



September 2009



The Labrador Retriever Club of the
Pioneer Valley, Inc.

5 Fawn Drive

Granby, CT 06035



LRCPV Member

WWW.LRCPV.ORG



The Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley, Inc

September, 2009

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The Newsletter is mailed to all LRCPV members at no fee. Newsletter subscriptions to non-members are \$15.00 per year. Club activity or committee reports, editorial, or general articles of interest to Labrador Retriever owners are always welcome. Any opinions or reports contained herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the membership, the Board of Directors or the editors. Please address all correspondence to the Editor at the address below:

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The purpose of this Newsletter is to give members an overview of Club activities and to keep them informed on breed related issues. The Newsletter is published 10 times per year, or whenever the editor can manage it.

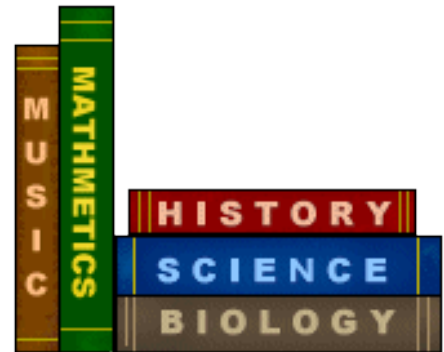
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Inside this issue

<i>Meeting Notice</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Litters</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Braggs</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Up Coming Events</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Health News</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>AKC News</i>	<i>4&5</i>
<i>The Original Purpose of a Lab</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Conformation Requirements</i>	<i>9</i>



Newsletter Submissions

The Newsletter also welcomes articles for possible publication.

Please send submissions to

LRCPV Newsletter

5 Fawn Drive, Granby, CT 06035

E-mail Calsamlabs@cox.net

Deadline by the 10th of each month.

Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley, Inc.

Meeting Notice

October Meeting

Sunday 10/4 6:00 at Suffield Vet Hospital, Suffield, CT

Program:

Dr. Ann Huntington will discuss the 3 new things all breeders should know.

Puppies Available

Note: In order to list a litter you must be in good standing with the club and work at a minimum of 2 club events during the current calendar year. Members who are unable to meet this requirement may list a litter after paying a \$50 litter listing fee.. Regardless, you must submit proof of eye, hip and elbow clearances to the Treasurer before your litter can be listed in the newsletter or on the website.

ChocolateMales & Females puppies available, contact Cindy at ToursLabradors@aol.com
413-237-1150

Yellow Males from Wildmont's Sparrow (OFA hips, elbows, CERF, Optigen) X CH Majestx Satisfaction (OFA hips,elbows, heart, CERF,Optigen) DOB 8/24/09. For more information contact Contact Hazel Holman DVM 413-848-2057 or holmanhazel@hotmail.com

For up-to-date information on puppies & adult dogs visit WWW.LRCPVL.ORG



Eye Clinic

Thanks to all who helped. Most of the day ran smoothly, delayed by slower appointments than usual. It is a clinic and appointments are approximate, based on the speed of our specialists. Both specialists stated the speed was determined by the level of cooperation of the dogs. There were quite a few that had to be "wrangled" and some that could not be examined.

Our numbers were down somewhat, but we still continued until late afternoon. Several people took advantage of the new EIC tests, which were added this year.

Thanks go out to Annmarie, who helped schedule workers this year. Special thanks to all who put in a full, exhausting day. It takes me several days to total up test requests, and several more to schedule, check and re-check. By the time the clinic arrives, I've had very little sleep! Many people ask for appointments last minute and it gets very hectic. But, like the holidays, it arrives, ready or not! Good thing it is a one day event.

It was nice to see Kristen's daughter and Cristina's son. Both were very well behaved!

Again, thanks, everyone for your help.

Jan Lemire

Well Dog Clinic Chairperson



Braggs

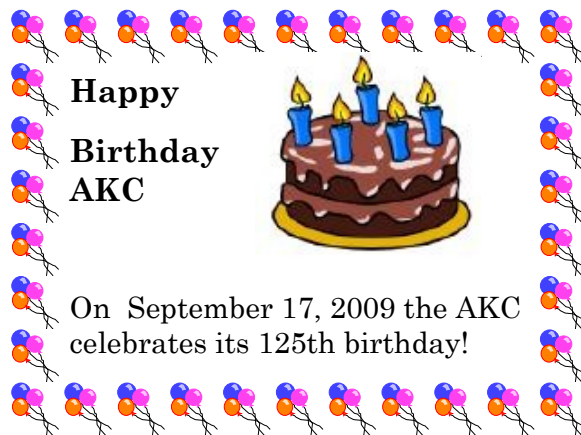
Annmarie Wilson:

At the PRLRC shows Tootsieroll Wilson Brownstone, RN earned two legs toward her CD title. Topping the event she earned a High in Trial on Friday, September 18. She also earned one leg in Rally Advanced on September 18. She now has two legs toward her RA title. Go Tootsie!!!



Kelly Rome

"Ditto" Casbar's déjà vu, RN went Winner's Bitch and Best of Ops (to her big brother RJ) at the Sussex Kennel Club on 8/30.



Up Coming Club Events

September/October - Big E

October 4th - LRCPV Monthly Meeting

November 7th - LRCPV Monthly Meeting

Labrador DNA Samples Needed

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania are conducting a study on Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia (TVD) in Labrador Retrievers. TVD is a congenital cardiac defect, is heritable, and can lead to heart failure. The research team is seeking to identify the responsible gene(s), and are in need of blood samples from affected dogs as well as their immediate relatives (affected or unaffected). This research is funded through a grant from the AKC Canine Health Foundation with the financial support of the OFA. Additional information and the necessary forms can be found on www.offa.org.

AKC Meet the Breeds in NYC

The AKC is sponsoring a "meet the breeds (*cats and dogs) at the Javits Center in New York City breeds" on October 17th and 18th. For tickets and more information go to www.akc.org.

AKC Rule Change effective 2010

Chapter 11, Section 1.

No dog shall be exhibited in a licensed or member dog show, except for dogs entered in the Miscellaneous Class unless it is either individually registered in the AKC Stud Book, or individually registered with a foreign registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration. A dog with an AKC limited Registration shall be ineligible to be entered in a breed competition in a licensed or member dog show.

An unregistered dog with an acceptable foreign registration that is individually registered with a foreign registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may, without special AKC approval, be exhibited in licensed or member dog shows that are held not later than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member dog show in which the dog was exhibited, but only provided that the individual foreign registration and name of the country of birth, are shown on the entry form; and provided further that the same name (which in the case of a foreign-registered dog must be the name on the foreign registrations) is used for the dog each time.

No dog that has not been individually registered with The American Kennel Club when first exhibited in a licensed or member dog show shall be eligible to be exhibited in any licensed or member dog show that is held more than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member dog show in which it was exhibited, unless the dog's individual AKC registration number is shown on the entry form, or unless the owner has received from The American Kennel Club an extension notice in writing authorizing further entries of the dog for a specified time with its individual foreign registration number. No such extension will be granted unless the owner can clearly demonstrate, in a letter addressed to the Show Records Department of The American Kennel Club requesting such extension, that the delay in registration is due to circumstances for which he is not responsible.

Such extension notice will be void upon registration of the dog or upon expiration of the period for which the extension has been granted if that occurs earlier, but upon application further extensions may be granted.

AKC Full Litter Registration - from the August Board of Director's Meeting

The Board reviewed a recommended interpretation to *Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline*, Chapter 3, Section 4A and *AKC Procedures for Registration Matters*, Section XII Limited Registration, to permit limited registration to be imposed at the time of individual registration as well as during the first transfer of a dog, provided the dog was first registered by the breeder through the Full Litter Registration Process. This suggestion is in response to feedback on the Full Litter Registration Option that was received from Delegates and AKC Fanciers. Without objection, it was agreed that the following italicized paragraph is to be added to Chapter 3, Section 4A of the *Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline*.

The term "owner(s)" in this section means all of the owners of the litter at birth. Thus, all owners of the litter must agree to both the imposition and the removal of the limited designation. If the owners disagree on whether there shall be full or limited registration, in the absence of any written agreement to the contrary, the dog will receive full registration.

Only when the entire litter has been initially individually registered by the owners of the litter at birth through the Full Litter Registration, the Limited Registration for any dog in that litter may be requested by those owners at the time of the first transfer of that dog.

And that Section 11 of AKC Procedures for Registration Matters be amended to read as follows: Limited registration can be designated at the time the dog is individually registered or during the first transfer of a dog, provided the dog was registered initially by the litter owner(s) through the Full Litter Registration process. The limited designation may be removed upon the written permission of the litter owner(s) and upon submission of a form for that purpose, which is available from the AKC, and the required fee.

The Origin and Purpose of the Labrador Retriever by Dr. B.W. Ziessow

The recent proliferation of books written about the Labrador Retriever is consistent with the breeds growth in popularity. All seem to have at least one thing in common; if not the first, one early chapter pertains to the origins and/or history of the Labrador Retriever.

Where did he come from? To understand the origin of the Labrador Retriever, almost requires a study of the history of Newfoundland. The island from whence he came. According to Dick Wolters, probably the best modern dog chronicler of the breed, the first people to settle Newfoundland were the Dorset Eskimos. However, they didn't have any dogs. Nor is there any evidence any dogs inhabited the island when they arrived.

The so called "new world" was known by whalers and fisherman as early as the fifteenth century. Bristol (England) traders "discovered" Newfoundland in 1494 and the Bristol Company attempted to establish its first settlement in 1504; however, it was not until over 100 years later Newfoundland was finally settled; almost entirely by fisherman that jumped ship. It is said that for almost two centuries afterward, the island had no law - courts, police, schools and churches were non-existent.

Notwithstanding it's harsh life, Newfoundland's fishing industry grew and prospered. Each year fleets of fishing boats from England and other European nations were sent to fish it's waters. The dried salted fish was shipped to European countries, principally the Catholic country of the south.

I provided the short insight into life in Newfoundland to give some idea of the environment in which the Labrador

Continued from page 5

Retriever originated and was developed. Where the dog originally came from is open to question. There are many theories pertaining to the origin of the Labrador. One states it was a descendant of the Newfoundland dog - hence the name lesser Newfoundland was used to describe the smaller dog. However, as stated previously there is no evidence that any dogs existed in Newfoundland before the fisherman arrived and it is generally agreed that the ancestors of the Newfoundland dog was also brought to the island by fisherman from the European countries.

Since same was abundant in the island and a good hunting dog could provide food to supplement their fish diet it is believed the early settlers brought or imported dogs hunting stock from home. Accordingly, both the larger and smaller Newfoundland dogs had to be introduced.

In 1662, W.E. Cormack, a native of St. John's made a journey on foot across Newfoundland. In his account of his journey he saw small water dogs which he describes as "admirably trained as retrievers in fowling and are otherwise useful - - the smooth or shorthaired dog 15 preferred because in frosty weather, the long haired kind become incumbered with ice on coming out off the water."

Since utility was an important factor, the dogs also had to be good strong swimmers and be small enough for the fisherman to take in his dory. A good friend and business associate (w. Wallace anderson), who was born and raised in Newfoundland reports that as late as the 1920's, Newfoundland fishermen carried a Labrador Retriever in the dory to retrieve fish that came off the trawl. He also stated that, while the larger and smaller dogs (Newfoundlands and Labradors) slept together under the house they did not interbreed.

The Labrador's hunting and swimming ability, as well as his good disposition did not go unnoticed by the English sportsmen. When organized shooting of pheasant, grouse and partridges became popular among the landed gentry in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries it became the custom to replace pointers and setters with retrievers. In the early days, a retriever was simply known as a "retriever" and the owners freely interbreed short coated, long coated and curly coated retrievers. Many dogs were imported from Newfoundland and their owners considered them vastly superior as retrievers to any other breed.

Colonel Hawker, in 1830, referred to the St. John's breed of water dogs as, "by far the best for any kind of shooting he is generally black and no bigger than a pointer, very fine in legs with short smooth hair and does not carry his tail so much curled; is extremely quick retrieving, swimming and fighting."

The 2nd Earl of Malmsbury is credited to have imported some of the first St. John's or Labrador dogs about or before 1830 his son, the third Earl (1807-1889) imported many and bred them. Among others who imported dogs from Newfoundland about 1835 were the 5th Duke of Buccleuch, his brother Lord John Scott and the 10th Earl of Home.

The 3rd Earl of Malmsbury in a letter written to the 6th Duke of Buccleuch said, "We always call mine Labrador dogs and I have kept the breed as pure as I could from the first I had -- the real breed may be known by their having a close coat which turns water off like oil, and, about all, a tail like an otter." However, all breeders did not always "keep the breed pure". Many breeders, realizing the excellent qualities, crossed Labradors with other retrievers. Still, if a Labrador is crossed with some other strain, the Labrador type nearly always predominated and their descendants were most always called Labradors.

"Stonehenge", writing in 1873 included the following in his description and scale of points of the Labrador Retriever.

"Symmetry and temperament - the symmetry and elegance of this dog are considerable and should be valued highly. The evidences of a good temper must be regarded with great care since his utility depends on his disposition."

The Labrador Retriever was first recognized as a special breed by the Kennel Club (England) on 7th July, 1903, at which time it was decided to give classes at the Kennel Club Show for Labradors as a separate breed. On 3rd november, 1903, Labradors were definitely recognized as a separate breed and on 3rd january, 1905, they were separately classified as a sub-variety of retrievers.

In 1923 the Hon. A Holland Hibbert (later Lord Knutsford) wrote an article in which various points of the breed conformation are described:

continued from page 6

Having been asked to write something of description and characteristics of the Labrador Retriever for those who taking an interest in the breed let me first give recognized description:

Shoulder height 21 to 23 inches Bitches 2 or 3 inches less

Average weight About 60 lbs

Coat Straight, neither wave nor curl, the thicker and closer the better. Dogs have a harder and coarser coat than bitches.

Head Skull broad and well domed leaving plenty of "brain pan". Ears rather far back and set fairly high (but not cocked up like a collie's) and rather small. Avoid mastiff-like head with its heavy hang and shape of ears. The 'stop' is not very pronounced. Muzzle on the square side as opposed to the snippy shape, which is much to be avoided.

Colour of eye Brown - the colour of burnt sugar a generous affectionate aspect is characteristic of the breed and this rules out any tendency to snub nose.

Shoulders and body Rather laid back, chest on the broad side - ribs really well sprung - body compact - back straight and good loins.

Feet and legs Forelegs straight and the more cat-like the feet the better. Splay feet are much to be avoided.

Tail The nearer the level carriage and the closer resemblance to an otter tail the better, i.e. short and thick at stump with the hair underneath divided almost as if parted

General appearance The general appearance should be that of a strong built, short coupled very active dog - wider in the head than a flat coat and wider through the chest - ribs well spring-coat close and dense, coat free from curl and wave - skull wide giving plenty of brain room - tail short and straight - eyes colour of burnt sugar - feet small and upright."

It was not until 1917 that the first Labrador was registered by the American Kennel Club. In 1927, there were only twenty three retrievers of all kinds (Labradors, goldens, flat coat, curly coat and Chesapeake) registered with the AKC. During the twenties, American sportsmen, attempting to emulate the Scottish sport of pass shooting, brought in young Scottish gamekeepers, bought guns from the finest London gunsmiths and imported dogs from British kennels. Some wealthy families virtually turned their estates into shooting preserves. It wasn't long before the "shoots" developed into field trials. The first trial licensed by the AKC was held December 21, 1931. According to James Cowie.

The early licensed Labrador Retriever trials were the result of the work of Franklin B. Lord, the moving force behind the small group of sportsmen that organized the Labrador Retriever Club.

The Labrador Retriever Club, was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York on October 7, 1931. The particular objects of the Club were stated as follows:

(a) To maintain, foster and encourage a spirit of cooperation in the breeding owning and exhibiting of pure bred Labrador Retriever dogs by individuals, organizations, kennel clubs, show clubs and specialty clubs

(b) To formulate, define, ascertain and publish the the standard type of Labrador Retriever dogs and to procure standard type of Labrador Retriever dogs and to induce the adoption of said standard type by breeders, judges, dog owners, dog show committees and others, and to endeavor to have standard type recognized by all, so that the Labrador Retriever breed shall be judged by said standard.

(c) To encourage foster help, aid and assist to protect advance and increase the interest of people in the Labrador dog breed.

Continued from page 7

(d) To offer prizes, create publicity and give and support shows where Labrador Retriever dogs are exhibited.

(e) To do all such acts and things as are incident or conducive to the premises and generally to do all acts and things and to exercise all the powers now or hereafter authorized by law necessary to carry on the said Corporation or to promote any of the objects of said Corporation, all of which shall be conducted without pecuniary profits.

The Clubs first annual specialty show was held on May 18, 1933 in New York City. The judge was Mrs. Marshal Field, Best in Show was awarded to Mr. F. B. Lord's Boli of Blake who was the first Labrador to earn his American championship. (Nov. 1, 1933)

The first Best in Show Labrador in this country, Ch. Earlsmoor Moor of Arden, ran and placed in field trials. When Labradors were a relatively rare breed, his show record would, even today, be considered remarkable -- times shown 42, best of breed 40, placed in sporting group 27 times, won sporting group 12 times, awarded best in show 5 times, and won the national specialty 5 times. Based on the number of the Labradors shown today, perhaps this proves proliferation. Sometimes works in reverse.

It is important for any Labrador fancier or judge to recognize and appreciate that the Labrador Retriever was imported into England and introduced into this country by gentlemen and lady sportsmen for one, and only one, purpose -to retrieve upland game and water fowl.

The American sportsmen adopted the breed from England and subsequently developed and trained the dog to fulfill the hunting needs of this country. Today, as in the past, the Labrador will eagerly enter in ice cold water in Minnesota to retrieve a shot bird; he'll work all day hunting doves in the heat of the Southwest -- his only reward is a pat for a job well done.

As a judge of the breed for over thirty years and a breeder since 1951, my personal description of the breed is that of a strongly built, medium size, short coupled, active dog possessing an athletic, well-balanced conformation that enables it to function as a retrieving gun dog; the substance and soundness to hunt waterfowl or upland game for long hours under difficult conditions; the character and quality to win in the show ring; and the temperament to be a family companion. Physical features and mental characteristics should denote a dog bred to perform as an efficient retriever of game with a stable temperament suitable for a variety of pursuits beyond the hunting environment.

Above all the Labrador Retriever must be well balanced - the components of his anatomy in proper correlation, enabling him to move in the show ring or run in the field with little or no effort. The true Labrador possesses elegance without over refinement and substance with out lumber or cloddiness.

The Officers and Directors of the Labrador Retriever Club, as well as the majority of the sportsmen involved in the breed are disturbed with a recent trend towards two so called "types" of Labrador Retrievers -- field dogs and show dogs. We are concerned if the trend persists, the breed may be divided into two separate and distinct kinds of dogs, as have so many breeds in the sporting group.

Thank You

To Kevin Bergenson of Legacy Labradors was a saint in handing over a surrogate nursing mom to help raise a litter.

Merri Mahoney
New Watch Labradors.

Conformation Requirements
Working vs. Show Dogs **by Dr. B.W. Ziessow**

I am frequently asked the question - - "Are the conformation requirements the same for a working dog and a show dog?"

Many years ago someone asked my long respected all-breed judge, the late Louis Muir the same question. He responded that both the field dog and show dog should have exactly the same conformation and condition.

If one were to examine the history of the Labrador Retriever, he would find the dog was bred with one purpose in mind - to be a working retriever. This was true in Newfoundland where the fishermen carried a Labrador Retriever in the dory to retrieve fish that came off the trawl. Their hunting and retrieving ability was the reason the breed was imported to England by sportsmen in the early nineteenth century. It is also the reason why gentlemen and lady sportsmen brought the dog into this country.

By definition, conformation in any breed is the symmetrical formation and arrangement of (body) parts; conforming to a model or a plan (i.e., the breed standard). The first question that must come to mind in judging any breed or evaluating an individual specimen is "Can the dog do the job he was originally intended to do?" It is axiomatic that proper conformation is basic to the survival of any breed and is equally important to both the show dog and the hunter. It is ludicrous therefore, to think of type as something extra to breed conformation and/or soundness (which is tantamount to proper movement). Without them you can't have true breed type. Accordingly, there is one (and only one) correct type of Labrador Retriever.

The ideal Labrador, and I say ideal because the perfect specimen hasn't been born, should, in my opinion, possess the conformation of a retrieving gun dog able to excel in field work, the quality to win in the show ring, the substance and soundness to hunt upland game and water fowl for long hours under difficult conditions, and the disposition to be a faithful companion and family friend. In all, the physical features and mental characteristics should denote the work the dog was bred to perform.

It is important to remember conformation is not a quality which is either entirely present or entirely absent. There are many degrees of conformation. The problem that faces the Labrador Retriever (and many other breeds) today is to define what degree of variation from the standard of perfection is acceptable for ourselves and, therefore, for the breed. It is most unfortunate, but true, there are many people in the dog fancy today that have the mistaken idea that the ideal specimen of the breed is what is winning at Dog Shows or successfully competing in Field Trials, as opposed to the characteristics that were essential in the development of the breed. This false notion has led to the demise of many sporting breeds as working dogs - - while capable of winning ribbons at dog shows, they are unable physically to do the job the breed was originally intended to perform, they are lacking in those features which formed the basis for the breed conformation and standard. Equally disturbing are the number of dogs being run in field trials (and used for breeding) that do not come up to the breed standards of conformation and soundness.

Dr. B.W. Ziessow 9-1-90



Labrador Retriever Awarded
AKCAKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE)



Service Dog: "Benton" owned by Margo Dietrich of Norcross, GA

Benton is a six-year-old Labrador Retriever trained by Canine Companions for Independence as an assistance dog for his owner Margo Dietrich. Some of the daily tasks Benton assists Dietrich with include retrieving dropped items, dressing, and transferring her to and from a wheelchair.