

THE LATEST
SCOOP FROM
ALL ABOUT
LABS

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Have A Heart This February!

For Valentine's Day, give a dog a healthy heart.

Thanks to the many of you who wrote in applauding us on our new look! We hope that the changes we've made to our website and The Fetch will help make 2008 a record year for AAL.

We're still recuperating from some tough months in

'07, especially from the costs of veterinary care. To help, we've started a "Have A Heart" campaign for February. In honor of Valentine's Day, you can send a dog at AAL his heart-guard medication for just \$20! This will ensure that our guys are heart-healthy in the new year. Just check out p. 2 for more details.

We continue to be grateful to you for your support. Thank you, as always. And happy Valentine's Day!

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Help make this our best year yet!



2008

All About Labs (AAL) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to rescuing dogs in need, giving them the best care, and placing them into loving, responsible homes. To learn more about our organization, please see our website. Feel free to send your questions to Info@AllAboutLabs.org.

Have A Heart!

Give the gift of a good heart to a dog this Valentine's Day.

For the month of February, you can send a dog at AAL his heart guard medication for just \$20. Send a check made out to All About Labs, or use [our secure PayPal account](#) for your donation. All proceeds will go towards heart guard medication for our dogs.

What is Heartworm?

Heartworm is a serious disease affecting the lungs and heart, and it is transmitted by mosquito bite. It can be fatal to dogs (as well as to other animals), and it gets its name because the parasitic worm that infects the animal lives in the host's heart.

How Can I Prevent It?

The good news is that heartworm is easy to prevent. Just give your dog a monthly "heart guard" treatment like Sentinel after talking with your vet, and be sure to get your dog tested if you ever miss a treatment. And remember that "indoor" dogs are still vulnerable to the disease; prevention is important for all dogs.

Meet Brownie and Chunk...



Our February Happy Tail!

Brownie and Chunk were adopted by Laura and Greg Landry in June 2007. They were eleven weeks old, and will be celebrating their very first birthday this April.

Laura writes, "After hearing about how Brownie and Chunk were bottle-fed from two weeks old, and how they were always playing together and 'watching out for each other' on the ranch, we just couldn't separate them! So we decided to adopt them both. And that was the best thing we could have ever done."

The pups are now loving life in Rhode Island, where they get to go "to the mud flats during low tide, on boat rides in the summer, and for long walks in the woods in the fall." As for winter? "We all sit by the fire together and watch football," Laura reports.

Brownie and Chunk were stars in obedience training, and they both have their special tricks. Brownie likes doing a high-five, and Chunk shows off his yogic "downward dog" pose before every walk.

Laura says, "We could not be happier with our pups, and we think they feel the same way about us!"

Want to be featured in The Fetch? Send your updates to us at Editor@AllAboutLabs.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

these guys need your help



Email us at Info@AllAboutLabs.org to find out about how you can help

Ask the Doggy Expert



Q: My dog (age 3) has recently started 'scooting' along on the carpet and dragging his rear end. Taking him out doesn't help, and he seems completely fine otherwise (it doesn't seem like he's in pain, etc.). I don't see

anything on his fur back there. Any thoughts on why he might be doing this?

—John S.

Well, there's good news and bad news. The good news is that this is an easy problem to remedy, and a quick visit to the groomer or vet should take care of it.

The bad news? Well, it's not bad, exactly, it's just always tough breaking it to people. Here goes. Dogs have scent glands around the anus which need to be expelled periodically. When the sacs containing the glands are full to the point of discomfort or are irritated, dogs typically scoot in just the way you describe. (Aren't they such subtle creatures?) These glands, by the way, are why dogs sniff one another back there (not to sniff the anus—a common misconception).

Usually, dogs expel the glands when they go to the bathroom. Sometimes, though, the sacs don't empty as they normally should. This is when we bring in professionals.

Groomers almost always include "gland expression" with a typical doggy bath. Expulsion is done by gently pressing the area (think 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock) to release the sacs. You can see why this is best done while water and soap are involved in good supply.

Before taking your dog for a bath, though, you should consult with your vet just to make sure that nothing else is bothering Fido. And, if you're feeling brave—and want to save on cash—you can ask your vet to show you how exactly the job is done.

Update: Last month's nipping alpha is learning to accept the new puppy addition to the family thanks to the exercise walk we recommended. And Lynda reports that the pup is also learning to respect the alpha's space.

Please Note: Information provided in this column is not intended to be used in place of or in contradiction to the advice of a veterinarian or trained professional. A veterinarian should be consulted for all health issues or behavioral concerns, and extreme caution should be used when dealing with a dog showing any signs of aggression.

Questions for the Doggy Expert? Email them to: Editor@AllAboutLabs.org.

The Monthly Fetch

Interested in contributing to The Fetch? We'd love to hear from you. Email us at Editor@AllAboutLabs.org

Past issues of The Monthly Fetch are available online. You can download them from [our website](#), where we have other great resources.



Dogs Rule

At All About Labs, we believe that dogs are wondrous. They help people to live longer, healthier lives, and we are surely better human beings because of them.

Many of the world's problems—hunger, war, the environment—might feel insurmountable, but animal cruelty is an issue we can actually

do something about. We know, because we save lives every day.

Thank you for supporting All About Labs, and please continue to spread the word about rescue. And be in touch with us if you would like to get involved.

all about labs

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Pass on a business card for us!