



THE LABRADOR RESCUE TRUST

Summer 2008

20th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

Dear Supporter,

I am sure that, by now, you will be aware that The Labrador Rescue Trust is in its 20th Anniversary Year. Indeed, our 20th Anniversary falls on 25th November this year.

As I write this letter, we are fast approaching our 7500th case and I expect that we will handle at least 650 cases during 2008. As you will realise, this is an average of almost two new cases every day of the year. When you consider that every person with the Trust is an unpaid volunteer, the amount of work that they carry out is incredible.

Unfortunately, the number of Labradors that require our help continually increases year by year. Ten years ago, we handled just 268 cases in the year; last year, we handled 628 cases – an increase of 134% in ten years. With the present state of the economy, many people are trying to find ways of reducing their expenditure. Many animal charities are now finding that, very sadly, it is often the family pet that is being discarded to save some money. This means that there will be more difficulty than ever in finding new homes for the dogs that are in need of help. Being the most popular breed in the United Kingdom, many more Labradors will undoubtedly need the Trust's help.

Over the past few years, we have been receiving more and more dogs that need medical treatment and training. Some dogs are received in such poor condition that they have to receive extensive veterinary treatment and/or some form of rehabilitation. This means that we have to put them into foster homes, or even into kennels, for a while before they are ready to be found a new home. Some dogs have long term medical problems the cost of which is paid for by the Trust for the rest of each dog's life; we now support over one hundred Labradors in this respect.

In order to carry out our work effectively, our Helpers have to collect the dogs from their old home, transport them to either a foster home, kennels or, hopefully, straight to their new home. With the ever increasing cost of fuel, this is another serious increase in the expenses for which the Trust has to find the finance.

Like so many animal charities, we have to raise the money ourselves in order to carry on helping so many dogs that need our help. We receive no government or lottery funding! The Trust itself always has to ensure that there are sufficient funds to cover the commitments that we have to all the dogs that we help.

It is for these reasons that I am writing to you personally to ask for your help. I hope that, in our 20th Anniversary Year, you may be able to make a donation to the Trust in order that we may continue to help all those Labradors that, for whatever reason, need our help to find a new, loving and caring home. Every penny that you are able to send will be used entirely to help the dogs for no-one who works with the Trust receives any remuneration for the work that they do - except for their bona fide expenses. We do this work simply for the love of the dogs.

If you are able to make a donation, kindly make your cheque payable to **The Labrador Rescue Trust**, and complete the brief form enclosed with this letter. The dogs will be most grateful. Thank you most sincerely for helping them.

Yours sincerely,

John D. Cowell, MBE
Founder and President