if you would no longer care to receive this newsletter.

My Story: A Paw-some Puppy Tail

Letting them go was one of the toughest feelings I have ever had to fight. I couldn't say a proper goodbye to the puppies without tearing up. Percy and Eskimo were the cutest, sweetest, and cuddliest puppies I had ever met, and watching them run to go to another family, was just the worst.

Percy was a soft, black Lab-border collie mix. He never squirmed when I picked him up, and, I lay still on the couch, he would stick his little nose into my thigh and cuddle for hours. I could tell he was happy in our home.

Eskimo had problems with his body. His short little legs were too small for the rest of him, and he couldn't drink water properly. We never really found out for sure what breed "MoMo" was, but we know his mom was a yellow Lab. He was probably one the sweetest dogs ever. He listened to me if I told him a story and would look up at me with those big, brown puppy eyes as if to say, "Awesome!" or, "And then what happened?" Right off the bat, I knew he really cared about us.

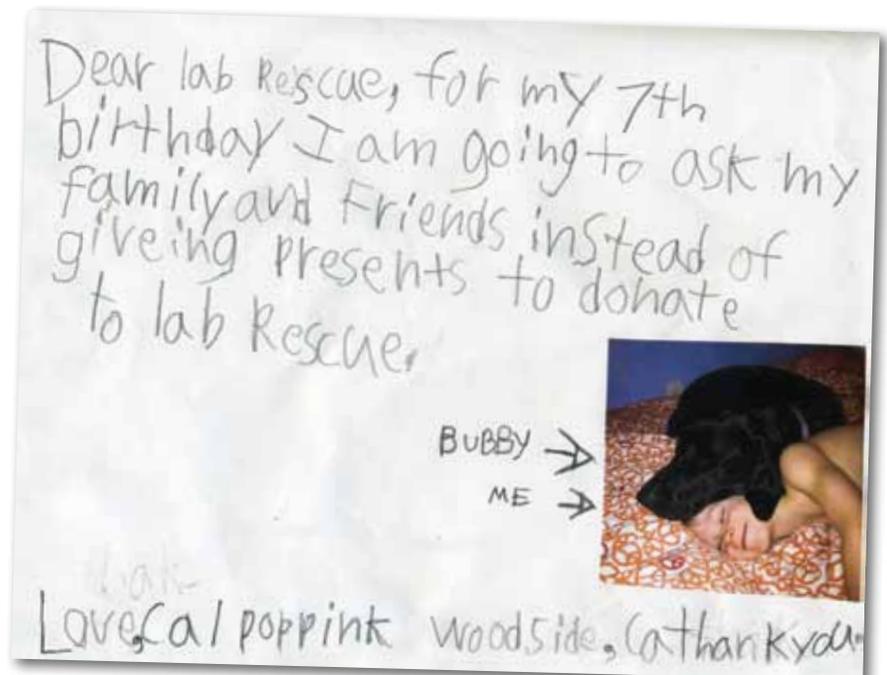
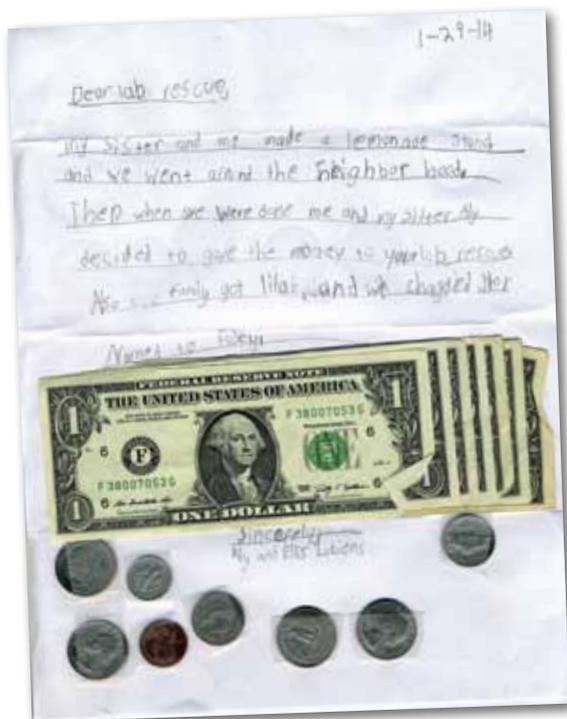
That's why it hurt so much to adopt them out. I became too attached. A lot of the time I thought that they hurt as much as I do, because they can't trust their new family, thinking they might get given away again. I guess most foster families

have that thought. I mean, if you put yourself in a puppy perspective, you can't help feeling a little guilty.

When I met Eskimo's new family, I felt overwhelmed with joy. I finally knew the reason Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue does what they do. The look on the couples' faces said it all. I could tell they were really happy with the new member of the family. The same thing happened with Percy. So sure, we couldn't keep the puppies. But you know what? In a way, GGLRR saved my life. Without them, I never would have enjoyed the company of the many special dogs we have fostered, and the joy of knowing all those dogs are in loving, caring forever homes.

— Abby Hallett, Star Junior Foster 3/3/14

Watch for Abby's column for kids in our next e-newsletter.



Ongoing Learning for GGLRR: Keep an Eye on the Butt!

In late November Lab Rescue Reps, fosters and adopters attended a workshop on canine body language in San Jose. The workshop was put on by Jenna McDonald of Feathers and Fur. Jenna is a well-regarded trainer who has taken on some difficult dogs, and is currently working with a number of GGLRR fosters and adopters.

During the workshop, participants learned how to assess canine body language by watching a dog's tail, spine, and facial expression. An upright tail means the dog wants to engage, that it is saying, "I want to do something." That something could be to go play, or it could be to get in another dog's face. Next, look at the spine. A happy, comfortable dog will exhibit a wiggly soft spine, while stillness in the spine is not a normal. The more soft and wiggly the spine, the better the emotional state of the dog. Third, look at the dog's facial expression. With a happy dog you will see a relaxed, happy expression. If the muscles in the dogs face are tight and the ears go back or pushed down, the dog is under stress. Showing the whites of the eyes (also called whale eyes) or the molars while panting are other signs of stress. Some stress can be normal, such as when the dog is in a new or changing situation. But if all three signs are there (tail up, stiff spine, ears up and expression tense), you have a possible problem. Another warning sign is a dog that won't make eye contact or looks at you sideways. A comfortable dog will look directly at you. You have to look at the dog and take in all of this in the first few minutes!



So what do you do? Don't look the dog directly in the face, look at other things. Keep your hands in your pockets, so the dog doesn't feel threatened by them. Turn aside. Don't approach the dog, let the dog come to you. When the dog does approach you, don't bend over them (that is threatening to the dog). But instead, squat down to the dog. Don't rush in to pet them or talk to them. Watch for the wiggly spine.

Jenna also told us that hackling means the dog is nervous, not aggressive. An aggressive dog will have its ears up or pricked and wrinkles in their forehead.

Jenna brought out dogs to demonstrate various behavior and expressions, including a dog that had been abused and demonstrated fear aggression. All the participants practiced looking at the tail, figuring out what a "wiggly spine" looked like, and checking out dog expressions. At the end, Jenna worked with Jaxon, one of our fosters and an anxious dog, showing us some techniques for working with him. After a few minutes, Jaxon was behaving perfectly!

At the end of the workshop, Jenna offered a general Q&A, in which participants could get their most pressing questions answered. The entire workshop was helpful in learning from Jenna and from each other. A workshop on another topic is being planned for 2014. A huge thank you goes out to Jenna, for taking the time to teach this workshop and her willingness to do another one!

For more information on body language, check out Jenna's website:
<http://jennasfeathersandfur.wordpress.com/tag/dog-body-language/>.

Howie

Purchased as a puppy from a breeder in Florida where his young owner lived, Howie was a happy and beloved companion for his active young friend.



Howie came to Lab Rescue as a reluctant owner-surrender. His owner had moved to the Bay Area to look for work, using scarce funds to pay for Howie's flight here to start a new life together. He was still unemployed and living with relatives, when Howie injured one of his rear legs. Unable to afford vet costs the owner kept him off of the leg as much as possible, carrying him up and down a very long flight of stairs several times a day. When the leg didn't heal after a few months and was getting worse, the owner contacted Lab Rescue to see if we could help. Our vet examined Howie and delivered the news—he had a badly torn ACL and required very expensive TPLO surgery and a long period of rehabilitation. Lab Rescue agreed to take Howie, pay his medical costs, and find him a new home.

Surrendered by his tearful owner at the veterinary hospital, Howie had surgery that day. The owner sent a last message to Lab Rescue: "Thank you for what you are doing. Please take care of him. I wish him only the best things in life." Howie recovered in a loving foster home, where he captured the hearts of everyone in the family. The first day at his foster's home (only two days after surgery, groggy from heavy medication, and supported by a sling) Howie was still insistent about leading his foster over to a corner of the yard where he had spied a tennis ball. He picked it up, dropped it at her feet, and looked up as if to say, "Would you like to play?" Nevertheless, Howie was very patient about the restrictions he was under. He was confined to a large pen and allowed only short "potty" walks on-leash several times a day to give his repaired leg time to heal and strengthen. His period of recovery and rehabilitation from TPLO surgery would extend over the next several months, with gradually increasing activity.

His devoted fosters (and three Lab foster siblings) watched over him, carefully monitoring his care and limiting his activity. Then with great skill and patience began the process of gradual rehabilitation and strengthening of his legs. Meanwhile, Lab Rescue began the process of finding just the right family for Howie. His new family would have to have the time and understanding of his condition to continue the necessary healing process, and also be prepared for the likelihood that his other leg would eventually require surgery.

Many wonderful people were interested in adopting this beautiful, sweet-natured boy, but his Rep and his fosters were waiting for a family who met a variety of criteria required to address Howie's current and future needs. When the veterinarian—whose family included her husband, three children and a cat—called to inquire about Howie, we had the feeling that his forever family had found him.

Howie's new mom had seen many dogs through various health issues, including the one affecting Howie. As a veterinarian herself, she would be uniquely able to recognize and meet his needs. After two lengthy meetings where the connection between Howie and the family was apparent, Howie made the move from the pen in his foster's living room to the one in his new parents' bedroom.

Howie spent a happy summer in the mountains with his people, running, swimming, and playing. Upon their return for the school year, his mom recognized that a second surgery would be necessary to repair the torn ACL in his other leg, (which he underwent in late September). Howie's second re-hab is going beautifully, and he will return to full activity with his loving family.

Thanks to generous donations from Lab lovers who support GGLRR, we were able to take Howie into our program and provide the care he needed. Through the efforts of Howie's "village" of many volunteers, including fosters, transporters, Howie's Rep, and our Dr. Gilman of Bishop Ranch Veterinary Hospital who discounted the cost of surgery, his recovery and adoption to his perfect family were achieved.

Many thanks go out to all who made a happy, healthy life and joyous holiday season possible for Handsome Howie!

— *Kathleen Hirschfeld*

Red

Once upon a time there was a lovely young Lab named Red. He was a yellow Lab, but with lots of red markings, and that's how he got his name. Red loved to run, and jump, and swim. Then one day, Red hurt himself. No one knows how (sometimes these things just happen), but he couldn't do the things he loved, like go jogging with his mom, play with the kids, and chase the ball. At the dog park he could only sit and watch the other dogs play. He was in a lot of pain, and his family could not afford the surgery to fix him up. One vet even told them that they should just put him down! Put down an otherwise healthy, sweet, loving dog like Red? No way! So they called Lab Rescue for help.



game (not really, but the best he could do!) during this period was Leave it, Take it with a bone—and believe me, it wasn't very exciting. Although Red did enjoy chewing on the bone once he could take it.

After about six weeks, x-rays were taken and showed that

Red's leg was healing! Gradually he was able to take really slow five minute walks, and then ten minute walks. He still couldn't run, jump, chase a ball, tug on a tug toy, but Red is a good sport. As long as he could hang out with his fosters and cuddle, he could handle it. Around this time, some exercises were added—walking in figure eights to strengthen his muscles, doing 15 Sit/Stands in a row, to name a couple. For a dog like Red, not super exciting, but better than hanging around doing nothing!

Lab Rescue paid for Red to have TPLO surgery. TPLO stands for Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy, and happens when a dog ruptures or tears his ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament). The ACL keeps the femur bone from sliding backwards down the tibial bone. You can see how this could put strain on the ACL, or even tear it. The movement made when the dog's leg comes down is called an "anterior tibial thrust." There's a lot of complicated science behind the surgery, but basically the surgery cuts the top portion of the tibia, rotates the cut fragment then places a plate of plastic or steel. The dog then recovers and mends the bone. By changing the angle, the anterior tibial thrust is mitigated, and viola! The dog is comfortable and can do dog things again on the operated leg. (If this is too much to absorb, there is a ton of information on, where else, the Internet!)

After the surgery, Red went to a foster home to begin his recovery and rehabilitation. For the first six weeks he was kept very quiet. He didn't go out except to potty, and he had to be supported so he didn't put weight on the injured leg. His foster dad carried him up the stairs to bed at night and back downstairs in the morning, so he wouldn't have to sleep alone. At first he was in pain and the pain medication helped to keep him quiet, but as he began to mend and feel better, it was harder and harder for him to do nothing! An exciting

Slowly Red increased the length of his walks. First a long block, then a long block with one hill, then adding a couple more hills, then one mile with hills three times a day, then a mile and a half, then two miles. The walks tired him out, but he loved each one. He started going to work with his foster dad where he lay quietly during the day, getting up periodically for his walks and to check in with all the humans in the office. Customers who came to the office got the once over and Red's approval before coming in the door. Any employees hired had to like dogs. Things were definitely getting better for Red, and it was time to find him his forever home!

There were lots of wonderful people who saw what a great dog Red was and wanted him for their own. But there was a very special requirement for Red: he had to go to a home with children and dogs. He was not meant to be an only dog! Then the perfect family appeared. They had an eleven-year-old human sister, and a three-year-old Golden Retriever sister, just Red's age. From the minute Red met his new family, it was clear he had found his new home. He settled right in with his new family from his very first day. You can see how happy he and his canine sister look! And as for that vet who said Red should be put down...all we can say is, glad that no one listened to you!

— *Debbi Behrman*

Fostering

Fostering was never something I intended to do. In fact, I clearly remember waving goodbye to my boyfriend and reassuring him that of COURSE I wouldn't adopt or foster any dog, I was just going to volunteer for a few hours. I laughed as he drove off, looking at me warily in the rearview mirror, thinking how needless his worry was and how we would laugh about this later. To my credit, I followed through on half of that promise.

Everything changed when I met Cody. He was a massive lab, weighing in at just under 100 lbs and still slightly underweight. He was the loudest dog at the pet fair and hands-down the most exuberant. His designated volunteer kept a practiced, steady hand on his wire pen, which he almost knocked down with his enthusiasm over his surroundings. No one was going within 10 feet of him. Always one to root for the underdog, I walked right over. I soon learned that Cody was still living with the family who was giving him up for adoption and was kept on a tie down outside, all day, everyday, except when he was relegated to the garage at night. I also learned he needed a foster family. "I'll do it!" I volunteered.

So began the most trying week of my fostering life. Having rarely been out of the backyard, Cody thought EVERYTHING was something to be excited about and barked at, and wow, did he have a bark! I am not exaggerating when I say that I could hear him barking in my 10th floor apartment from the street outside. That first week was pretty exhausting with Cody's seemingly never-ending energy despite LONG hikes in the hills, dog park time, and playing fetch.

This adjustment period, I learned, is part of the package deal for EVERY foster dog. It wasn't always boundless energy, sometimes it was accidents in the house or terrible



leash manners or even stealing my underwear and playing keep away, yikes! Did it test my patience? Yes! Does it still test my patience whenever I get a new foster? YES! Does it stop me from constantly asking for another foster? Absolutely not. My first week's trials and tribulations, so it turns out, were not uncommon and did not, as I initially feared, mean I was a terrible doggie mom. I soon began to befriend other foster moms and dads who shared equally frustrating and, in hindsight, hilarious stories of their first weeks with their charges and I felt a little better.

Why foster if it's so hard? Why put my apartment and my boyfriend through all that abuse? Because there is nothing in the world that makes me feel more warm and fuzzy inside than watching one of my fosters go to a new home. Also, it turns out that after that initial week of you giving and giving and giving to those stressed out, shedding, goofy dogs, they give it back to you in spades. Cody, as it turns out, was actually NOT a bundle of ceaseless energy but a medium-energy dog that would happily lie next to me all day, warming my lap with his massive head and giving me more love than I could have possibly hoped for. All he wanted, all any dog ever wants, is a little security in life—some exercise and a place to curl up and have a good sleep. Once I figured out that that's the recipe for a happy foster I thought, that's all they need? After all they do for me, that's the least I can do for them.

Epilogue: My boyfriend and I are still together and he has, thankfully, not only forgiven me for bringing the biggest, most slobbery Lab in existence into our lives, but happily accepted his role as foster dad and stands by me, eagerly awaiting our next foster journey.

—Rachel Perkiss

In Loving Memory Of Murphy

On a cold, overcast, and drizzly day, God came for him.

He was ready, I was not. Nor would I ever be.

We were rushing him to the vet... comforting him all the way.

He knew. I knew.

His eyes said, "It's OK, it's my time mom."

He told me this several times.

He was slipping away, fast.

A wave of utter devastation enveloped me.

God's warm embrace enveloped him.

As he lay there, he was ready to go.

I wanted him to stay, just for me.

But I knew that God had called his Loving Buddy home... for the last time... a last look... a last breath.

As I cradled Murphy in my arms, I felt God take him lovingly into His.



I don't know what I will do without you Papa. I love you so very much Murphy.

Go find Grandpa and Macy and Heidi, and Seamus. They'll know what to do.

Daisy will meet you at the front gate to check you in...

"Murphy, Handsomest Yellow Lab Ever, Best Boy Ever, Check!"

They will show you where the absolute softest clouds to sleep on are, where the bluest most beautiful lakes to swim in are, where the tastiest bags of kibble are, and where your own private stash of unlimited bacon treats exists.

I knew when I adopted you our time would be short.

But if quality counted as years, you lived to be a thousand.

Thanks for that Murphy.

Today the world is just a little less wonderful without you in it. Another bone-shaped hole has formed in my heart.

Hold down the fort down up there Murphy, and don't let

Daisy boss you around.

I will see you at the bridge someday Murphy.

With Infinity Loves,

Mom

P.S. No swangling in Heaven!

— *Mary Harnish*

Happy Endings: Annie



We are so happy that Annie has joined our pack. She is such a sweet and gentle girl, but she has quite a funny personality. She is a big goofball! We knew she had some trust issues with men before being adopted, but those disappeared within a week living in her new home. She absolutely loves her new daddy.

Whenever he is working in his home studio she comes in and demands his attention. She gets along with her new older beagle brother, Buster Brown, and three older cats. Her mommy loves to take the pack for a hike in the hills almost every day. Annie is so good off leash: she checks in constantly on long walks and comes back immediately when called. She has gained back all the weight she lost from her shelter trauma, and is just the happiest dog ever. We can tell she truly appreciates her forever home. Huge thanks go to GGLRR for rescuing her and allowing us to adopt her.

— *Brett and Krista Strader*

Postscript: Brett's fundraising organization, Sing for America, donated half the proceeds from a concert held on March 30th at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. Thank you Brett for your generous support of Lab Rescue!

Bruce: Before and After



A month ago Bruce was living in a garage, all alone. He never got a walk because in his eagerness to go outside, he would pull on the leash a bit too much. He wasn't allowed in the house. The neighbors would see Bruce's leg come under the garage door with open sores and would hear him cry in the garage day and

night. It broke their heart. It was cold in there, and he was hungry a lot. His skin got itchy, and turned black (and he's a yellow lab!). Lab Rescue got a call that the owner had to give him up that day, and we came that same day to meet him.

The GGLRR Rep who met Bruce instantly saw what a sweet, loving boy he is. He was friendly from the first hello and so happy to go for a walk. It was obvious, upon seeing him that he was not in good health. He had a serious skin condition where he was losing fur and the skin was grey/black underneath. He wasn't neutered, and he hadn't had his vaccines in a while. He was also very thin. Something was clearly wrong. He was moving well though, and gently bouncing up and down when he saw the leash, and the

GGLRR Rep noticed after half a block, he walked just fine on the leash!

Today Bruce is in a loving home, with a new dad named... Bruce! Bruce the human knew it was karma when he saw Bruce the dog's picture on the website. Bruce the dog's new family includes a human mom, sister and grandmother. He's met all the neighbors, both human and canine, and has been the hit of the neighborhood. He's been to the "spa" for a bath and a manicure. His skin has improved greatly (check out the picture) and he's being treated for the arthritis he most likely got from spending so much time on a cold garage floor. His coat has come back a lovely yellow. His dad reports that his tail is always wagging, and he is always ready for a tummy rub!



We want to thank the neighbors who called Animal Control over Bruce's neglect. We also want to thank all those who so generously donated to Bruce's medical fund, which enabled us to get him the treatment he so badly needed.

From Homeless to Fearless



Darcy (formerly "Sugar") was discovered at Mendocino County Animal Care Services in Ukiah, CA by GGLRR. She had been adopted, but had some major issues and was returned to us. We weren't sure we could place her, but Trainer Beth came to our aid and fostered her. Beth taught her basic obedience and gave her loads of TLC. Darcy thrived! Beth saw Search Dog potential in this overactive canine, and Search Dog Foundation was called in to evaluate her. She passed with flying colors and will be one of the first graduates of SDF's class of 2014!

—Liz Frome



We Extend Our Thanks To You!

Thank you to all of our wonderful donors. Without you, we would not be able to continue to help the Labs that need medical care and/or new homes. Your donations make it happen!

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To all the fosters, dog transporters, Pet Fair Volunteers and many others— we would not be able to save as many dogs as we do without your help!

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3 Great Ways to help Lab Rescue

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We've recently set up an Amazon Wish List with items needed for the dogs. Have fun shopping for the dogs and thank you for your consideration. Here's the link: http://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/PBYXN-JI9EFYF/ref=cm_sw_r_fa_ws_HK-W8sb01X2KWB

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Beautiful birthday, friendship, sympathy, get well, thank you, and even blank note cards, all feature GGLRR Labs like yours. Half of the profits go directly to GGLRR. Each pack of ten cards and envelopes also includes a **20% off coupon** from Pet Food Express! Shop for yours now at SecondChanceGreetings.com



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Adopt Yogi, the sweetest bear of a boy you'll ever meet!

I used to have a family who cared for me, but somehow I ended up in the San Jose shelter. I am microchipped so they tried to find my family, but no luck, so Lab Rescue came to meet me.

I was so happy the first time I saw the Rescue lady that I bounced all over the patio where we met. I was having a great time, showing her how I could "Sit" and "Down" when she asked me to. I loved the treats she gave me, and was very gentle when I took them. I liked giving her sloppy kisses on her chin, and she didn't seem to mind. I'm a little overweight, and had some big bumps on my side, and my teeth weren't in great shape, but Lab Rescue brought me to a place where they took all the bumps out (you should see my incision, it's huge!) and fixed up my teeth.

My foster mom says I am the easiest dog ever! I have no bad habits (except to cuddling up on the bed to sleep with my foster brother). I like to learn, and I love to please my humans. I like playing with other dogs, and I like playing with humans. Mostly I like hanging out with my humans; could I come to work with you? I don't need to be the center of attention, I am just happy to hang out and watch you work. And I'm 8, so I am

past those puppy problems, and don't need 2 hours of exercise every day! I enjoy a couple of reasonable walks, but no marathons please!



Yogi's foster mom says that he's a really funny guy with a great personality. He loves his walks, not so much for the physical aspect, but for the curiosity of smelling everything and checking it all out. His delight on our walks is a ton of fun to watch. He's an easygoing guy, and happy to be around people. He's not at all destructive; you can leave him alone in the house for a few hours without any problems. He sneaks naps on the sofa but he's so sweet we can't be mad! We can't believe that he is this easy and lovely to have around.

Yogi is handsome, neutered, house trained, up to date on his shots and micro-chipped. If you would like to adopt this cuddle bear of a boy, please contact Rescue Rep Debbi at 408-354-1676.



**Golden Gate
Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.**

12 River Vista Court
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About GGLRR, Inc.

Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc. (GGLRR) is organized under the California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable and educational purposes. We have been granted nonprofit tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. GGLRR is a private, nonprofit, all-volunteer organization.

GGLRR facilitates the placement of unwanted Labrador Retriever dogs into new homes. We are sought out by concerned individuals and humane organizations who come into contact with Labrador Retrievers. We have a spay-neuter requirement for all dogs that we place. Families residing within our Northern California service area who desire to adopt a Labrador Retriever complete an application form and are introduced to potential pets. Our purpose is solely to provide good homes for Labrador Retrievers who might otherwise be abandoned or euthanized by their previous owner.

Our service area is Northern California and covers six telephone area codes: 415, 408/669, 510, 650, 707, and 925. GGLRR has more than 100 volunteers. None of our volunteers receive any form of compensation for their time and effort, other than the pure satisfaction of matching a displaced Lab with a loving family.

GGLRR relies upon placement and adoption donations, fundraising events, and charitable donations for its funding. We suggest a minimum donation (currently \$400) for prospective families wishing to adopt from us.



If you prefer, you can also use PayPal to make a donation. Log onto www.labrescue.org/donate and click on the PayPal icon.

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