

ALGBR

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Arizona Labrador and Giant
Breed Rescue, Inc.
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Wishing You All A Safe Holiday and Happy New Year

On behalf of the ALGBR Board, we would like to wish all of our families, rescues and future families a safe holiday and a very Happy New Year. We do this for our rescues. They are the heart and soul of this organization. Life can be hard and it can be wonderful but let us all remember that it is harder for the rescues that cannot tell us their stories. If they could only speak, they might just tell us thank you for rescuing me. Thank you for caring enough to take me to obedience training because I want to become a better dog. I want to learn how to do special tricks and show off for your friends and family.

Let us give thanks to the many organizations just like ALGBR that continue to fight daily to save these wonderful creatures.

Thank You

Thanks to the many families for adopting our rescues and providing them with a forever home. Thanks to the foster families who cared for each of these special rescues.

ALGBR is very happy the general public is viewing our organization as their first alternative for surrendering a Lab or Giant rather than just taking them the county pound hoping they will get adopted.

To all of our families who surrendered their pets, thank you

for your confidence in us and for allowing us to find them all new "Forever Homes".



Welcome New Members

Kari Anderson, Jeremiah Beitzel, Melissa Goodwin, Diane & Walter Greer, Jennifer Heckel, Dan & Lisa Hoglund, John & Sandra Krisch, Debbie Leigh, Aarone Montgomery, Jackie Schmidt, Jacque Schwartz. We just keep on growing.

A Foster's Story

by Murphy "The Man"

My story begins when a lady by the name of Carrie who picked me up at the AJ Dog Pound. She drove me clear across town to another woman, named Jewell, who would care for me for more than 5 months.

I was skin and bones, weighing a mere 56 lbs for a tall lanky Lab. For the next 2 weeks, I got to know my foster mom and each of her dogs. Wow, the house was jamming with these 3 dogs, although the oldest had trouble walking and staying on his feet if you accidentally bumped into him.

I came to her with heartworms and separation anxiety. You know those nasty parasites that kill dogs. PLEASE TEST YOUR LOVING PETS FOR HEARTWORM AND GET THEM ON INTERCEPTOR OR HEARTGARD FOR LIFE. Heartworms and the *Continued on Page 2*

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treatment are awful to go through for a pup. I should know but I survived thanks to the care of VCA Veterinarian Dr. Brad Walker, staff and ALGBR.

Sometime in October, a nice lady came to see me. I was excited and ran around like a goof ball in the back yard. I could tell she was a healer and I played like I was lame so she would feel sorry for me. Hey, it worked. She took me home that night. We went on a very long car ride to my new home. We live near Tucson. We spent the whole next day playing, walking, and learning to use a dog door. And just so you know, I walked around like there was nothing wrong with my leg.

When my new mom went to work on my first Monday in my new home, she left me alone. Well, I just couldn't stand that so I tore open the bag of dog food and threw it all over the floor. I went outside and howled at the neighbors so they would feel sorry for me. It worked.



They offered to take care of me during the day. Ha ha ha! Humans are soooo easy!!

Here is a letter that I sent to my foster mom after two weeks in my forever home. It may help other fosters.

Thank you so much for your kindness and support. I have had a tough life but am so happy to have a forever mom and neighbors who understand that it will take me time to adjust to my new life. Because I had health issues and had to recover from surgery and heartworm, I was in foster care much longer than normal. I was in several different foster homes and was kept in a kennel/crate. I did not like that much and became an escape artist. The extended time in foster care means it may take me a few weeks to acclimate to a new life - I worry about changes.

I am anxious about changes in my surroundings and wary of new people, especially tall men. I know I will grow past this with time and patience. I love that my forever mom is taking me out to meet new people and dogs so I can have some social time. One day I will be ready for the dog park!

My foster mom says it may take up to a year for my digestive tract to recover from my stressful past and settle into my new life. I also switched foods overnight when I came home with my forever mom – so my tummy may need a week or two to adjust to a new diet and new treats. Sorry about the gas. ☹️ I do not like it either.

I have a trainer. She is cool. She is giving my forever mom tips to work through my anxiety. You can help too. Please do not let me be a Velcro doggie. Though your affection is appreciated, this only teaches me to be dependent. The

sooner I can learn to be confident and independent, the sooner I will stop my aberrant behaviors like occasional howling, barking and digging. Simple steps can help me get over my anxiety. If you walk into a room, please shut the door and leave me on the other side for brief periods of time so I learn its okay for you to disappear – you will come back and I will be SOOO happy to see you again! You will be able to tell because I will smile, wag my tail and make snuffing noises to great you.

If you need to come get me, please try to find a moment when I am being quiet and good so that you are not rewarding bad behavior like howling or barking. If you are patient, I will do less barking and howling and will learn to be okay on my own. I learn fast and love to be good!

You can pick up keys and move them without going out to your car so I forget that I have learned that keys and purse mean leaving parent. Ask me to sit and wait patiently before allowing me to go through a door to leave or enter a house – I need to be a gentleman. I forget that I am large and could hurt or trip someone. I am learning the word "wait" with a hand in front of my face like "stop".

If you ask me to lay down away from you for periods of time and encourage me to wait laying down until you return I will learn patience. I follow you because I panic and am afraid to be alone, not because I love you. It will be so nice when I don't panic anymore and can patiently lay down and watch you! If you are working in the yard or kitchen ask me to lay in a place I can watch so I do not need to follow you. I like that lots!

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I want to succeed and live with a forever mom so doing all you can to be patient and help is surely appreciated. Know that my new mom has obedience training experience and that training will help me learn that there are boundaries to my behavior. I am looking forward to learn my new dog job so I can be successful in life. I never want to go back to a dog pound or have to be rescued. My last foster mom will come visit if you need help understanding all this – she works for a rescue group. Thank you for your love and patience!

Murphy

Here is another letter that I sent to my foster mom in November.

Hi Foster Mom! I am feeling SOOOO much better I am like a whole new dog. I run and play and act just plain goofy for my new mom.

I am so excited that for two days she has let me roam in the house while she is at work. I feel so much safer when I can curl up inside or sneak a nap on a couch. (Shhhh don't tell my mom! She doesn't suspect!!) And I like that I am now independent enough to decide when I need to go outside to pee, poop, or bark to protect my new home! I even ate dry dog food today while I was home alone. You know it was not bad. My mom takes good care of me and cooks me special meals so I have the strength to run and play. I used to be afraid to eat a lot but now I am okay and can eat all my food.

I wish I had not eaten that silly toy. I know it made me very sick. I gnaw on a large rawhide bone now when I am frustrated or need to chew.

I probably should get x-rayed to make sure I am done with that phase of my life. My mom says she has a special trip planned to Phoenix on December 11th in the afternoon for a December 12th early meeting and our friends in Phoenix say I can stay there to play with her two girls Sedona and Bisbee. They LOVE blonde guys and asked if they could meet me. So maybe if Dr. Walker can find time on one of those days we can work it out. I hope so. I want to be well and get stronger every day.

You know what! I have new muscles on my legs!!! I DO!. I am getting RIPPED - and turning heads. I even tried to introduce my new mom to a great looking guy that loved me.

I like being in shape - I have more energy for the fun stuff and I am so lucky that ALGBR saved me and you took me in so I have this new life. My walks are serious sometimes when we focus and work but we also play silly games like tag on the tail you are IT!

I think I am meant for something more - maybe search and rescue work or therapy work. I have to decide what I want to be when I grow up. But there is no rush. Right now I am just enjoying everyday life and a home all my own!

Love Murphy

Two days after Murphy's visit on December 12, he had trouble walking. The Vets suspect that there is arthritis in his back. In addition, he has exhibited more digestive issues. We hope for his continued recovery, a speedy diagnosis and successful treatment.

This column is dedicated to the many rescues that have behavioral and health issues; to those rescues who have won their health battles; and to

Tasha, Duchess and your treasured family pets who have crossed over Rainbow Bridge.

Our Board

President: Jennifer Campos

Vice President: Kathy Getman

Secretary: Freida Hamilton

Treasurer: Jennifer Campos

Members: Dorothy James, Donna Jarboe, Pam Ross & Anne Zika

Our Volunteer Positions

**Adoption Coordinator
Anne Zika**

**Foster Home Coordinator
Susan Brown**

**Furr Friends Coordinator
Lisa Heglund**

**Home Visit Coordinators
Jewell Hawthorne & Michelle Noerenberg**

**Intake Coordinator
Dorothy James**

**Intake Team
Anne Zika, Freida Hamilton,
Donna Jarboe and Jennifer Campos**

**Newsletter Editor
Jewell Hawthorne**

**Volunteer Coordinator
Freida Hamilton**

**Web Master
Donna Jarboe**

ALGBR TURNS TWO!!

By Melissa Goodwin

To celebrate the second anniversary of Arizona Lab and Giant Breed
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Rescue, the board of directors threw an anniversary party on November 11, 2007. Jen and Henry hosted the party and it gave everyone a chance to meet, talk, eat, and play. Board members and volunteers got a chance to thank some of the different rescue partners that ALGBR relies on from VCA Mountain View Animal hospital, Scottsdale Pet Hotel, Mountain View Kennels, and It's a Ruff Life.

It was great fun to eat, drink, play horseshoes and badminton, and reflect on all the great experiences we've had rescuing and caring for more than 175 dogs that ALGBR has taken in during the last two years. Volunteers and partners alike are excited about the future, as we strive to increase our adoption rates by leaps and bounds in the coming years.

Our Rescues

by Anne Zika

From June 21 through June 30, 2007, the following dogs were adopted: **Abbey2, Amelia, Andrew, Andy, Angel3, Annabelle, Annie, Ares, Artie, Bella, Bevie, Biggie, Bo, Bo2, Boscoe, Brogan, Bryce, Buddha, Buddy2, Carrera, Casey, Cash, Chloe, Daisy, Decoy, Dempsey2, Diego, Diesel, Doc Holliday, Dolce, Dozer, Drake, Duncan, Elliot, Emily, Fidget, Gabana, George, Goldie, Hope, Jackie, Janie, Jaxson, Katie, Kolby, Lelu, Lily, Louie, Mack, Maggie2, Marley, Maximus2, Mick, Missy, Mocha, Murphy, Norton, Obie, Phoebe, Ringo, Sadie, Samson, Sasha, Silky, Slim, Sonny, St. Nick, Sugar, SuzieQ2, Suzy, Tank, Taz, Terry, Trixie, Walter and Mr. Woody.**

Thank you for opening your hearts and homes to these wonderful dogs.

HEALTHY RESOLUTIONS FOR YOU AND YOUR POOCH

By Melissa Goodwin

As the New Year approaches, it's a great opportunity to reflect on areas of your life that could stand some improvement. This year when you make your resolution to make healthier food choices for yourself, why not resolve to do the same for your beloved dog, too?

The following foods may be dangerous/toxic to your pet: alcoholic beverages, apple seeds, apricot pits, cherry pits, candy (particularly chocolate, which is toxic to dogs, cats, and ferrets, and any candy containing the sweetener Xylitol), coffee (grounds, beans, chocolate covered espresso beans), grapes, hops (used in home beer brewing), macadamia nuts, moldy foods, mushroom plants, mustard seeds, onions and onion powder, peach pit, potato leaves and stems (green parts), raisins, rhubarb leaves, salt, tea (caffeine), tomato leaves and stems (green parts), walnuts and yeast dough.

Sources: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, The Toronto Humane Society, and St. John's Poison Resource Center.

Some plants may also be harmful to dogs if ingested. Be aware of toxic plants both inside and outside your home. Some of these include: **The bulbs of Hyacinth, Narcissus, and Daffodil, Oleander leaves, Dieffenbachia, Elephant Ear, the underground stems of Iris, the berries of Jasmine, the green**



Future Events

Anthem Adopt-A-Thon
Saturday, January 26, 2008
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Anthem Community Park
Gavilean Parkway

Franciscan Renewal Adopt-A-Thon
Saturday, March 15, 2008
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
5802 E. Lincoln Dr

Paws Fur Spring
Saturday, March 29, 2008
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Glendale Public Library

Fountain Hills Adopt-A-Thon
Sunday, April 6, 2008
Time and Location TBA

PACC911 Bowl-A-Rama
Saturday, August 2, 2008
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location TBA

Do you have an event or an idea for a fundraiser? Please contact any ALGBR board member to discuss.

berries of Lantana, and Poinsettias and Easter Lilies.
Source: www.EntirelyPets.com

And please remember, that toys can be just as hazardous to your pets as foods, plants and chemicals. Supervise, supervise and supervise some more.

So this year, watch what you *and* your pup are eating, and have a Happy and Healthy 2008!

Arizona Labrador and Giant Breed
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