

Labrador Rescue Kent Newsletter

February 2014



Registered Charity Number: 1067495

PATRONS: David C. Fletcher B. Vet. Med. MRCVS; Maureen S. Fletcher; Michael Bingham.

The times they are a-changing!

Happy New Year to you all! Some of you are old enough to know that this was the name of a Bob Dylan album (L.P. in those days) and we at Labrador Rescue Kent are changing also.

First of all, over the last year we have lost two trustees: Carol Malkinson sadly lost her husband in November 2012 and decided to step down as trustee a few months ago. We are indebted to her for all her support over the many years she was with us and particularly in kennelling dogs for us whilst waiting for their permanent home. We are absolutely delighted that she will continue to support Lab Rescue Kent as a helper.

Mick Bingham has also resigned as trustee but after all his stalwart work and loyalty to LRK for nearly 20 years we could not let him go completely. We are thrilled that he has agreed to be another patron and to act as dog advisor for us.



There have also been some new appointments and some losses to our team. Caroline Halford has accepted a position as a trustee and Roy Bingham has taken on the joint role of

fundraiser with Janet Harris.

Sadly, three of our helpers have moved on. We give our thanks to Andrew and Suzanne Stanley and Sandra Buddle for all they have done for us and wish them well for the future in their new homes.

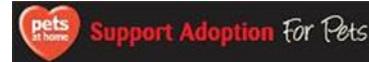


Sophie Allport Merchandise



We have gone up-market! We are now selling Sophie Allport merchandise at all the fairs that we go to and this will be for sale via our website. We will let you know when this is up and

running but, for now, pictured are a few examples example of what we are now selling. Please look at her website and contact us if there is anything you would like to buy. All profits to Labrador Rescue Kent.



New website



We are very excited about having a new website! This will now include much more information about the dogs that we are currently looking to rehome as well as tips about caring for your lab. It will also have a gallery of pictures and stories (so please send them in to be posted on the website), copies of our newsletters, and a shop. We hope that this will bring in more homes as well as providing a way for us to support you. We already have a number of pictures of your dogs usually taken when they were looking for homes, at Charity Days or sent in by you. Please let us know if you do not wish us to use them on the website. Also, if you have tips about looking after dogs which might benefit others please pass them on for the website.

Christmas Event



This was the second time that we held a Christmas event and thanks to your support we raised over £800.

Janet demonstrated how to make a Christmas Ring and then raffled the ones she had made. (Lucky people who won them!) We all had the opportunity to make a professional bow and were given instructions on how to make a ring for ourselves.

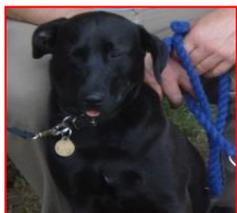


As usual, those who supported us in the kitchen did a wonderful job and served fantastic teas with mince pies, Christmas cake etc! Thank you Janet!

Just can't say no to fostering!

Well I can't, especially when each Labrador is so different. Last year was quite busy as we fostered four Labradors one of which is still with us as we have decided to keep him.. Our 'pack' (Casey, 12 year old

Golden Retriever, Holly 11 year old black Lab and Fern ten year German Shepherd) are very welcoming and love the challenge of a 'new' Labrador.



LILY – March 2013 - a lovely young black girl with more than a hint of a racing dog in her as she was so fast! She quickly settled into our 'pack' and was more than 'miffed' that no dog was really young enough to play with her. However, she was only with us a short while before going to a lovely home.

BELLA came in May 2013. Bella suffered really badly from separation anxiety but got better by the day with me constantly going in and out of the house! She did like to jump on furniture but one thing she jumped on nearly gave us a heart attack! It must have been the one and only sunny day in May when all we could hear was a 'swishing' sound. We looked around the corner and there was Bella sliding all over the swimming pool cover – after a few nervous moments it was clear she was having great fun and soon came back to us. Bella was not with us for long but did have a boyfriend in Dexter before going to her "forever" home.



We had the pleasure of fostering **DEXTER** for just over two weeks. Dexter knew no commands whatsoever on arrival but after persevering with him, and using treats as a bribe, would sit at the click of your fingers. Dexter was very food orientated and on numerous occasions he jumped up with front paws on the kitchen workplaces – all food had to be placed out of his reach – think he had at least two of my dinners! Initially, he slept in a large cage and once settled would sleep through the night but the one evening when we went out to dinner with the neighbours he actually wrecked the cage and came to join us!



After this episode he slept in a bed in the lounge with our three dogs with no trouble at all apart from a couple of occasions where he managed to jump the stair gate and make straight for the bedroom! Dexter was a very challenging 'visitor' who loved his short spell with Bella but he is now in a lovely home with a very patient Dad!
Roy Bingham.

Thank you Roy for your help and perseverance with these dogs!

Could you offer emergency fostering to a dog? We are desperately seeking people who are prepared to take on a dog for a short time while we find them their "forever" home. This can be challenging at times but is also very rewarding. If you can help, then please contact us.

Diesel's Diary

Well, one week in and making myself at home. Let them sleep in until 6.30ish they then let me have my Fleecy Lounge Mat beside their bed until they want to get up, then its breakfast before a nice long walk, home for coffee and work. We go out again later before we settle down for a while before they have tea and relax in the lounge. They have found out I am forever on the lookout for food!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I have met all the family and lots of neighbours (some brought me treats). Their granddaughter has been down twice, with treats and played with me. She was well impressed! I have been to the local coffee shop and farm shop, also a trip on the bus. Next week (weather permitting) I am going to the beach. I have tried to get on the bed and leather sofas but they are a NO GO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Will keep you updated.

Hi! Well three weeks in and I am now getting my feet under the table also the bed!!



I have given them a few concerns like they left me on my own and I managed to get the airtight sealed cake tin down and YES I ate the whole chocolate cake. Mum telephoned the vet but they were not concerned; Dad was though as he was not sure Mum would make another one!!

I also took myself over the rear garden fence into the orchard; I did come back with my tail between my legs when Dad called me, but of course I could not jump back so Dad had to lift me. NO easy feat. The next day's job was to purchase more fencing!!! Job done.



I am getting two nice walks a day: the pheasants are too quick for me but the mixxie rabbits are no problem. I catch them and Dad has to deal with it!!

I love my ball and make sure they take it inside in the afternoon so I can have a good game with it. My recall is selective as is my hearing! (Well, I am a Labrador) and Dad is having to work on it but I have improved on a short lead, and am getting much better at night so one step at a time. They are being patient with me as they know I have had a traumatic time of late but they feel I am a much happier dog so they feel they must be doing something right. (The picture above shows a sad me when I first came to my "forever home".) I usually follow Dad about but I am at present curled up on one of my beds while Mum is working indoors. We have got the wood burner on so we are nice and snug!!

Woof Woof! Diesel

