

LOVE OF LABS INDIANA

WWW.LOLIN.ORG

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUICK LINKS

[General Information](#)

[How Can I Help Save Labs](#)

[Application and Adoption Process](#)

[Meet and Greet](#)

[Vetting and Training](#)

[Labrador Retrievers](#)

General Information about Love of Labs Indiana (LOLIN)

What is Love of Labs Indiana (LOLIN)?

- LOLIN is a group of dedicated Labrador Retriever lovers who have dedicated themselves to saving and finding forever homes for unwanted, neglected, and/or sick Labrador Retrievers throughout the Midwest.
- It is a myth that friendly, well-behaved purebred dogs in shelters do not get euthanized. It happens every day.
- LOLIN started saving lives in May2005. Since then we have rescued hundreds of labs in need.

What is LOLIN's mission?

- The LOLIN mission is to reduce the euthanasia rate of Labrador Retrievers and Labrador mixes in animal shelters/controls in the Midwest (especially Indiana).

Is LOLIN a not-for-profit organization?

- Yes, LOLIN is a 501(c)3, an IRS deemed Public Charity.

Where is LOLIN located?

- LOLIN does not have a physical location. LOLIN has a mailbox. The mailing address is 8063 Madison Avenue, #235, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

What are LOLIN hours?

- LOLIN does not have set hours.
- LOLIN utilizes a virtual phone and e-fax.
 - Telephone: 317-602-1470.
 - Fax: 801-640-7688.
 - E-mail: lolin@lolin.org.

How does LOLIN help save Labrador Retrievers?

- LOLIN works with shelters in Indiana and neighboring states (and occasionally further away) to pull their Labs and Lab mixes into our foster program.
- Our dedicated LOLIN fosters evaluate the new dog and arrange to have them fully vetted.
- LOLIN often rescues dogs who have medical issues such as heartworm or broken bones.
- LOLIN provides treatment and/or surgery and is committed to nursing dogs back to health.
- LOLIN controls overpopulation by spaying/neutering dogs prior to adoption.
- LOLIN educates the community regarding responsible dog ownership, heartworm prevention, overpopulation, positive reinforcement training and other lab specific issues.

From where do the LOLIN rescue dogs come?

- Dogs come from shelters, rescues, strays, owner surrenders and referrals.
- The dogs' backgrounds or breed mixes are generally unknown.
- LOLIN provides the best information available about each dog.
- Dogs are temperament tested before rescued; however, sometimes dogs behave differently in each different environment.*
- New environments and relocations during the rescue process can be stressful to some dogs. Some dogs may need time to settle into a new environment.

Why are Labrador Retrievers in shelters?

- According to the AKC, Labrador Retrievers are the #1 reproduced dog in the US; thus, they are the most prevalent breed mix in shelters.
- The #1 reason that Labs are in shelters is **LACK OF OWNER COMMITMENT**.
- Many owners do not realize that these dogs need direction & training to compensate for their **HIGH ENERGY LEVELS**. They often don't realize that their Labs do not fully mature until approximately 2-3 years of age.
- Labradors have a reputation for being family friendly, laid back dogs. However, owning a Labrador requires patience, training, exercise and commitment in order to bring out these wonderful qualities.

Where are LOLIN dogs housed?

- Most of the dogs are in individual foster homes.
- A few dogs are in doggie daycare.
- LOLIN does not have kennels or a facility for the dogs. We are a foster-based rescue.
- Many of our foster families live in the Indianapolis area. We also have fosters in Muncie, Bloomington, Louisville and other surrounding locations.

How does LOLIN communicate?

- LOLIN's primary communication method is email. LOLIN e-mails come from several different volunteer e-mail addresses. Please check your spam folders. It is possible that

your e-mail security settings may reject or filter our e-mails. We also occasionally communicate via telephone.

How Can I Help Save Labrador Retrievers?

Can I donate monetarily to LOLIN?

- Yes. LOLIN welcomes and appreciates monetary donations of any size. The rescue work we do is made possible by the generosity of our donors. LOLIN is a 501(c)3 public charity. Donations are *tax-deductible*.
- You may donate on our website (www.lolin.org) via Paypal or use a credit card via Paypal or mail in a donation (checks).
- Shirts, dog toys, magnets and other accessories are available on the Love of Labs Indiana Facebook page or at our events.

Can I donate other items besides money?

- Yes. LOLIN accepts dog food, treats, crates, leashes, etc. Please send us an e-mail with the donation items (lolin@lolin.org) for additional information.

Can I donate my time?

- Yes. The biggest need is for Foster Families for our rescued dogs. The foster application and additional information are available at www.lolin.org. You can also email lolin@lolin.org and request a Foster Application.
- If you cannot foster, please consider volunteering at our events. The volunteer application and additional information are available at www.lolin.org. You can also email lolin@lolin.org and request a Volunteer Application.

Application and Adoption Processes

How is the adoption process started?

- There is an online application on the Adoption page on the Love of Labs website, www.lolin.org. There is considerable information about the adoption process under the Adoption tab.

Is there an application fee?

- Yes. A \$15 non-refundable application fee is required to help offset the costs of processing your application.

How do I pay my application fee?

- You may pay on the website via PayPal or mail a check to LOLIN via snail mail.

If I mail in the application fee, will my application be held up waiting for the fee to be received?

- LOLIN will start processing your application as soon as possible regardless of payment type.

How will I know that my application was received?

- You should receive a welcome email from a LOLIN volunteer within 72 hours. If this does not happen, please feel free to contact lolin@lolin.org to inquire about the status of your application.
- Occasionally, an electronic glitch occurs and an application does not come through. A tip is to use the *TAB* key in moving through the application and *ENTER* when you are ready to submit it.

Are home visits required before adopting from LOLIN?

- Yes. After your application is reviewed, a home visit will be scheduled for you with a LOLIN representative. All members of the home should be present for the home visit.

Will LOLIN consider my application if I do not live in Indianapolis?

- Yes. LOLIN allows adoptions to families who live outside of Indianapolis or in the surrounding states. There are volunteers in other areas who can do home visits.

How long will it take to know if we are approved to adopt a dog from LOLIN?

- The time to approve your application varies and is dependent on LOLIN volunteers' availability and on your availability to participate in the process.
- You will need to contact your vet and ask your vet to fax your animal's records to LOLIN at 801-640-7688.
- LOLIN telephone interviewers often have trouble reaching your personal references. This can delay the process. Please alert your references so that they are quick to return phone calls or to prevent them from hanging up on the volunteer caller.
- Applicants need to be available to speak with the LOLIN telephone interviewers and also be available for a home visit.
- It is LOLIN's goal to accomplish the process in 2 weeks. It can be quicker, but it also can take longer.
- Please be respectful and patient throughout the process.

I applied to another rescue and was approved. Do I need to do everything in the application process?

- If the other rescue is familiar to LOLIN and has a similar process, LOLIN may contact them and confirm that you have been approved. This will be considered on a case by case basis.

I previously adopted a dog from Love of Labs. Do I need to apply again?

- If the adoption was within the last couple of years and most of the information is still the same, you do not need to reapply.

- LOLIN will recheck the vetting on your current dogs before allowing you to adopt again. If you have moved, LOLIN may want to do another home visit.

I was approved, but none of the current dogs are of interest to me.

- There is no time limit on your approval to adopt. LOLIN brings in new dogs all the time, so you might find the right dog in a few weeks.

Do you deny applications?

- Yes. As part of the screening process, LOLIN does reject some applications for various reasons.
- Please keep in mind that LOLIN takes into consideration the special needs of the rescue dogs when finding homes for them.
- Rejected applicants receive a rejection letter. LOLIN is not passing judgment on your family, but is focused on meeting the special needs of the rescued Labs that may have already been displaced multiple times.
- LOLIN volunteers do their best in evaluating your application based on the information provided. If you want to provide additional information that may better clarify an issue or additional references on your behalf, you would be free to do so.

What is the adoption fee for LOLIN dogs?

- The fees vary and are based on a number of factors, especially the age of the dog. A fairly purebred puppy will be \$325. Fees decrease with the age of the dog. The fee is not related to the amount that LOLIN spends on the dog.
- The adoption fee and the signed adoption contract are required before you may take possession of the dog.

Can I have a reduction of the fee due to?

- LOLIN does not offer any discounts or payment plans for the adoption fees. The payment can be made by check, cash, credit card or Paypal.

What are some of the requirements to adopt?

- A good match between adopter and dog is very important. LOLIN wants the best placement for all. This does not imply that there are bad dogs or bad applicants. The focus is on the match.
- Current vaccinations, heartworm prevention and spay/neuter for pets already in your home is required.
- Reward Based Obedience Training is required for all adopted dogs.

What should I plan for financially?

- Please be sure that your budget can accommodate the expenses involved in owning a large dog.
- Owning a Lab can easily cost \$800 to \$1,200 a year for food, heartworm prevention, boarding when you travel, vet bills, etc.

- Remember, if you cannot afford the vet, you can't afford the pet.

Do you have requirements about fences?

- LOLIN does not have requirements about fences.
- Labs need exercise and are more active than many people think. LOLIN expects you to be able to provide the time necessary to give the dog necessary exercise.
- A dog that is walked is usually a happier dog than one that is left in a yard.

Can I adopt a dog if I live in an apartment?

- LOLIN does not have requirements about single family homes.
- Some apartments have requirements about dogs. Be sure you know the requirements for your apartment. LOLIN will contact your landlord to confirm the requirements.

Can I adopt if I have a cat, dog or other pet?

- Yes. However, LOLIN cannot guarantee that dogs adopted from us will be compatible with cats or other pets.
- Not all foster homes have cats, so LOLIN is unable to screen every dog in our program with cats.
- LOLIN's website offers links to various educational resource websites that provide instructions for introducing a new dog to family cats, but LOLIN cannot accept responsibility for any adverse outcome including injury to your cat or dog. It is up to the adopter to exercise caution and use good judgment to ensure the safety of both animals in your home at all time.
- All existing animals in a potential adopters' home must meet with the LOLIN dog before finalizing the adoption.

Can I adopt if I have young children?

- Yes, but please consider that one of the top reasons dogs are turned into shelters is because a busy family purchases a puppy for their children and does not have enough time for training or caring for the dog.
- LOLIN recommends mature dogs for families with young children.
- It can take up to three years before some Labs mature. Please take the age and energy level of the dog into consideration when you have young children in your home.
- Labs make great family dogs, but puppies and very young dogs are often better suited to homes with older children who are less likely to be knocked down or overwhelmed by the size and energy of a young Lab.
- Adding a Lab to a home with children is like adding another child. Are you ready for this additional responsibility?

Meet and Greets with Available Labs

Which dog is right for me?

- Many applicants come to LOLIN with their heart set on one particular dog they have seen on the website. In some cases, the match was meant to be and all goes well. But in many circumstances there are several families interested in the same dog. A family may be meeting a dog listed on our website on the day you are putting in your application, so that dog might already be adopted before you are approved. Please don't be disappointed if the dog you initially apply for is no longer available.
- LOLIN does its very best to match the desires of the applicants with the needs of our dogs.
- LOLIN gets new labs in every single week and will work hard to help you find that perfect match for you and your family!
- LOLIN appreciates your flexibility in considering dogs available for adoption.
- LOLIN does not hold dogs for adopters and there are many factors that impact which dogs go to which approved homes.

When can I meet an available LOLIN dog?

- You must be an approved applicant to meet the LOLIN dogs.

How will I meet an available dog?

- LOLIN will attempt to match the best dog for you based on your requests, personality and traits. The lab color does not determine the personality.
- LOLIN can only tell you what has been personally observed.
- Once approved, LOLIN fosters will work with you directly to find a day and time that is convenient for you.
- The LOLIN foster family will decide where to hold a meeting between an applicant and a foster dog. The fosters will determine a comfortable meeting place.
- You will be expected to drive to meet the dog and, if you are going to adopt the dog, arrange for any necessary transportation for the dog to your house.

Who should attend the Meet and Greet?

- It is important that all members of the adoptive family and any current animals meet the new lab.
- Be sure to let the LOLIN foster family know if you are bringing another dog or animal for a dog introduction. When introducing dogs, it is best performed at a neutral location.

I want to meet more than one dog. Is this possible?

- Yes. You may meet as many dogs as you wish. However, you may only schedule one meet and greet at a time.
- LOLIN does not hold a dog for anyone. While you are meeting the other dogs on your list, the first dog you met might have another meeting and be adopted.
- Within reason, a dog may be held for you between the time a meeting is requested and the actual meeting.

Can I take a dog home for a trial visit?

- LOLIN does not allow trial visits or overnight visits.

Is a specific dog still available?

- LOLIN cannot guarantee that dogs will remain available.
- LOLIN makes every attempt to keep the Petfinder list up to date. Unfortunately, occasionally there can be a lag in the posting update process.
- LOLIN also puts pictures and descriptions of the available dogs on the Love of Labs Indiana Facebook page.
- There may be other dogs in foster homes that are not on the list. It takes time for a foster family to get to know the dog, write the bio, and take pictures. (Note: A dog with a cuter picture may not be a “better” dog than another dog.)
- It is not possible for LOLIN to indicate which of our available dogs have meetings currently scheduled.

Vetting and Training

What vetting has each dog received?

- LOLIN dogs will be altered (spayed or neutered).
- LOLIN dogs will be heartworm tested and on preventive for heartworms and fleas.
- LOLIN dogs will be fecal tested for worms, coccidia and giardia.
- LOLIN dogs will be vaccinated for bordetella (kennel cough) and the distemper/parvo combo.
- If old enough, LOLIN dogs will be vaccinated for Rabies.
- A young puppy will be vaccinated as much as possible for its age, but may not have had the full set of vaccinations.
- Other vetting will have been done as needed.

Do the dogs have a microchip?

- Yes. Each LOLIN dog is microchipped.
- It is important that the adoptive family register and update the new LOLIN dog with the correct contact information on-line after the completed adoption.

Does the foster family train the dog?

- LOLIN fosters are wonderful volunteers who are caring people and knowledgeable about dogs, but they are not trainers.
- When a dog moves into a foster home, it often has to learn “house manners”. Our foster families do an amazing job with these dogs while they are in their care.

What should I know about obedience classes?

- Reward Based Obedience Classes are required for all dogs adopted from LOLIN.
- Obedience classes must be *reward based* obedience classes.

- Reward Based Obedience Classes are an additional cost to the adopters and are NOT included in the adoption fee.
- LOLIN will require proof of training.

Why does LOLIN require an adopter to take the new family dog to reward based/non-force obedience class?

- Reward based/non-force obedience training is necessary to establish and promote a proper relationship between you and your new dog.
- Reward based/non-force obedience training is necessary to establish a way of communicating which is clear to both you and your dog.
- Reward based/non-force obedience classes are more than just teaching a dog to sit on command.
- Classes help to develop the bond between the new family and the dog.
- A dog that knows what is expected of it will be a more confident and happy.

Labrador Retrievers

Why is the Labrador Retriever the most widely owned and loved dog in the world?

- This breed may be one of the most even-tempered of all in the dog kingdom.
- Devoted, obedient, intelligent, gregarious, and dependable are only a few words to describe this dog breed.
- The Labrador Retriever excels in obedience, which is evidenced by their widespread use as a guide dog, a therapy dog, or explosives detection dog.
- This breed loves water, and with its waterproof coat can handle even the coldest water temperatures.
- There is little negative to say about this dog breed; they're generally good with children, good with other pets, and good with other dogs.

How much work and commitment are needed to own a lab?

- Experienced Lab owners will tell you that a significant amount of work and commitment goes into owning a dog as is described above.
- All of these wonderful traits are true of the Labrador Retriever. However, in order to help your pet realize his or her potential, you'll need to give it daily exercise, attention, and training.
- They aren't born knowing all the things they need to know to be these great dogs—just with the potential!
- YOU are responsible for whether or not your Labrador shows off these great qualities or is a very large and unruly nuisance!
- Labradors are generally great with children and make fabulous family pets, however they are large dogs who grow quickly and don't always know their own strength. Some Labradors are better with children than others.