

Special Interest Articles

Halloween Safety Tips

Emergency Phone
Numbers

Fundraising Events

Adoption News

Disaster Preparedness



In this Issue:

Halloween Safety	1-2
Emergency Numbers	2
Foster News	3
Events and Fundraising	3
Partnership News	4
Doggie Swim Event	4
Adoption Corner	5
Disaster Preparedness	5-6
Next Fundraising Event	7
About Us	7
Happy Tails	7

Trick or Treat? Halloween Safety Tips for Pets

Halloween is a fun time for kids and many adults, but can be a frightening and stressful time for your pets. As a pet owner, you know your pet best, but here are some points to consider for your pet's safety.

Continual doorbell ringing and people at the door (in costume, no less!) can be stressful for a pet. Some pets may experience stress-related diarrhea or potentially injure themselves if crated or otherwise contained. Keep your pet in a quiet and safe place on

Strangers in costume - some animals may become unexpectedly aggressive or fearful, even normally friendly pets.

Candles and Jack-O'-Lanterns within a pet's range are a fire hazard. Wagging tails and frightened cats zooming through the house can easily tip over a candle or carved pumpkin, causing burns or a fire.

Keep your pets indoors on Halloween night, especially black cats. Animals are at risk for cruel treatment by some Halloween pranksters. Many adoption agencies and humane societies will not allow adoption of black cats around Halloween for this reason.

Candy - For many people, Halloween = candy. Many pets have a sweet tooth. Please warn children not to share their goodies with the family pet.

Candy Concerns
Candies, gums, mints, baked goods and chocolate containing the "sugar free" sweetener xylitol are especially poisonous, causing rapid hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and liver failure in dogs and possibly other species (ferrets).

Chocolate is toxic to pets. Granted, a 50 pound dog would have to eat about 50 ounces of milk chocolate (but only 5 ounces of baking chocolate) for a toxic dose, but much smaller amounts can cause vomiting and diarrhea.

Signs of chocolate toxicity include tremors, nervousness, vomiting, diarrhea, increased heart rate, and in severe cases, seizures and death. If you suspect that your pet has eaten chocolate, consult your veterinarian.

Other candies, such as lollipops and those with plastic components, pose a danger if ingested. Lollipop sticks and plastic parts can cause intestinal obstruction and potentially rupture the intestines, which is a life-threatening emergency.

Look at the variety of pet costumes! How can I resist?
Halloween costumes for pets have been around for many years. This year, however, I am finding them everywhere; even in the grocery store! While the costumes can be entertaining for the human counterparts, caution is advised before dressing your pet up.

While viewed as fun and adorable for some pet owners, caution is advised when putting a costume on a pet. A pet in costume should NEVER be left alone

Continued, next page

(Trick or Treat, cont.)

and unsupervised.

Tight elastics on the costumes can get lost in the pet's hair, potentially causing owners to overlook them, leading to swelling and pain in the area of the elastic.

Some pets, if left alone in costume, may chew it up and ingest it. This *could* cause intestinal obstruction if more than small shreds

of material are consumed.

If the costumed pet escapes or is frightened away, the costume could entangle the pet on trees, fences, etc.

Play it safe and enjoy Halloween

With a little caution and some common sense, Halloween can be a fun time for kids and pets

alike. If any acts of animal cruelty are seen or suspected, please call your local shelter or animal authorities. Happy and safe Halloween to everyone.

Source: Crosby, Janet
Tobiassen, About.com
Guide. "Halloween Safety
Tips for Pets".
www.about.com
(10/12/2011)



Three Life-Saving Phone Numbers All Dog Owners Should Know

Of course you love your dog. Do you know what to do if he has a health crisis in the middle of the night, on the weekend or a holiday?

When you finish reading this,

put these phone numbers in every cell phone and near every land line you own.

1. Your veterinarian
2. Local emergency vet that operates 24 hours a day/7 days a week
3. [ASPCA](http://www.aspca.org) poison hot line,

888.426.4435. There is a \$65 consultation fee, and it's worth every penny

All of us hope to never experience a pet's health emergency ... but if it should happen, you'll be prepared. And that preparation can make all the difference!



“There's no such thing as a dumb dog; after all, while we're out working all day, they're home sleeping.”

Author Unknown

Foster News

Every dog has a story, but how it ends may depend on you. Opening your home to a Lab in need can alter the path for a Lab in your local shelter.

You can make a difference by fostering. Everyone benefits from fostering! The shelter benefits by having room for new dogs. The foster family benefits by sharing their love with a

dog in need. The foster dog gets to spend time in a home where he learns basic manners and learns to be part of a family. And, finally, the new owners get a dog that is better adjusted to home life.

Fostering a dog saves a life. If you would like to help us by fostering a dog, please fill out our [Foster Application](#).

Foster care consists of

providing a safe, loving, temporary home for a dog until a permanent adoptive home can be found. LRGR pays for veterinary care and is always available for guidance and support. You provide the love, training and home. The dog provides you with love, joy, and the satisfaction of having saved a life. Visit our website to [learn more](#). Change a shelter dog's story today by fostering for LRGR!

Christine Wilson, Foster Coordinator

Events and Fundraising

Lois Mickiewicz, Public Relations and Philanthropic Coordinator

Fundraising is a necessary evil for all non-profit organizations and LRGR is no exception. We attempt to choose fundraising avenues that are both fun and profitable. Below are the fundraising events we have held so far this year, along with some upcoming ones.

Chateau Morrisette Black Dog Wine and Music Festival Raffle Tickets: In June we sold raffle tickets for the chance to win 2 tickets to the wine and musical festival of your choice.

Macy's Shop for a Cause: Our volunteers sold shopping passes to be used for great discounts at Macy's stores, during their

Shop for a Cause Saturday in August.

Doggie Swim Fundraiser: Our supporters donated \$10 to give their dog the ability to swim in a beautiful in-ground swimming pool. September is a great time to swim!! Read the article and view pictures from this fun event on the next page!

Silpada Jewelry Party: LRGR will hold an in-person and catalog Silpada Party, along with Thirty-One Gifts and Tastefully Simple vendors, on November 20th. Our wonderful representative will donate 25% of all sales to LRGR. Mark the date on your calendar to join us and get an early start on your holiday shopping!

We also have fundraisers that run all year. These

include LRGR TShirt Sales, "I Love My Labrador" bumper stickers and car magnets, and Lab Tervis Tumblers (soon to be available on our website). Visit our website for the [link](#) to view these items.

Information on all of our fundraisers can be found on the [LRGR website](#).

If you would like more information on any of our upcoming fundraisers, please drop a line to: LRGRInformation@labrescue-richmond.com.



Partnership News

Lois Mickiewicz, Public Relations and Philanthropic Coordinator

Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond is proud to announce a new partnership!

LRGR is now partnering with [Capital Chevy Buick GMC](#). Grady, the Black Lab mascot of Capital Chevy Buick GMC, graciously

donated over 150 gourmet, organic dog biscuits to the dogs at our swim fundraiser as well as invited us to share his booth space at the recent Field Day of the Past event. That Grady is one very giving pup, and we look forward to a long and happy relationship with

him and his human family!!

Don't forget to look for our booth at the upcoming [Canine Carnival](#) event on Saturday, Oct. 29th. Please go to our respective websites for additional information.



My goal in life is to be as good a person as my dog thinks I am.

~ Unknown

Doggie Swim Event Spotlight

Lois Mickiewicz, Public Relations and Philanthropic Coordinator

On September 10th LRGR held what we hope was our 1st annual doggie swim fundraiser at the Ashcreek Community Pool, in Mechanicsville, VA.

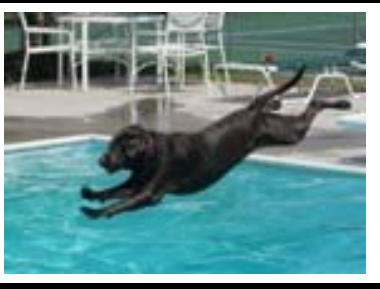
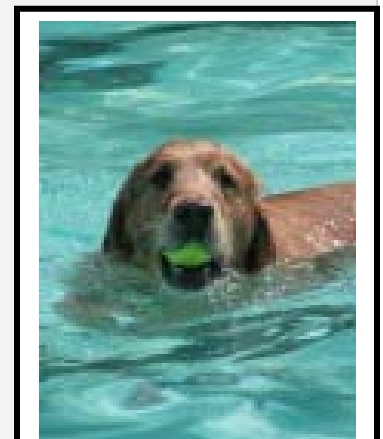
Over 50 dogs attended the two sessions and all had a wonderful time. Some comments from our dog

parents are below:

"Thank you so much for having this event. Jimmy (the dog) and I had a blast! He was exhausted, and it was GOOD. I hope you do this again - we'll be there!"
Elizabeth

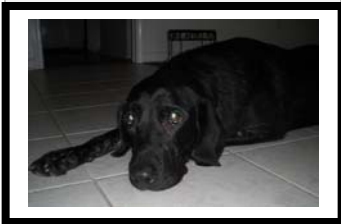
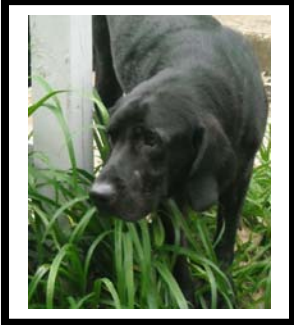
"We thoroughly enjoyed it! First time my dog had been in deep water. Hope it was a success for your organization, and bless you for what you are doing to save those precious dogs."
Brenda

"We had a wonderful time on Saturday."
Dianne



Adoption Corner

Jane Beall, Adoption Coordinator



It has been an intensive quarter. To date we have found forever homes for 38 wonderful labs. Though our numbers are down a bit, we believe that is a positive sign that families are rebounding and able to keep their family member.

Many many labs sit in shelters each year waiting for the opportunity for a second chance. This year is no different.

Our spotlight lab who is looking for his forever home is Cain (pictured). If you follow our labs, you will note we have been caring

for this fabulous boy for many months.

Cain came to us severely underweight, heartworm positive, loaded with worms, skin infections, ear infections, and a never ending wag.

We have treated his heartworms successfully, and he is gaining weight each day. Having seen the state he was in on day one, we could not believe this boy had the best demeanor ever.

Under the care of a canine dermatologist, we have learned he has allergies. These allergies are now under control, he eats a

clean diet, and plays, plays, plays.

Saving these labs is our goal. Getting them healthy and ready for that second chance is paramount. Some, like Cain, take longer and more resources. But we do it. Period.

It is now time for Cain to find his forever home. If you are looking for a loving funny boy, he is the one for you. If you want unconditional love, a tail that never stops wagging, he is the one for you.

If you would like more information on Cain, give a call, or send an email. We would love to discuss him with you.

Disaster Planning for Your Pets & Family: How to Prepare for Hurricanes, Other Natural Disasters

Rule one: If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets

Evacuate as soon as you are advised to go. And when you evacuate, take your furried and winged family members with you.

Start with the basics

"A person who plans for disaster is going to be far more able to safeguard herself and her animal companions," says Sara Varsa, director of operations for the Animal Rescue Team.

There are things you can do to get ready for natural

disasters with [pets](#), [horses](#), and [farm animals](#) in mind. For pet owners, it can be relatively simple:

1. Prepare a plan (even for everyday emergencies), including identifying a place to stay that will accept your pets.
2. Develop a [checklist](#) for all your pets' supplies and medical information.
3. Identify a friend, neighbor, or family member who can take care of your pet if you are away.

You CAN take your pets

Since FEMA came on board, it's become easier to find a shelter that will accept your pets. But don't assume any shelter you go to will allow you to keep your dog or cat with you, cautions Varsa.

"Before disaster hits, reach out to local officials—work with them to confirm that you will be allowed to evacuate with your pets and that cohabitated shelters [ones that take people and their pets] will be available in your area."

Continued, next page

(Disaster Planning, cont.)

If you stay put, stay safe

When you're advised to evacuate, pack up your pets and supplies, and go. But in situations when sitting out the disaster is the best (or only) option, plan to have on hand all the [supplies you'll need for your pets](#).

Keep your pet safe when you're not home

The best way to keep your pets safe when you can't be with them is to plan ahead:

Find a trusted neighbor and give them a key to your house or barn. Make sure this person is comfortable

and familiar with your pets.

Make sure the neighbor knows your pets' whereabouts and habits, so they won't have to waste precious time trying to find or catch them.

Create a [pet emergency/disaster kit](#) and place it in a prominent place where your neighbor can find it.

If the emergency involves evacuation, make sure the neighbor would be willing to take your pets and has access to the appropriate carriers and leashes. Plan to meet at a prearranged location.

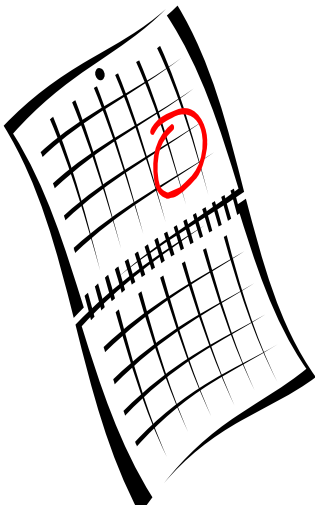
If you use a pet sitting service, they may be available to help, but discuss the possibility well in advance.

Pets need to be provided for in the event that you lose electricity, so make certain they have adequate food and water.

Make your plan now !

Source: Click to read the [full article](#), or visit the Humane Society's [website](#). Article print date August 28, 2011.

Mark your Calendar for our Next Fundraiser!



Join us on Sunday, November 20th, at the Ashcreek Neighborhood Clubhouse, 10854 Linderwood Drive (Mechanicsville, VA, 23116) for our Silpada Silver Jewelry, Thirty-One Gifts, and Tastefully Simple party!

LRGR receives a percentage of all items purchased from the three vendors! Plus, when you purchase from a vendor, you are automatically entered into our drawing for a "Grand Gift Basket" full of items from our vendors and LRGR! Purchase from one vendor, you are entered once into the drawing ... purchase from two vendors and you are entered twice ... three vendors gets you three entries!

Join us to get your holiday shopping finished ... or started! Visit our [Facebook page](#) for more details about ordering if you are unable to attend, plus additional details about the event. See you there!

About Us

Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization serving Richmond, Virginia and nearby counties.

We rescue Labrador Retrievers and provide them with foster homes and veterinary care until they can be adopted into new, loving homes. Each one of our Labs is housed in a foster home, instead of in a kennel or shelter. We feel this is the best way to get to know the Labs we rescue.

We are not affiliated with any other Lab Rescue organization.

Please keep in mind that there are many purebred Labs available in shelters, so please visit your local shelters as well!



Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond

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[www.labrescue-
richmond.org](http://www.labrescue-richmond.org)

"Join" us on
[Facebook!](https://www.facebook.com/labrescue-richmond)



Happy Tails

We never tire of hearing the wonderful success stories that our adopters share with us! In this edition, we are featuring an update on Riley ...

"It has been almost a year since we adopted Riley from you (thanks to Christine and her husband for letting us come to their home to see him and pick him up) - he has come a long way. Graduated from basic obedience class, goes to doggy day care 2 or 3 times a week and is chief baby sitter of our 22-month old grandson-or so Riley likes to believe..... He travels in our motor home very well and loves to go to WV to see his "grandfather" and the 10 acres he has to run around! And daddy's truck better not go any where without him in it!

He has taken over our guest room and sleeps ON the twin bed so I guess it's not the guest room any more, it's Riley's room! Any way, wanted to update you all on Riley and to thank you all again!!!!"