

THE LATEST SCOOP FROM ALL ABOUT LABS

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first newsletter from All About Labs!

Whether you're a friend of AAL, a parent to one of our dogs, or just looking to learn more about us, this newsletter will tell you what we're currently up to at Oden Creek Ranch. You can...

- Find out about our latest projects
- Learn how your donations are being used
- See our monthly featured Happy Tail
- Read interviews with the dogs!
- Get tips from our resident Doggy Expert
- Send us your questions



A WORD WITH OUR NEW CFO



Margaret and her chocolate lab, Coco, in New York City

All About Labs is proud to welcome Margaret Whelan, our new CFO. Margaret is a Managing Director and Investment Banker at JP Morgan in New York, and is helping us reach our goals.

MF: What made you decide to volunteer with AAL?

MW: My recent adoption experience was so wonderful—I was really struck by how committed the group is to these wonderful dogs. I decided to visit Oden Creek Ranch, and was floored by what an amazing place it is.

MF: What do you hope to accomplish at AAL?

MW: I'd like for AAL to be self-funded, with cash reserves in case of emergencies. AAL not only places dogs into great homes, but also works really hard to make sure that every dog is fit, healthy, and happy. Unfortunately, with all of the resources AAL commits to this process, we lose money on each rescue and must rely on donations. We're not going to compromise on the great care these dogs get, but my goal is to make the organization more self-sufficient.

MF: What's your long-term vision for AAL?

MW: Once the ranch is self-sufficient, which I'm hoping will happen by year's end, I'd like us to become more aggressive in fighting the cause rather than the result. These dogs need rescue because of lax spay/neuter laws locally that cause this epidemic of homeless dogs. If we can campaign to increase spaying and neutering dogs, we can significantly decrease the stray count.

MF: One last question for you. How's Coco doing?

MW: She is wonderful! Every day with her is a joy, and I couldn't imagine life without her.



“When I got off that dog truck, my new parents gave me some treats, and I knew I’d be just fine.”

RUFFING IT: ONE DOG’S JOURNEY TO NYC

On a recent morning, we caught up with Lola, a black lab who’s been living at her Forever Home in New York City for the past year.

MF: It’s good to see you, Lola! How’s life in the big city?

Lola: It couldn’t be better! My new family loves me so much. I do a special wiggle dance every morning because I feel so happy to be with them.

MF: What was your time like at Oden Creek Ranch?

Lola: That place was doggy heaven! We got fed, bathed, and got lots of treats. They trained us, played games with us, exercised us, and we had social time with each other.

MF: After being at the ranch for six months, you then got adopted?

Lola: Yep. I rode on a truck with other dogs heading north. I’ll admit, when I got off that truck, I wasn’t sure what to think! But then my new mom and dad gave me treats, and I knew I’d be just fine.

MF: Being a country gal, did you have trouble adjusting to New York?

Lola: Well, the city sure did seem noisy at first. I wasn’t used to those sirens and buses! But after a few walks, I felt right at home. You know, they say city dogs can be even happier than country dogs because we get walked lots and get to see our neighborhood pals.

MF: Anything else you’d like to share with us, Lola?

Lola: Just that I love spending every day with a loving family. And I know how happy my family is that they adopted me. At first they weren’t sure about letting me up on the couch with them, but I wooed them with my puppy dog eyes, and now I log as much couch time as they do! I love having a forever home, and hope all my buddies at the ranch get their own families too.

—Noah Lang

A DAY AT THE RANCH...

What is it like to take care of 38 dogs on a sprawling ranch? We followed around the staff one day to find out.

7 a.m. Start rotation of letting dogs into the fields to romp and play.

8 a.m. Breakfast for the dogs!

9 a.m. Clean and disinfect the crates and exercise runs

10 a.m. Administer any medications or treatments

11 a.m. Process any new dogs; replenish water

Noon: Staff Meeting to assess the new dogs’ personalities

1:30 p.m. Crate Training, House Training, and Social Skills; Bathe dogs

3 p.m. Ranch work: mow fields and rake

5 p.m. Launder and dry the bedding

6 p.m. Dinner for the dogs!

7 p.m. Clean kennels and replenish water

****Always** make sure there are plenty of treats on hand, and that each dog gets his or her share of treats, play, and love

Did You Know? You can sponsor a dog at Oden Creek Ranch to cover the cost of his care for a month, or you can purchase items like toys and blankets for the puppies! To learn more, contact us at info@allaboutlabs.org

AAL: HOW IT ALL BEGAN

It's hard to pinpoint when exactly AAL truly began. But you might say it all started one rainy afternoon when Gina Hartsell received a call from a local rescue about Chester, a little soul who captured the staff's hearts—and then captured Gina's. That was nearly seven years ago and, since then, Gina has welcomed over 400 dogs into her life, rehabilitated them, and placed them into loving homes.

For years, Gina had been working on the fringes of the rescue community, donating money and volunteering her time. But she wanted to do more to positively impact the lives she touched. Gina had a vision of a ranch where dogs could romp and play, and where a staff could take care of the dogs' needs. She took the plunge, and bought the farm that today is Oden Creek Ranch.



Gina Hartsell with Chester

Those of us who have adopted dogs from Gina know there is something special about them. They are so calm and sweet with their love of belly rubs that it's hard to believe they were once discarded. Gina smiled when asked about this and said, "At the ranch, we don't require anything of them other than to just be dogs. We teach them to be dogs again, and we allow them to be dogs again. We rehabilitate them."

Gina takes great care placing each dog into the right home. If you are looking to add a loving lab to your life, Gina invites you to be in touch. Currently, there are 38 adoptable dogs at the farm. And what about Chester? You can find the yellow lab by Gina's side, following her around every day.

—Bonnie Zilenziger

ASK OUR DOGGY EXPERT!

Q: Should I get a crate for my new dog?

Absolutely! A crate is an excellent idea for both you and your dog, especially in his first days home.

You will be happier because a crated dog can't get into trouble. New dogs are bound to be a bit anxious, and you don't want your dog accidentally chewing on your new shoes or your beloved coffee table. For this reason, we also suggest putting a Kong toy in the crate for chewing.

Your dog will be happier because a crate gives a dog a sense of security. Dogs, like babies, don't like big open

spaces, and prefer to be in a cozy space. The crate works just like a crib to make your dog feel more secure.

Just be sure never to leave your dog in the crate for prolonged periods, and to always provide fresh water. Crate your dog first for small periods of just ten minutes, and then gradually increase to up to four hours.

"Crates work well for you and Fido!"

Questions for our Doggy Expert?
Email us at Editor@allaboutlabs.org

GET INVOLVED!

ALL ABOUT LABS

All About Labs, Inc.
1623 Leander Drive
Little Rock, AR 72204

Phone:
501-333-2833

E-Mail:
info@allaboutlabs.org

Our dogs at Oden Creek Ranch are currently in need of bedding as fall approaches, as well as FrontLine and Sentinel to keep them healthy!

To purchase items for the dogs, or to sponsor a dog for a month, please contact us at info@allaboutlabs.org

Interested in contributing to this newsletter? We would love to hear from you.

Email us at: Editor@allaboutlabs.org



Find out more at:
www.allaboutlabs.org

To find out about advertising in this newsletter, please contact Maya Lang, Ph.D., Director of Marketing, at maya@allaboutlabs.org

I got my great dog at:

ALL ABOUT LABS

www.allaboutlabs.org

I got my great dog at:

ALL ABOUT LABS

www.allaboutlabs.org

I got my great dog at:

ALL ABOUT LABS

www.allaboutlabs.org

I got my great dog at:

ALL ABOUT LABS

www.allaboutlabs.org

I got my great dog at:

ALL ABOUT LABS

www.allaboutlabs.org

I got my great dog at:

ALL ABOUT LABS

www.allaboutlabs.org

Find yourself talking about AAL with people who ask about where you got your well-behaved boy or girl? Cut out these cards and pass them on!