

Lily. Our sweet Lily.

We met our Sweet Lily on Remembrance Day. A date and day that will easily be remembered. We met at her foster home. She was happy there, with 2 loving caregivers, 2 dog friends and a cat that ruled the roost. It was obvious that she was well cared for and loved by her foster family. Yet, immediately she was ours. Our hearts soared, her tail wagged when we walked through the door that memorable day. We came as a family, all 5 of us. After a short visit, the 5 of us and Lily climbed into the truck and drove off to redefine our family. And so our journey began.....



Our journey with Lab Rescue started in October 2018. We've always been an animal loving family. We've had a chocolate lab, Kona, a black lab, Protégé, and 3 cats – Oreo, Latte, and Cheeko. All but one had been a rescue animal. It had been 5 years since we had a dog in the house. Sure we did lots of dog sitting, but we decided it had been long enough, our family needed a dog, full time. By chance I came across the Lab Rescue website, and immediately filled in the application. Within a couple of days I got a call! I spoke at length on the phone to the Lab Rescue volunteer. She was warm, friendly and enthusiastic about our desire to adopt. She asked all kinds of questions. I immediately knew any dog that we would be matched with from this organization would be perfect for us. Our boys checked the website daily, searching for our dog.

They had our daughter searching while she was away at university. And then we saw Lily. A 5ish year old yellow lab. "We have to have her", I heard so many times from 2 teenage boys over the course of 3 days. I sent a message to LRAS. I heard from Laura and Danielle. Yes, she could be a match; did we want to meet her? "YES!"

Our meet and greet was arranged, but then wait, oh no, Lily had a sore knee.

She was limping after running in the park..... Did we still want her even if she needed surgery – an expensive and challenging process? She already felt like ours. Without question we would have her, no matter what she needed. Off we went, we met her, we loved her, brought her home.

Once Lily was home, she had a follow up vet appointment. Oh no, she did need surgery. She had a torn left hind cruciate ligament that had led to joint damage, and muscle atrophy throughout her hind quarter and back. When our sweet Lily had been surrendered in August she was 95lbs and grumpy.

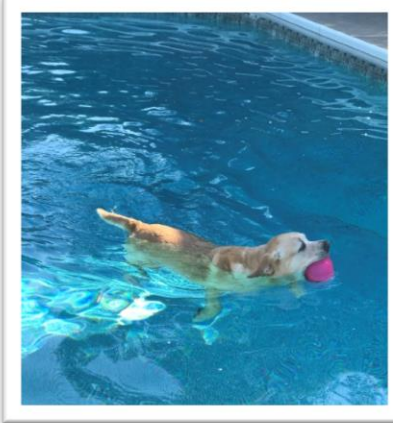
Now we maybe knew why. She had progressed well in foster care losing almost 20lbs and loved being cared for. Unfortunately without surgery she would likely regress.

She needed TPLO surgery. Tibial Plateau Leveling Surgery. An expensive procedure, requiring strict mobility restrictions post-op, followed by extensive therapy. Without hesitation, LRAS said don't worry, we've got it, and we will pay for it.

Wow, they love their labs! For the surgery to be most successful, we decided to give Lily some time with us before going through it. The first week of January, she had the TPLO done. Surgery was a success. Everyone that meets Lily immediately sees the sweetness in her eyes. Her new vet team cared for her well loved her. Lily was leash bound and restricted for 6 weeks – only outside to do her "business", then

Your donations at work. Lily's medical expense was over \$6400.

Thank you to everyone who helped with her surgery and recovery costs.



back in; no running, no jumping, no stairs. All was going so well. At 6 weeks, healing was on track. She started rehab – laser and underwater treadmill therapy. Happy dog! Then unfortunately the ice came..... terrible ice storms.

A misstep in the yard led to a broken tibia at the bottom screw of her TPLO repair! Our poor sweet Lily was off to the Toronto Emergency Vet Hospital to have the fracture fixed. She needed an external fixator. That meant daily dressing changes for weeks. She was back on full restrictions. We had multiple trips to Toronto from our home in Belleville. The folks at LRAS, Jenn her foster mom, the Loyalist Vet staff, our friends, family, everyone that knew Lily was devastated. Lily, she was a trooper. Her sweetness shone through. She waited out her restrictions, endured the dressing changes. Finally after 12 weeks, had the Ex-fix removed. Slowly she started back at rehab. Laser treatment, massage, stretching, and eventually underwater treadmill walking. Walking for 5 min was initially

a challenge. She preserved, always wagging her tail. She was so happy to go outside. Eventually she was allowed 20minute walks, and then allowed to walk up and down hills, then swim in our pool.

Now, 6 ½ mos after her first surgery she is allowed to run, play, chase sticks, fetch a ball! She is soooo happy. We feel so lucky. Lily wouldn't be where she is without the support of Lab Rescue Adoption Services.

We are so thankful to them for bringing her into our lives. Thank you for all the labs you save, all the families you help make whole. We really can't thank you enough. Lisa & family

Lily came into Lab Rescue's care from a high kill shelter.

