

Issue 7  
April 24, 2008



## Happy April from All About Labs!

Taxes and spring cleaning? No wonder April is the cruelest month! Take a break from it all with this month's issue of The Fetch.

Our Doggy Expert weighs in on getting your dog to come when called, even at the dog park, by avoiding two common training mistakes. And learn a handy trick to get

your dog to come to you if all else fails.

We've also featured Chestnut, an adorable pup in need of a home. Her sister Butterscotch was adopted right after being featured, and she's now happily settling into her home.

To help us continue to save dogs like these, please consider becoming an AAL

Guardian with a low monthly donation. Dedicated supporters like you keep AAL running. Thank you as always for your support.

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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](mailto:Info@AllAboutLabs.org).

# AAL Guardians

Become a Guardian  
Today!

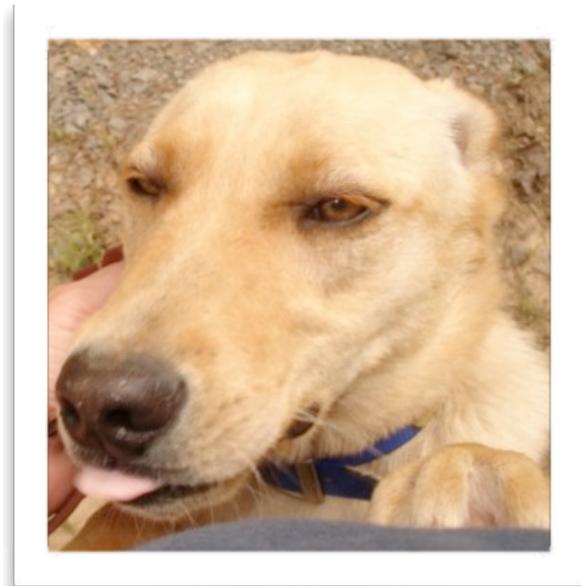
AAL Guardians are dedicated supporters who make a fixed monthly donation, providing us with a reliable income stream.

## Quick Facts:

- Become an AAL Guardian for \$15.00 a month. That's just fifty cents a day.
- Your credit card will be billed automatically each month by PayPal's secure service.
- Your Guardian donation is tax-deductible.
- If you ever need to withdraw from the Guardian program, just let us know.
- 100 % of your donation goes to the dogs' care.
- Just go to [our website](#) to enroll.

Questions? Email us at [Info@AllAboutLabs.org](mailto:Info@AllAboutLabs.org)

## Meet Chestnut!



**Chestnut needs a home! Can you help find her one?**

Chestnut, a yellow lab mix, is 6 months old and as sweet as they come. She loves kids, people, and dogs, and doesn't seem to mind cats. Her siblings, Nugget, Butterscotch, and Cashew, have all been adopted to their forever homes. So now we're hoping it's her turn.

Chestnut likes wading out into the stream and does well on a leash. She has gorgeous eyes and (as you can see) she loves affection. She's got a great disposition and will do wonderfully with a family. She's fully vetted, spayed, microchipped, and she has a gorgeous golden coat.

If you know someone who might provide a good home to Chestnut, please forward them The Fetch. And let them know that they can email us at [Info@AllAboutLabs.org](mailto:Info@AllAboutLabs.org). Thanks!

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

## these guys need your help



## Ask the Doggy Expert

**Q:** Our two year-old lab, Maggie, always listens to commands really well at home but then not as much when we're out in public. I have to call her over and over when we leave the dog park, and sometimes I just give up and leash her. Other people's dogs go to them right away. This makes me nervous for if she ever gets away from us. Any tips?

—Jenn, New York, NY

**A** lot of people have trouble getting their dogs to come when called, especially in a fun place like the dog park. Here are two reasons your commands might be going ignored:

First, most people train their dogs to the 80% level. This means that the dog will Come (or Sit or Lie Down) in a familiar setting, but not when there are distractions. The trick is to train to 100% by introducing distractions into your training. Put something tempting out that Maggie likes (like her food) and get her to ignore it and come to you. Praise lavishly. Once you've taught her to obey inside with distractions, start distractions training outside.

Second, people sometimes systematically train their dogs to ignore them. "Lucky, come! Lucky, come! C'mon, Lucky, come ON!" You may feel like you're the only one whose dog doesn't come when called, but I promise you're not. I've heard people plead, beg and yell until blue in the face.

From this point forward, never repeat a command; get into the habit of saying a command once. Dogs have amazing hearing, so your dog is either ignoring you or isn't sure what you want. When you train Maggie, issue the command once ("Maggie, sit!") and wait for her to obey if it's a command she knows well. If it's a new command, say it once, show her what you want her to do, and then praise.

Finally, if Maggie ever gets away from you, here's a trick: shout elatedly and run in the other direction. You'll feel ridiculous, but it works every time. If you run after Maggie, she'll think it's a game of chase. If you run away as though you're having fun, she'll want in on the action and will come after you.

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Questions for the Doggy Expert?  
Email [Editor@AllAboutLabs.org](mailto:Editor@AllAboutLabs.org).

## Sponsor A Dog

Don't have room to adopt a dog, but want to help?



Our new Sponsor Program is a great solution. You can cover the costs of an AAL dog for a week, month, or a year.

You'll get updates and pictures of your dog so that you can see how he's doing.



### The Details

Our sponsored dogs have their own kennels with a note featuring the sponsor's name.

The cost of sponsoring is \$30 a week, \$100 a month, or \$1000 a year.

To find out more about sponsoring a dog, email us at [Info@AllAboutLabs.org](mailto:Info@AllAboutLabs.org)

## The Monthly Fetch

Interested in contributing to The Fetch? We'd love to hear from you. Email us at [Editor@AllAboutLabs.org](mailto:Editor@AllAboutLabs.org)

Past issues of The Monthly Fetch are available online. You can download them from our website at [www.allaboutlabs.org/Resources](http://www.allaboutlabs.org/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 because of them.

We're surrounded these days by issues and problems—hunger, war, the environment—that can feel insurmountable. But animal cruelty is

one issue that we can actually do something about. We know, because we help save lives every day.

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

all about labs

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Get asked about your great dog?  
Pass on a business card for us!