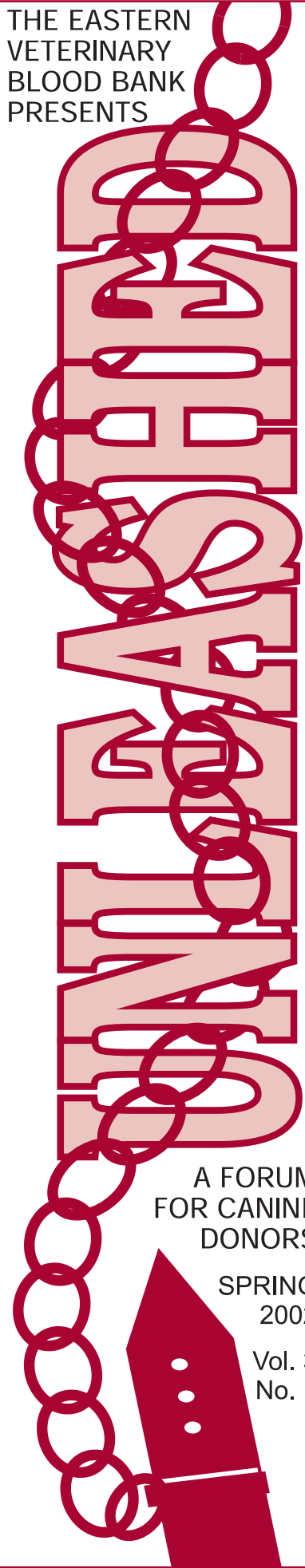


THE EASTERN  
VETERINARY  
BLOOD BANK  
PRESENTS



A FORUM  
FOR CANINE  
DONORS

SPRING  
2002

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# Donor Profile

## Lab Rescue Adoptee

By Tara Miller

Lefty and I first met at Towson Veterinary Hospital (TVH), while he was being fostered by Jenny Trainer, a long time employee of TVH and an active volunteer with Lab Rescue. I too work at TVH on the weekends. One Saturday morning in July, while I was being told about the different cases that had come in, I was told about the latest Lab Rescue dog named Lefty. Lefty was different than most dogs who came through Lab Rescue because he had no eyes. He also appeared to be hard of hearing (which I now know is not true), and had joint problems in his front legs. I was curious to see how a dog with no eyes managed to find his/her way around. Later that morning, I let him out of his kennel and took him outside on a lead. He walked around the enclosed area, banging his head into the wall a few times, but then he learned where the boundaries were and managed to stay within the open space. I was amazed at how quickly he adapted to his surroundings.

Jenny told me that she was not able to foster Lefty any longer at her house. Although we allow Lab Rescue dogs to board at TVH until people are available to foster them or they are adopted, Jenny felt that Lefty would respond better to being placed in a home, so letting him board was



Lefty

not the best option. I offered to take him home and see how he would do with my other two labs, Stoney and Chloe. Lefty's first response to the other dogs was one of disinterest. He spent a lot of time sleeping and keeping to himself. Fortunately, Stoney and Chloe treated him as if he were just another lab. They would tackle him, roll him, run with him (sometimes running him into the fence), but they also included him in the quieter times, like sleeping in a huddle, or licking his ears, or just letting him have some of my attention too. Lefty loves any toy that squeaks. He now

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*This mailing was assembled by students in the  
Supported Employment Program from Central Special School.*

(Donor Profile from page 1)

initiates the ruff housing and “lab-like” play such as tug-of-war. One of his favorite things to do is give you his paw. He will sit straight and tall, and when you tell him to give you his paw, sometimes he stretches it out so high in the air that he almost hits you in the face.

About three weeks after he had come home with me, I received a call one evening that there was going to be a Lab Rescue Adopt A-day the next weekend, and they wanted to know if I could bring Lefty. My original intention was to foster him until he was adopted, but he had become such a part of our family that I decided to keep him. I was too afraid that if a family that did not have any other dogs adopted him, he would revert back to his old self and do nothing but sleep. If it weren't for Chloe and Stoney, I don't think he would have been as happy as he is.

I thought that Lefty would be a challenge to care for, but he has proven to be easier than my other two labs. He has by far the best manners, and he is an excellent watchdog too. His sense of smell is much more highly developed than that of my other two dogs. I often wondered how he knew he was at the bottom of the steps or knew when to turn right or left. I have discovered that he uses the pads of his feet to detect change in texture. He recognizes that the kitchen floor feels different than the living room floor, and that the basement floor is tile and smooth where as the steps leading to the basement are wood and hard.

At the time that he entered Lab Rescue, we did not know much about his condition or how he came to be blind. A lot of the dogs that enter the Lab Rescue program have been abused, and I was wondering if his blindness was the result of abuse — fortunately that was not the case, although I did not discover this until a much later date. Recently, I received vet records from Jackie Lutskus, a rescue evaluator at Lab Rescue. She had found these records on Lefty and brought them to me. I felt a sense of relief once I knew what his condition



Stoney, Lefty and Chloe

was. Lefty was diagnosed with Achondroplasia, an improper development of cartilage at the ends of the long bones resulting in a form of congenital dwarfism. This is why his front elbows are excessively bowed. This disease can also cause retinal dysplasia, a defective development of the retina in Labrador Retrievers, which is why he is blind.

Not so long after I officially adopted Lefty, Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank called to make appointments for Stoney and Chloe. I told them about the new member of the family and asked if there was any reason why Lefty could not become a

donor too. They said that there was not and so he too is now a donor. Every time I take him to donate, and we are sitting in the waiting area, people don't notice that he does not have any eyes. They pet him and play with him just like he is an ordinary dog. And yes, Lefty is an ordinary dog, who plays, eats, sleeps, and snores just like any other ordinary dog. But he is special in his own way too because he trusts enough to be a donor. I think all dogs who donate blood have this very unique quality, a heightened sense of duty and trust.

#### **FYI:**

*Lab Rescue of the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization with a two-fold mission: (1) they rescue, foster and place homeless, abused, and/or abandoned Labrador Retrievers (and Golden Retriever-Labrador Retriever mixes) and (2) they provide a referral service for owners seeking to place their Labradors in new homes. Their website is [www.lab-rescue.com](http://www.lab-rescue.com)*

## Meet the Staff



Cara McAdams is one of the blood collection assistants at EVBB. Cara assists our veterinarians with our volunteer blood donors. Prior to joining the EVBB, Cara worked at Bayside Animal Medical Center for four years and Bay Country Veterinary Hospital for six years. What Cara most enjoys about working at EVBB is see-

ing healthy dogs. “It's okay to get attached to your favorites,” she explains. Cara has four dogs of her own, three yorkies and a senior golden. She recently participated in her fourth Polar Bear Plunge, held annually at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis to benefit Special Olympics. Cara is also training to be an exhibit guide at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. She hopes to eventually work directly with the dolphins.



**Unleashed** is the quarterly newsletter of the **Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank**.

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# Grateful To Be Home

## By Amelia Mikula, Grateful Pets

Pet sitting has become a welcome alternative to the limited choices available to pet owners when they must be absent from their homes and away from their beloved pets. Other alternatives, such as depending on a friend to take care of your pets, may stress your relationship with your friend, while placing your pet in a kennel may stress your pet. In addition, hiring a non-professional may not be appropriate for a pet that requires special care. An in-home pet sitting service provides professional care for pets who prefer to stay at home while their owners are away.

How does one select a pet-sitting company? The Yellow Pages is a good place to start as is your veterinarian and recommendations from pet owning friends. If you are considering using the services of a professional pet sitter, you can expect the pet sitter to make a preliminary consultation visit to your home. The number of visits per day, the schedule of those visits, and what will take place during those 30 minute visits will be determined during the initial consultation.

The consultation visit is a good time for you to evaluate the pet sitting service. Ask yourself, "Is this service comfortable administering medications to my pets? Is this service confident and able to recognize an emergency? Does this service agree that my pets will be happy and safe in my home during my absence? Do I feel comfortable knowing this service will be in my home alone?" It is also important to observe how the sitter interacts with your pets. Does he/she seem to genuinely enjoy meeting your pets? Does he/she take time to ask questions about your pet's habits, likes, and dislikes? During this consultation, the pet sitting service will also be evaluating you, your home, and your pet. The service would not accept the responsibility of caring for the rare pet that is vicious or destructive. It must be



*Amelia and Steve Mikula with donor Apache*

noted that in-home pet sitting includes an enormous responsibility for both your pet and your home. For that reason, be sure the pet sitting service is both bonded and insured. It is wise to hire a sitting service staffed with mature adults who have veterinary experience. Young adults and teenagers may have the best intentions, but usually do not have the life experiences necessary to appropriately handle the unexpected or emergency situation.

In-home pet sitting is also an opportunity for a reliable, trained pet professional to help care for a sick pet at home. When your pet requires medications, the pet sitter will insure that they are administered on schedule while your pet is closely watched for other possible health issues to arise. For example, Grateful Pets staff gives medications, administers subcutaneous fluids, gives insulin injections, takes temperatures, cleans wounds, etc.

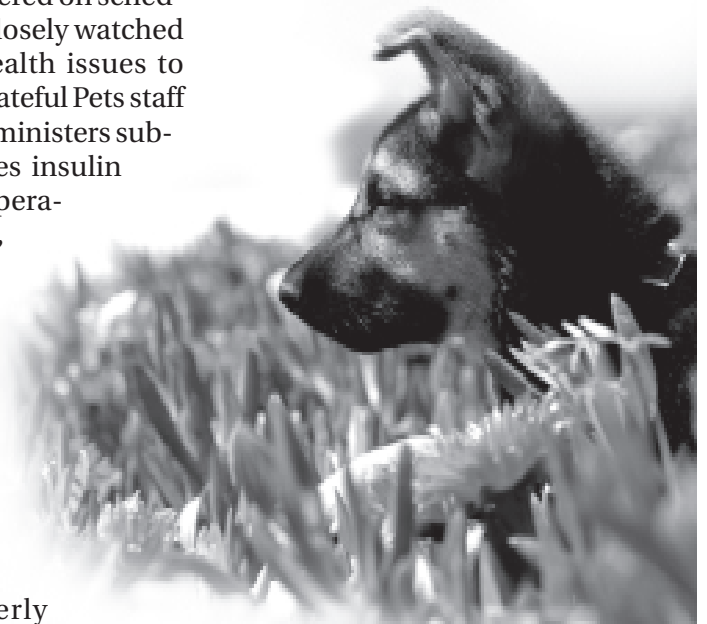
When you have long days at work, in-home care enables your growing puppy time out of his crate for a good walk and needed socialization. Older dogs are offered time to relieve their elderly

bladders and to get some exercise and interaction with a friendly, caring person.

To insure a positive relationship with your sitter, it is important that you are completely honest regarding major and minor health concerns and any behavioral problems your pet may have. You must provide detailed information regarding medications and emergency contacts, as well as your desires in the event of an emergency. Your pet sitter will need to know any unusual habits, fears, hiding places, etc. that your pet may have. Try to plan ahead. Call early to make your pet sitting reservations, especially for holiday periods. Don't forget that your sitter will need a key to your house. Make sure the key works before you leave and do not hide a key for your service. Stock up on extra litter, food, and supplies in the event you are away longer than anticipated. Ensure your pets have properly fitted collars with current identification tags.

Your home should be relatively orderly before your departure. Put away anything that your pet could destroy and keep out of reach anything that could be harmful to your pet. Of course, your pet sitter will

*(continued next page)*



# Need for Donors Goes Beyond Times of Crisis

By Tyla Shepeta

An article in the American Association of Blood Bank's journal, *Transfusion*, discusses the overwhelming support that poured forth from both Americans and non-Americans in the days and weeks following the September 11th tragedy. People from all over the world came forward to offer condolences, support, and assistance.

Perhaps the greatest show of support came from the people that stood in line for 2 - 3 hours to give blood. According to a survey by America's Blood Centers (ABC), which provides close to half of our nation's blood supply, 249,714 people donated blood to ABC sites between September 11th and September 16th. This is approximately three times the amount of blood that would normally have been collected. At NIH (National Institute of Health), blood center staff screened more than eight times the usual number of donors in the 36 hours following the attack. Blood banks in the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Israel, and Italy called to offer assistance. Volunteers turned out to assist with screening donors, collecting and transporting blood, or

just providing snacks for the donors waiting in line. By Friday, the nation's blood capacity was at its peak. Sadly, most of the victims died immediately or soon after the attacks and the amount of blood being distributed did not increase as dramatically as the amount of blood being collected. However, the need for blood is ongoing and the blood collected during the few days since the attack has long since been used or expired. What the nation needs now is for the many people that came forward during the crisis to continue donating blood on a regular basis. Blood is urgently needed every day in hospitals across the country.

The same is true for the canine community. While some of the Search and Rescue dogs did receive blood transfusions as a result of injuries sustained during searches, the vast majority of blood shipped by the EVBB is for the average pet. The blood your dog donates is used every day to treat pets with illnesses such as parvovirus, pancreatitis, hemophilia, and von Willebrand's disease. Dogs with severe flea and/or tick infestation often need blood to

combat the accompanying anemia. Dogs that ingest rat poison need the clotting factors found in plasma. The indications for blood transfusion are numerous.

Since EVBB opened in 1993, the amount of blood being distributed has increased every year, from approximately 6,000 units the first year to approximately 25,000 units last year. With only a handful of commercial veterinary blood banks serving the entire United States, the demand for blood products continues to exceed the supply. EVBB is constantly working to close the gap by increasing our donor base. In addition, we rely on the donors we have to keep their commitment. If every unit of blood your dog donates can save 2-4 lives, the difference between visiting us four times a year and six times a year is 4-8 additional lives saved.

If we haven't seen your dog in a while, please call us for an appointment. If you know a dog over 35 pounds and in good health, urge their family to call us. And if you're in good health, consider calling the Red Cross or your local blood bank to schedule an appointment for yourself.

*(Grateful To Be Home from page 3)*

greatly appreciate it if you do not leave any dirty dishes that could attract pests. Leave everything the sitter will need (leash, can opener, medicine, etc.) in one designated area. If you have a dog that will be using the yard during your absence, be sure to secure outside gates and fences. A professional pet sitter will never let your dog off-leash in an unfenced yard or leave your dog unattended in a fenced yard.

It is imperative that your pet sitter

be able to contact you in the event of an emergency. If possible, include a telephone number for a nearby relative or neighbor as well as the contact information for your pet's regular veterinarian. Ask how you can contact the pet sitter in the event that you will be returning earlier or later than originally anticipated. Upon your return, you should find "communication slips" for each visit made by the pet sitter. These are an excellent way to monitor your pet's experience and health during in-home care.

Whether you have one pet or several, a dog, a cat, a bird, or pocket pet, in-home pet sitting has numerous benefits. Your pet can remain in a familiar and disease free environment while receiving personal attention and maintaining their regular diet and exercise routine.

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*Grateful Pets Pet Sitting Service, LLC, has a staff of six trained caregivers serving the Annapolis area. They invite any and all questions you may have concerning in home pet sitting. (410) 268-1030.*

# Reflections: A Menagerie of Children's Books

By Patrick Lee, Jr.

I have a 3 ½ year old, and like all watchful parents I don't want him camped out in front of the T.V. So we make frequent trips to the library and book store. I thought that this time I'd look at some of my household's favorite children's books which deal with animals and in particular dogs. First up is Alexandra Day's *Good Dog Carl*. This book is immensely popular and for good reason. Carl is a large, happy Rottweiler who at the instruction of his Missus is left to watch after the baby. The baby and Carl have a rollicking good time and get the mess cleaned up just before mom gets home. The story is told without the benefit of words. Picture after rich, full colored picture tell this happy story. Michael liked this book so much that he has taken to re-illus-

trating it with some frequency. Next up is one of William Wegman's many photo essays using his beloved Weimaraner model, Fay. *Square, Triangle, Circle* is geared for younger toddlers to learn about (you guessed it) shapes. For any of you familiar with Wegman's work, you know that the most fascinating thing about them is the willing, eager, and imaginative work of his models. The dogs positively seem to be part of the creative process. You can almost hear one of them telling Mr. Wegman, "I really think it will look better if I do this!" This is of course lost on a toddler, but they do seem to like the pictures. Next up is a fanciful tail (oops) by Art Spiegelman titled, *Open Me...I'm a Dog*. The book comes with it's own leash presumably to take it on long walks in the park. The book

is a very cute tale of a dog who through a series of magical misadventures gets turned into a book. The illustrations and fable like story are wonderful enough, but the physical book itself lends even more. The book has pop-ups, a wagging tail, a furry dog to pet, and the aforementioned leash. This book spent much time in Michael's bed doubling as a stuffed animal. Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't let Michael choose his #1 favorite animal book. *Blue Hat, Green Hat* by Sandra Boynton gets this nod despite having no mention of a dog in it at all. The book is illustrated in cartoon style and uses as it's main characters an elephant, a moose, a bear, and a hapless turkey. The story is told in a cutesy rhyme. Here is Michael's quote on this book, "HA HA HA HA HA HAW. Read it again!!!"

## 🐾 Happenings In and Around Town 🐾

**April 21, 2002**

### **6th Annual Doggie Bone Hunt & Easter Parade**

Hop into Spring! You and your dog can search for Easter bones, compete in the spoon race, and dress up in your Easter "fun finery" for the Easter parade. The 6th Annual Doggie Bone Hunt & Easter Parade will be held at Chinquapin Park in Alexandria on Saturday, April 21. Co-sponsored by the Olde Towne School for Dogs, the event will start at 9:00 am and end around noon.

Activities will include the egg roll, spoon race, spring training, musical chairs, and a festive parade of owners and their dogs dressed up in their Easter finery. Awards will be given for the best costumes, and to winners in each of the games. The entry fee is \$25.00 for on-site registration and just \$20.00 for pre-registration. The first 325 pre-registrants will receive an event tee shirt and other goodies. Request a registration brochure by calling 703-838-4774 ext. 321 after April 5.



**May 4, 2002**

### **Pet Fiesta**

Reston Town Center, Reston, VA 11am-3pm. Free. Pet Fiesta is a celebration of responsible pet ownership with vendors, rescue groups, and other activities for pet owners.

**May 10, 2002**

### **SPCA Walk for the Animals**

8am-12 noon, Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis, MD We can think of no better way to enjoy a refreshing morning than by taking a Walk for the Animals. Bring your animal companions and join other animal lovers in raising money to care for, feed, and house the 5,000 unwanted animals that come through the SPCA of Anne Arundel County every year. This year's goal is to raise \$150,000. You can help by collecting pledges from your family, friends, and coworkers. There will be prizes and a sidewalk fair featuring local rescue groups and animal organizations. EVBB is a proud sponsor and will have a table at the sidewalk fair.

Rain or shine. Call 410-268-4388 for more info or directions.



## Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank, Inc.

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[www.evbb.com](http://www.evbb.com)

Return Service Requested



*Donor Indy Shepeta*

## Trivia Contest — Win an EVBB T-shirt!

### **This issue's trivia questions come from literature.**

1. In Rudyard Kipling's **The Jungle Book**, Mowgli was raised by a mother wolf named \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In Beatrix Potter's **The Tale of Little Pig Robinson**, the big brown dog is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In Jack London's book **The Call of the Wild**, the main canine character is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. John Steinbeck wrote about traveling with his French poodle, \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Lord Bryon wrote an epitaph about his beloved Newfoundland, \_\_\_\_\_.

Mail/email ([eastvetbb@evbb.com](mailto:eastvetbb@evbb.com)) your answers by May 15th, along with your name, telephone number, and address. A winner will be drawn from the correct entries on May 30th and will receive an EVBB embroidered t-shirt.

### **Answers to last issue's trivia questions:**

1. **Weimaraner** is the bird dog breed known as the Grey Ghost.
2. **Vizsla** is the bird dog breed known as the Red Dog.
3. **German Shorthair Pointer** is the bird dog breed most registered by the AKC.
4. **Spinone Italiano** is the rarest of the AKC bird dog breeds.
5. **English Pointer** is the bird dog breed known as the granddaddy of all bird dogs.

***Congratulations to Kristina DeLosReyes for submitting the winning entry!***