

The Ambassador

SEPTEMBER 2025



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Reminders:

Please plan ahead for the holiday season, we are booking out a few weeks for Dr. Olsen.

Celebrate with us!

- AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Month
- Animal Pain Awareness Month
- Happy Cat Month
- National Guide Dogs Month
- National Service Dogs Month
- 9/14-20: Adopt a Less Adoptable Pet Week
- 9/21-27: Deaf Dog Awareness Week
- 9/21-27: National Dog Week
- 9/1: Ginger Cat Appreciation Day
- 9/5: National Dog Walker Appreciation Day
- 9/14: National Hug Your Hound Day
- 9/14: National Pet Memorial Day
- 9/19: Meow Like a Pirate Day
- 9/20: Responsible Dog Ownership Day
- 9/23: Dogs in Politics Day
- 9/28: World Rabies Day



DOG BREED OF THE MONTH: LABRADOR RETRIEVER

The sweet-faced, lovable Labrador Retriever is one of America's most popular dog breeds. Labs are friendly, outgoing, and high-spirited companions. The dense, hard coat comes in yellow, black, and chocolate. Labs are famously friendly. They are companionable housemates who bond with the whole family, and they socialize well with neighbor dogs and humans alike. But don't mistake his easygoing personality for low energy: The Lab is an enthusiastic athlete that requires lots of exercise, like swimming and marathon games of fetch, to keep physically and mentally fit.





Service Dogs



How is a “Service Animal” Defined?:

Service animals are dogs that are trained to do work or perform specific tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of tasks include but are not limited to: guiding people with vision impairment, alerting people with hearing impairment, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is about to have a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other tasks. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The task a dog has been trained to do must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole role is to provide emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Where Are Service Dogs Permitted?

According to the ADA, state and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that are open to the public must generally allow service dogs to accompany individuals with disabilities in any areas where the public is normally allowed. For instance, in a hospital setting, it would typically be inappropriate to keep a service dog out of places like patient rooms, clinics, cafeterias, or exam rooms. However, service dogs may be restricted from areas such as operating rooms or burn units where maintaining a sterile environment is critical.



Service animals must remain under the handler’s control at all times. The ADA requires that service animals be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless the person’s disability makes using these devices impossible or if the devices interfere with the animal’s ability to perform its tasks safely and effectively. In such situations, the handler must still maintain control of the animal through voice commands, signals, or other effective methods.

Rules Regarding Service Animals

Staff are permitted to ask only two questions:

1. Is the dog a service animal required due to a disability?
2. What specific task or work has the dog been trained to perform?

They may not ask about the person's disability, request medical documentation, require special ID or proof of training for the dog, or ask the dog to demonstrate its task.

Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons to deny access to a person with a service animal. In cases where someone with a service animal and someone with a dog allergy must share a space—such as a classroom or shelter—both individuals should be accommodated, ideally by placing them in separate areas of the room or in different rooms altogether.

A person with a disability may only be asked to remove their service animal if:

1. The dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to manage it, or
2. The dog is not housebroken.

People who use service animals must not be separated from other patrons, treated unfairly, or charged fees that do not apply to patrons without animals. If a business typically charges pet deposits or fees, these charges must be waived for service animals.



Animal Pain Awareness Month

These are only some indicators of pain!



Decreased Activity, Odd Behavior, Hiding.



Abnormal Gait, Tail tucked



Please call if you have any concerns!



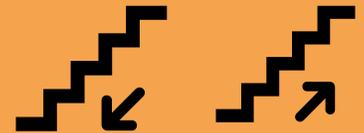
Difficulty Standing after laying down.



Common Signs of Pain in Your Pet.



Not wanting to jump on surfaces.



Not going down or up stairs.



Sudden Aggression, Irritability.



Over grooming or licking a particular area.



Decreased Appetite.



SHELTER DOGS

Of the month

Flint

Wish Bone Canine Rescue

Flint is a 2-year-old, 70-pound Golden Retriever mix with a gentle soul that's slowly blossoming. Life in the shelter has been tough, but he's beginning to understand what it means to be loved. Shy at first, Flint is opening up more each day, revealing his sweet and affectionate nature. He would not do well with small kids. He loves walks—starting off excited but quickly settling into a calm, steady pace. The outdoors is his happy place after spending much of his life in a kennel. Flint is clean, respectful of his space, and enjoys toys—especially squeaky ones and balls—playing gently and with joy. He has a good amount of energy but is never overwhelming. Flint won't knock you over, but he will warm your heart.

Ben

Ben is a sweet senior Shorthair who would do well in a fenced yard where he can wander due to poor sight. His hearing and smell are working fine so he shows interest in exploring. Also, older children would be fine. Ben is a 53lb-12yr old male whose owner passed away and subsequently he ended up in a shelter. He is living with 3 other dogs (all Shorthairs from 8-14yrs old). Ben gets along with the other dogs and will engage in play sometimes. He enjoys short walks, car rides and cuddling with someone on the couch or bed.

Illinois Shorthair Rescue

Nugget

Chicken Nugget is the perfect little pint-sized energizer bunny. Photos don't do justice to just how little this girl is, and I would bet money the first thing you will say when you meet her is "wow she's so little!" This little pocket rocket would love a home where she can go on long adventures and play to her heart's content (she may be little, but her tug game is STRONG!!!) and she wouldn't mind if you also liked sharing your snacks with her from time to time.

Adoption Fee: \$200

Homeward Bound Waggin

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING ANY PET FROM ANY RESCUE, ENSURE THAT ALL OF YOUR PETS ARE UP-TO-DATE ON VACCINES AND PREVENTATIVES. RESCUES CALL US TO CONFIRM THESE THINGS & WILL DENY YOU IF YOUR PETS ARE NOT CURRENT.

SHELTER CATS

Of the month



Pete

If you like your cats with a little sass and a lot of personality, Pete is your guy. This handsome orange tabby is a spirited fellow who knows what he wants-and isn't shy about telling you. He's a great conversationalist (in cat, of course) and will happily chat with you about his day while soaking up your attention. Pete's a bit persnickety with other cats, but he's currently living successfully with feline roommates, proving that he can make it work when needed. If you're ready for a lively, loving companion who will keep you on your toes and fill your home with chatter, Pete can't wait to

Clover's Cat Club meet you!



Sharkbait

Hello everybody! I'm Sharkbait (hoo ha ha!) I'm a 2-year-old male brown tabby shorthair. I'm very social with other cats, but people make me a little nervous. Once I warm up, I'm a super sweet guy. My adoption fee is \$100.

Humane Society of Central Illinois



Becky

Meet Becky, a charming stray cat who's eagerly waiting for her forever home. With her sweet and affectionate nature Becky is sure to melt your heart. She adores curling up in your lap while basking in pets and attention. Her playful spirit shines through as she explores her surroundings, making her an entertaining companion. Becky is currently in an open room with other cats and gets along splendidly and would love another cat to match her playful spirit. While her feelings about dogs remain a mystery her gentle demeanor suggests she may adapt well in time. If you're looking for a loving and playful addition to your family, Becky might just be the perfect fit.

Rescued Heart Animal Hospital, Pekin, IL

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