



# Welcome

Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue (DLRR) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to finding loving, life-long homes for displaced Labrador Retrievers.

Since its inception in 1999, DLRR has rescued over 5,000 Labrador Retrievers in need. Approximately 89.7 million dogs live in the United States as household pets; unfortunately, for various reasons, 4 - 5 million will end up in shelters across the country and only 2 million will get adopted. Arizona's shelters are severely overcrowded, often making DLRR a lab's last chance to be saved from euthanasia.

We receive our labs from the pound and from owners who can no longer care for them due to events such as illness, death, or loss of their home. In addition, we also rescue strays, dogs left abandoned, and friendly labs with treatable illnesses who would be otherwise euthanized due to overcrowded animal shelters.

Every lab that comes through DLRR has a story, and we are committed to be their advocate and their voice for a second chance at the life they deserve.

## How DLRR is Funded

Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue is solely funded through donations from the public and fundraising efforts from our volunteers. Without the public's support and contributions, we would not be able to save so many lives.

***In 2018, we saved 300 dogs and spent  
in excess of \$340,000 on their medical care.***

Supporters like you save lives, and you can be confident that your monetary gifts, which are tax-deductible, will be put to great use and make a difference in the lives of our labs. Keep in mind that many of the dogs we save are only hours away from being euthanized; however, with the support of DLRR, they end up in loving homes as family pets.



# Our Medical Commitment

Often when we intake a dog, there may be an illness or injury that has been left untreated. It is our commitment to each DLRR dog to support their health needs and attend to the treatable ailments they may be experiencing.

DLRR pays for any veterinary treatment needed, which may range from dental work to amputations. At intake, each DLRR dog has a vet exam, all vaccinations, and are microchipped. DLRR also helps to reduce pet over population by spaying and neutering all of our rescued labs before they are ready for adoption. The basic care cost (spay/neuter, vaccinations and microchip) for each lab we intake is approximately \$400. This is before the cost to treat any illness or injury.



Frequently, we have dogs that experience emotional trauma and behavioral issues and this may present as separation anxiety, displaced fear due to trauma, or non-socialization with both humans and/or other dogs. At DLRR, we rely on a network of skilled local trainers to rehabilitate our dogs to help set them up for success.

Rescue work is difficult, often heart breaking when you encounter a neglected, abandoned, and abused dog. As an organization, it is our commitment to provide a healthy, positive, loving, second chance for all DLRR dogs. We can only rescue and save as many dogs as our funding allows, and we work diligently at raising funds to ensure only the best outcome. It is through your continued support that we have the ability to successfully maintain our rescue efforts. We look forward to another successful year ahead in saving as many lives as we can and placing our dogs in loving, forever homes.



before

Brownie was surrendered to DLRR by her owner.

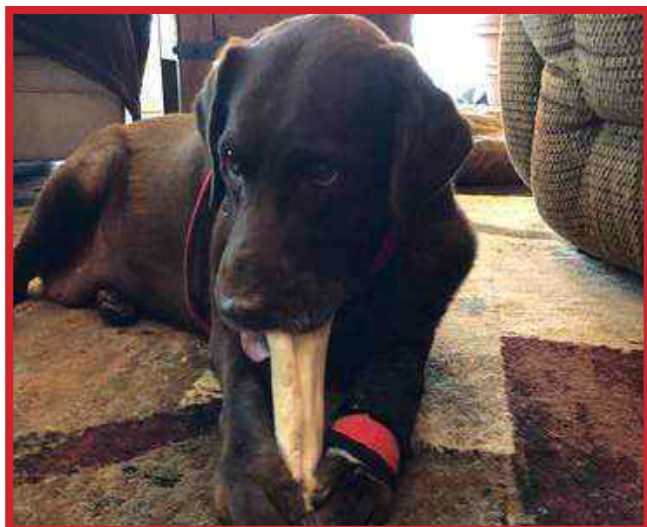
She had an infected foot, her nails had grown into her paws, her teeth were rotten, and she lived most of her days in a crate. In pain and unable to walk, DLRR paid for all of Brownie's medical treatment.



Basic Care Cost: \$400

Specialty Care: \$3,500

**Total Medical  
Care Cost:  
\$3,900**



after

Brownie was adopted  
and is living the good life  
with her forever family.







*Kalulah*

before

When DLRR rescued Kalulah, she had been left by her family at an animal shelter. She had a severe skin infection, was emaciated, both ears were infected and she was suffering. It took several weeks and specialists to determine that Kalulah had an auto-immune disease called Pemphigus Foliaceus.



Basic Care Cost: \$400

Specialty Care: \$2,400

**Total Medical  
Care Cost:**

**\$2,800**



after

After nearly 7 months in loving foster care, Kalulah was adopted into her forever home.







before

Jake was rescued from the pound with old wounds from either a dog fight or a coyote attack that had never healed.

His wounds were so severe that the vet initially thought his leg needed amputation.

Ultimately, he only had two toes removed and spent months recovering in foster care.



#### **Medical Needs:**

Basic Care Cost: \$400

Specialty Care: \$3,240

**Total Medical  
Care Cost:**

**\$3,640**



Jake has since been adopted and is smothered with love by his new family.

after





before

Kona was left in a field with her 12 puppies. Unfortunately, none survived, but DLRR rescued Kona.

She was severely underweight, her health suffering from over breeding, requiring surgery for pyometra and she was diagnosed with TVT (Transmissible Venereal Tumor).

This tumor is a form of treatable cancer and Kona went through 8 rounds of Chemotherapy.

**Medical Needs:**

Basic Care Cost: \$400

Specialty Care: \$5,489

**Total Medical  
Care Cost:**

**\$5,889**

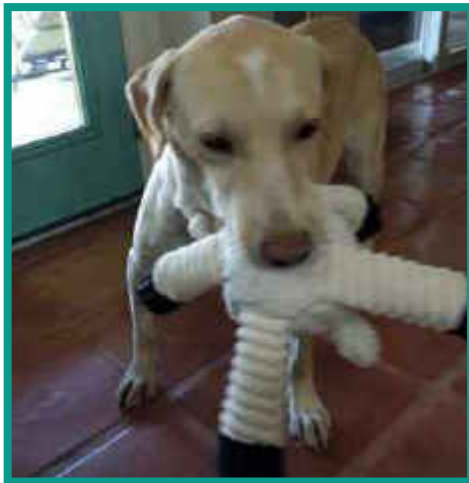




There is no longer any evidence of the cancer and Kona is doing well in her new adopted home.

Kona was sponsored by the Zeus Oncology Fund™ (ZOF) for her cancer treatments. The ZOF is a fund for DLRR's cancer dogs, and when funding is available to also sponsor DLRR alumni.

after



before



after



Buster



Norman



Abby Girl



before

after

Arlo



Charlie



Stryker





before

DLRR was notified that a chocolate lab was found in the desert with her deceased puppies.

Her back and nose had severe burns (she was burned intentionally) and they were infected.

Diagnosed with MRSA, requiring surgery for Pyometra (infection of the uterus), and medication for Coccidia (intestinal infection), DLRR provided Sienna with all her medical needs.

Basic Care Cost: \$400

Specialty Care: \$4,469

**Total Medical Care Cost:**  
**\$4,869**







Sienna has been adopted by a loving, patient family. They work hard at helping her adjust to a life that is safe from abuse and filled with love.

after





before

10-year-old Ozzie was on the E-list at the pound for a bad ear infection. His ear canal had been torn off, and he had three different types of ear infections that required two surgeries.

Ozzie also required surgery to repair the trauma to the ear, and to clean up the infections that had essentially closed off his ear canals.

Basic Care Cost: \$400

Specialty Care: \$3,364

**Total Medical Care Cost:**

**\$3,764**

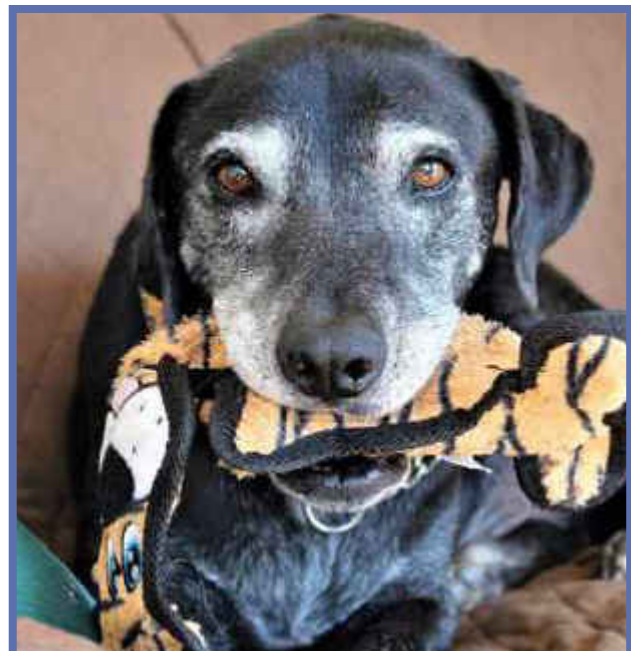






after

Ozzie was adopted by his foster family who fell in love with him while supporting him throughout his recovery and healing process.





before

Charlie came to DLRR as a stray in 2016 with a large Mammary Carcinoma.

The tumor was surgically removed, and she was given 3 - 6 months and placed in hospice foster care with DLRR.

One year later, the tumor returned. Under the care of the Zeus Oncology Fund™ (ZOF), our Board- Certified Canine Oncologist removed the tumor, with clean margins and no need for adjuvant therapy.

Basic Care Cost: \$400  
Specialty Care Cost: \$4,083

**Total Medical Care Cost:**  
**\$4,483**





after

Today Charlie is thriving  
and doing well and her  
hospice foster is now her  
new owner.





before

Cassie was an owner turn in with an old leg injury from being hit by a car. She was never medically treated for her injury. After X-rays were taken, it was clearly a broken leg and she also tested positive for heartworm.

In foster care, Cassie had to be treated for heartworm before we could move forward with her leg injury.

After consulting with an Orthopedic Surgeon and another Veterinarian, DLRR had to make the difficult decision to amputate the leg, as Cassie was diagnosed with chronic Ulnar Articular Fracture and Secondary Osteoarthritis.

Basic Care Cost: \$400  
Specialty Care Cost: \$4,179

**Total Medical Care Cost:**

**\$4,579**





after

Only one day post op,  
Cassie was already up on  
her three legs.

She is adjusting well to her  
new mobility while in the  
wonderful care of her  
foster family.

Cassie will need to fully  
recover before she can be  
made available for adoption.



# Zeus Oncology Fund™ (ZOF)



The Zeus Oncology Fund™ (ZOF) was established in 2017 to help provide funding for treatment of dogs diagnosed with cancer. The ZOF is in honor of Zeus, a DLRR alumni who was diagnosed with Adenocarcinoma. Zeus had surgery along with necessary treatment and rehabilitation, he is now in remission and doing well.

It is in Zeus' honor his owners created a special fund, so other rescue dogs are granted the opportunity to have safe, effective, cancer treatment. Each unique case is reviewed carefully, and consideration is given for those dogs whose treatment has a good prognosis for return to a good quality of life.

These special grants and gifts allow us to help adopted dogs and their families when they need financial assistance. Every donation goes directly to the quality care of our cancer dogs who are under the supervision and guidance of a Board-Certified Canine Oncologist.

[www.zeusoncologyfund.org](http://www.zeusoncologyfund.org)



dasFOTOhaus

photography by claudia johnstone



Since its inception, the ZOF has assisted and supported five DLRR dogs with cancer.

We would like to honor Ben, our first recipient of the ZOF.

Ben had a beautiful spirit and wonderful owners who fought hard through his battle with Intestinal Adenocarcinoma.

Ben succumbed to his cancer in April 2018.



Our other ZOF recipient heroes include:

**Kona** - Transmissible Venereal Tumor, underwent surgery and chemotherapy.

**Lady** - Soft Tissue Sarcoma; underwent Stereotactic Radiation in order to shrink the tumor and eventually remove it, in an effort to save the leg of this young Lab.

**Charlie** - Mammary Carcinoma; underwent surgery for removal.

**Lukas** - Transmissible Venereal Tumor, underwent chemotherapy.

**Total Cost of Treatment**  
**\$22,700**

**Thank you for Supporting  
Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue**  
(EIN# 31-1706380)



**Thank you for your continued support and advocacy for animal welfare. Please visit our website at [www.dlrrphoenix.org](http://www.dlrrphoenix.org) for more information on how you can contribute to Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue or call 480-899-LABS (5227).**

**Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/desertlab](http://www.facebook.com/desertlab)), Instagram ([desertlabradorretrieverrescue](https://www.instagram.com/desertlabradorretrieverrescue)) and Twitter (Desert Lab Rescue) to stay up to date with current events.**



Special thank you to DLRR volunteers Karen Bateman, Claudia Johnstone ([www.dasFOTOhaus.com](http://www.dasFOTOhaus.com)) and Melissa Rupoli-Katz for your ongoing commitment and dedication and for designing and coordinating this book to better advocate for the Labs of Arizona.

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