



# 2009 SCLRR HIGHLIGHTS!



Hello friends,

As 2009 comes to a close, here is an update on how things have been progressing this year for Southern California Labrador Retriever Rescue. Sadly, many dedicated rescue groups have been forced to close due to lack of funding. This is extremely unfortunate because it puts more pressure on the rescues that remain to take in more dogs. SCLRR has continued to be vigilant in ensuring funds entrusted to our organization stretch as far as possible and the group remains economically healthy. Due to your generosity, SCLRR continues to thrive!! We hope you take comfort and pride in the remarkable difference you make in the lives of so many dogs!

SCLRR has been covering Southern California for nearly 12 years and has placed approximately 3,200 dogs! This year we have the goal of rescuing 300 dogs. That is fifty more than last year! As is standard practice in SCLRR, we provide medical and behavioral support that ensures the dogs are ready to be successful in their new homes. The volunteers of SCLRR are dedicated individuals who give their time freely in order to make dreams come true for families and dogs. Our volunteers truly care about the people we interact with as much as the dogs we save. We take tremendous pride in our volunteer network and the relationships we have developed in the animal community.

**We thank you for helping make SCLRR a success in rehoming so many Labs!  
Please enjoy reading just a few of 2009's adoption success stories.**



Kaede, a one year old Lab, was turned over to SCLRR because her owner became disabled. From the start, she was not eating in the foster home and we decided to do x-rays and blood work. With nothing detected, she was put on meds and crate rest. This went on for several days. Then on Christmas morning, she started vomiting violently and the foster was sure she had an obstruction. She was rushed into the hospital where she had emergency surgery. It was discovered that she had eaten a scrub pad. Her stomach was resected in five places. She almost died. Miraculously, Kaede pulled through and today she runs like the wind and never stops smiling!



Another medical wonder dog is Jaylon, six year old Lab! This poor boy had a broken leg and broken teeth. He was hit by a car with his injuries left untreated for weeks. These injuries and subsequent infections took a toll on his overall health. During his 5 month recovery, he endured vomiting, lethargy, pneumonia, seizures and other maladies that required hospitalization and home treatments including injectable antibiotics and fluids. His foster never gave up! He visited two different specialists including a neurologist for his seizures. Amazingly, Jaylon has had a full recovery! He is such a loving and deserving dog. Thanks go to his foster parent. She went the extra mile rehabbing this special boy!



Gillis, a two year old Lab, has a sad story. He was adopted through SCLRR this year. Six months after adoption the family contacted SCLRR because Gillis had diarrhea and no appetite. The family's vet and a specialist were convinced it was cancer. After \$3,000 for tests, meds and treatments, Gillis was still not improving. SCLRR recommended they get a second opinion. Eventually, they relinquished Gillis to SCLRR. He was immediately taken to one of our long-time trusted vets. Tests were done, but before we could get the results back, Gillis went septic, and emergency surgery was performed. Sadly, Gillis did not survive. Tests confirmed he contracted a fungal spore in his gut which was completely treatable had his condition been detected earlier. Gillis's story teaches us to seek additional opinions when you are not getting good results. Be an assertive medical advocate for your pets! You are their only voice.



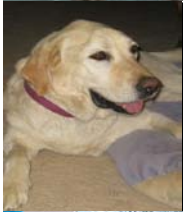
Little Lacyloo, a six-month old Lab mix, was one lucky girl! She was found hiding in a field in Lake LA with a broken hip. She had obviously been hit by a car and left to die. The shelter fell in love with Lacy and hoped to find a rescue that might afford her surgery. Once SCLRR heard about the situation, it was decided this special dog had to be saved and the rest is history! She had a long recovery with 8 weeks of crate time; however, now Lacyloo can run, play and whoop it up with any dog! She was placed with a very loving family who adores her. Another happy ending for one grateful dog!



Keeping a dog in good shape and at a proper weight greatly lessens the chance for cruciate ligament (knee) injury. Shy Anne, a six year old female, suffered from such a condition. In addition to a ruptured cruciate ligament, she suffered from chronic allergies and other maladies due to neglect. Then, just when we thought she was ready for adoption, her other cruciate ligament ruptured requiring another surgery and an additional 8 weeks of rehab. SCLRR has very devoted foster parents as rehabilitation processes like this take a great amount of time and patience. The dogs like Shy Anne are so lucky to have such dedicated individuals to help them through such surgeries. Shy Anne is doing extremely well with her recovery and should be in her forever home, running around like a youngster by New Years!



2009 has been a difficult year for dogs, medically! Look at these before and after pictures of five year old Bricker. This hideous condition of bleeding, cracking, and painful open sores all over his body was simply due to neglect! He has some mild allergies that must have developed into a hot-spot his previous owners did not treat. The hot-spot eventually turned into a life-threatening medical condition leaving his immune system heavily compromised with staph infections. It took 6 months for him to recover. He saw numerous vets and specialists to get a handle on his condition. His foster gave him several baths a week, prepared special food, and administered meds several times a day. He is truly a miracle and a dog we will never forget!



We had a very scary case with a dog named Paxton, a seven year old Lab. The foster woke up one morning and Paxton was suddenly paralyzed in his back legs! We got him to the vet right away, and by that time he was paralyzed from the neck down. We started treatment immediately with IV steroids and other drugs. Before the drugs took effect, the vet had to put a tube down Paxton's throat to keep his airway open. It was determined that a rare blood clot in his neck caused the paralysis. During his hospitalization, Paxton never stopped his desire to wag his tail! Slowly Paxton made a full recovery and now runs 2-3 miles a day with his new family! He has put on weight and is the picture of health.



Daisey is a fourteen month old Lab who sustained an injury when she jumped out of a pickup truck. She dragged her paralyzed front leg around for months. It was obvious it needed to be amputated. The family could not afford the surgery and she was turned over to SCLRR. Unfortunately, Daisey was used to being moved from home to home. At 6 months, her first family dropped her off at a shelter and now her second family had to rehome her due to injury. SCLRR has found a "forever" home for Daisey where she flourishes as the fastest dog ever on three legs!



SCLRR received an email request to take in a three month old Lab that had been severely injured. He and his sister had escaped their backyard and both were hit by cars. Skittles was badly hurt. His sister was killed. SCLRR picked up the surviving pup and immediately authorized the necessary surgery. The poor boy had two breaks in a back leg and two breaks in a front leg. He had casts on the entire right side of his body. This required his foster to carry him out for all potty breaks. Talk about tough on an active puppy!! He made it through his 3 month recovery and is doing great. Skittles now lives with an amazing family near the Kern River – Lab paradise!

Many of our dogs have tragic stories and we are so grateful that SCLRR can give them happy endings! This year SCLRR has spent over \$90,000 on veterinary expenses alone. Over 250 Labs have been rescued. As you think about your donations at the end of 2009, please consider supporting SCLRR so that we may continue our efforts and have another amazing year! Since SCLRR has no paid volunteers, you can be sure that 100% of funding goes toward supporting the dogs. We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, so all donations to us are tax deductible. Please remember that you can even select us to receive contributions year-round through Albertsons and Ralphs card community contribution programs.

**You can choose to support SCLRR in three different areas:**

- 1) General donations are used for costs incurred to run the rescue including: shelter fees, vaccinations, spay and neuter procedures, boarding costs, equipment for events, volunteer training, canine behavior modification, etc.
- 2) The Polly Fund was established to help with non-routine medical costs. Some examples are: patella and cruciate ligament repair surgeries, lumpectomies, dental work, blood work, x-rays and emergency treatments. As you can imagine, veterinary costs are the largest part of our expenses.
- 3) Our Senior Lab Rescue Program Fund ensures that dogs seven years and older are well cared for. We have set aside specific funds to make sure there is enough money available to take care of necessary surgeries, boarding and other services that our seniors often require. Senior dogs often need more medical support upon entry into SCLRR.

**\*\*WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!\*\***

There are many ways to help and you can choose the tasks that best match your talents. You can help screen prospective adoptive homes, raise money, attend events, provide transportation or check your local shelters -- the list is long! For those considering fostering, there are no out-of-pocket expenses! Go to [www.sclrr.org/volwithus](http://www.sclrr.org/volwithus) for more information.\* \*

We love to hear from our past adopters and to receive Lab updates and pictures for our website! The volunteers of SCLRR hope you and your family had a wonderful 2009, and wish you the best for 2010. May your days be filled with many furry friends!

*Sincerely,  
Your friends at SCLRR*

