

Loving Labs need your help to pay for surgery

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Almost six months after Hurricane Katrina, many dogs who survived the storm and were relocated to the Chicago area are still trying to get back on their paws.

Some still need money for expensive medical treatments even before they can be put up for adoption.

The Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had shipped 62 dogs to Glen Ellyn Animal Hospital through assistance from Fortunate Pooches and Lab Rescue, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Palatine that's licensed to help save dogs.

After the canines were neutered, spayed and micro-chipped, many were adopted or taken into foster homes.

But 11 dogs are still waiting for their happy endings.

Most are still receiving medical treatments, but two Labradors have been waiting for surgery since December.

Jessie has a broken tibia and Daisy has two torn anterior cruciate ligaments.

Ileana Pullos, founder of Fortunate Pooches and Lab Rescue, said paying for the surgery is the tough part.

Jessie's leg care will cost \$2,800 and Daisy's knee operations will run about \$1,800.

"They're not going to die," Pullos said. "However, they are disabled, and they are in pain."

Orthodogs Silver Lining Foundation has offered to pay 65 percent of the cost of Jessie's surgery and 50 percent of Daisy's. But that means Fortunate Pooches is still short about \$2,000.

Veterinarian Anthony Walley of Glen Ellyn Animal Hospital said he has a feeling Jessie and Daisy were neglected.

"There's a good chance that they may have not even had homes (before Katrina)," he said. Daisy may have already had the ligament problem, but something may have fallen on Jessie while he was in Louisiana, Walley said.

Of the more than five dozen dogs that arrived, most had medical problems and were put on



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Veterinarian Katie Harbach of Glen Ellyn Animal Hospital has been helping care for Jesse, right, a black Labrador retriever with a broken leg, and Daisy, a yellow Labrador retriever with two torn ligaments. Both dogs are Hurricane Katrina survivors.

antibiotics and given medical treatment.

Others were born at the animal hospital to dogs that arrived pregnant from Gulf Coast.

Serena Arnold of Glen Ellyn adopted India, a 10 week-old puppy whose mother survived the hurricane. India had been cared for at the hospital for more than two months until she finally found a new home.

Arnold, 26, has only had the Labrador for three days and said it's special that her dog made it all the way from Louisiana.

"I love her," Arnold said. "She's very, very sweet."

Arnold had to take India to the veterinarian on Wednesday because the dog had a cough, but said Fortunate Pooches paid for the treatments.

If enough money is raised for Jessie and Daisy's surgery and the two recover, the pooches, along with nine other dogs, will need to be adopted.

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