

# The Retriever Believer

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 33, Number 8, August 2016



## PSLRA Officers

President: Stephanie Harris  
stephanie@skyfirelabs.com  
509-929-5227

Vice President: Shelah Frey  
shelahfrey@comcast.net  
425-643-6884

Secretary: Jennifer Hajny  
blutopfarms@hotmail.com  
509-859-2241

Treasurer: Jill Mahoney  
Mahoney@wwdb.org  
253-630-4810

## PSLRA Board of Directors

Kimberly Dotsen  
clovercreeklabs@msn.com  
253-278-1116

Brenda Hubbard  
brooke-lynn@msn.com  
253-661-9443

Marcy Johnson  
marcy@soundviewlabradors.com  
206-510-3467

Linda Maffett  
SunnydazeLabradors@hotmail.com  
360-961-5269

Nina Mann  
Harbortoplabs@gmail.com  
360-629-7619

Lizzie Moir  
lizzie.moir@gmail.com  
360-827-1874

Marlys Swanson  
Marlyss2000@gmail.com  
425-422-4789

Diane Sullenberger  
harlequinlabradors@yahoo.com  
360-652-8271

## Resource Contacts

### LRC Western Time Zone Coordinator:

Nina Mann  
Harbortoplabs@gmail.com  
360-629-7619

### Field Chair:

Jim Olson  
cindyto@q.com  
253-833-8739

### Litter Listings:

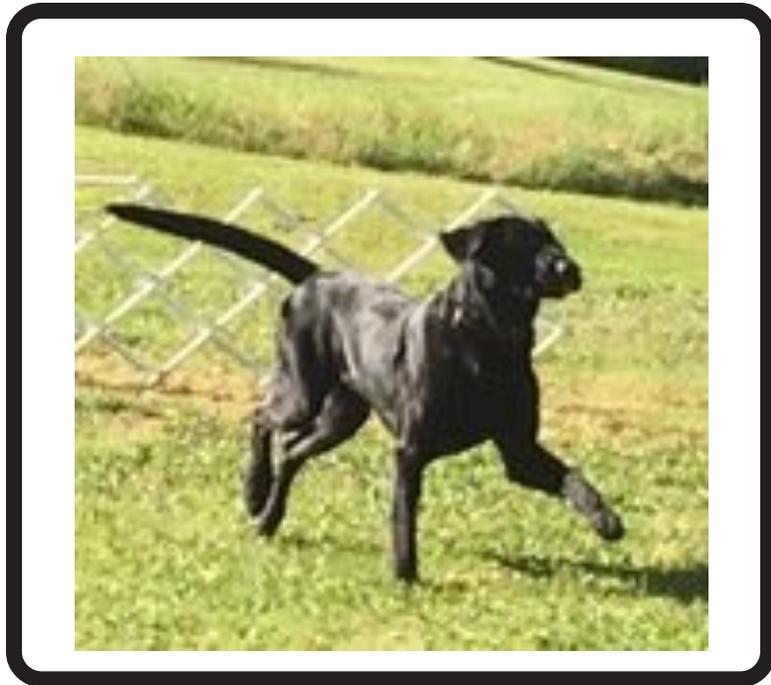
Nina Mann  
Harbortoplabs@gmail.com  
360-629-7619

### Public Information:

Cheri Wildes  
cheri@gunsuplabs.com  
425-397-0176

### Labrador Rescue:

Edith Bryan  
Bryan760@whidbey.net



*Proof your obedience  
Labs for success!  
see page 5*

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**August 5-7, KISS & Specialty,  
Enumclaw, Jill Mahoney & Lizzie Moir**  
**August 6, Membership & Board Meeting**  
**September 25, Health Clinic, Riverdog, Issaquah, M J Sarbaugh**

**Newsletter Information:****Publishing of an article or advertisement**

Fran Seagren

17816 SE Green Valley Rd

Auburn, WA 98092

e-mail: labrdrs@earthlink.net

**Submissions must be received by the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.** Please use "newsletter ideas" in subject line.

*The Retriever Believer* is published monthly by the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association. Non-member subscriptions are \$20/year. Contributions in the form of articles, letters or money are always welcome. Letters to the editor should not exceed one page of typeset in the newsletter. It is our goal to provide an open forum where members can present their views to the club. The editor and the board of directors reserve the right to decline publication of advertising and other material submitted for publication.

*The Retriever Believer* will publish brags (free) and Puppy Referral litter listings provided a club member owns either the sire or the dam and a \$10 listing fee has been paid to Puppy Referral. All litter listings and litter advertising must comply with the PSLRA Code of Ethics.

Editor: Fran Seagren

Layout: Chris Roth

**Membership in the PSLRA is open to anyone interested in Labrador retrievers. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals, \$25 for families. Junior memberships are \$10 (for a separate listing in the membership book and a separate newsletter).** Please note that new members require the signature of two sponsors on the application form.

Requests for information, applications and/or payment of dues should be addressed to:

**Stephanie Harris, Membership Chair**

341 Cross Creek Drive

Ellensburg, Washington 98926

stephanie@skyfirelabs.com

## club business July board meeting

PSLRA Board and Membership Meeting was held Wednesday, July 20, 2016, Arlington, Washington. Meeting was called to order by President, Stephanie Harris at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were Board of Directors Jill Mahoney, Nina Mann, Diane Sullenberger, Stephanie Harris, Brenda Hubbard, Linda Maffett, Marlys Swanson, and Jennifer Hajny. General member present, Mary Jane Sarbaugh.

**Officers Reports**

*President:* Stephanie Harris - None at this time.

*Vice President:* Shelah Frey - None at this time

*Secretary:* Jennifer Hajny -

Correspondence from AKC regarding recent events that have closed. Hunt test judges have been returning contracts.

*Treasurer:* Jill Mahoney reported that donations have been received for the Rescue program. Monthly reports available upon request.

**Acknowledgements**

The PSLRA Board would like to thank the following individuals for their volunteering efforts:

—Diane and Todd Sullenberger for hosting our meeting!

—Cheri and Mark Levine and Julie Germano - Chairpersons for the Spring Agility Trial.

**Committee Reports**

*Field Chair Report:* None at this time

*Rescue Report:* Look for the report in this Newsletter.

*Hunt Test:* Fall hunt test is fast approaching. Volunteers will be needed to help, please consider coming out to help for a day or two.

*Agility Trials:* Donation was made to Old Dog Haven from a special class at the trial.

*Specialty 2016:* Entries closed today. Still looking for judges liaison and ring stewards.

*Health Clinic:* September 25 at Riverdog in Issaquah. Pre-registration only. Look for the flyer in this newsletter.

*Fall WC:* The Chairperson has a conflict with the date of the WC and is no longer able to chair the event. We would love to have another volunteer step in and chair

this event. If we do not have a chair, we will have to cancel the event.

*Holiday Party:* This year it will be hosted by Scott and Becky Dannaker on Saturday, December 3, 2016 in Duvall.

*Membership:* Mary Jane asked about the process for accepting and voting in new members.

**Old Business**

*Event judges contacts:* Review of judges contracts are in progress. There was discussion about judges' expenses and how the club can be more involved in reminding judges to book travel plans WELL in advance.

*Stud Dog Auction:* Linda reviewed requirements for the stud dog auctions. As a reminder, stud dogs on prelims will include a disclaimer that PSLRA strongly encourages successful bidders to wait until final clearances are available before going through with the breeding per our Code of Ethics.

There was discussion about having a minimum bid, with incremental bidding requirements. Jill moved and Diane seconded a motion that the minimum bid for the stud dog auction will be set at \$400.00, with \$25 minimum incremental bids. Vote- 6 yeas, 1 nay, motion passed.

*Tolt River RV Park & Shelton Sites:*

Diane and Sonja are still planning on going to check out this site for future specialty site. There is another group that is going out to the proposed Shelton site. Stay tuned for more information.

**New Business**

Kawai Nahoopii was awarded the PSLRA Scholarship for graduating seniors. Way to go Kawai!

**Open Discussion**

*Specialty Date:* Stephanie is asking that we consider changing our show date. There are many factors to be considered - too close to RCLRC, dogs out of coat, too hot. Discussion took place and was decided to do some looking and thinking and revisit this topic next month.

There was discussion about cutting events to once per year in order to stop over-spending. The pros and cons were discussed. Feedback from members is welcomed.

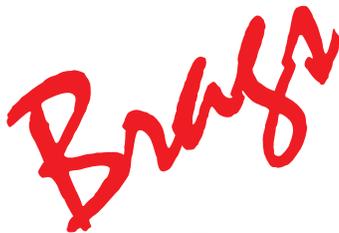
Nina brought up the idea to expand the awards for All-Around Labrador qualifications. Discussion will take place via email. Decision will be made before the next Board meeting.

The Board encourages members to watch for volunteer opportunities coming up!

There will be a Membership Meeting at the Specialty in August on Saturday evening. Please plan on coming!

The next Board meeting will be August 24, location TBD, possibly a teleconference.

Adjourned: 9:05



The black boys had a good weekend at the Portland Kennel Club show obedience trials 7/23/16 - 7/24/16. On Saturday, Fergus finished his CDX title with third place and is now Am GCH/Can CH/UKC CH/HRCH ReiMur's Juz Fulla Myself MH CDX RE CGC Can CD/JH/WCX. On Sunday, Larson (Can CH ReiMur's Good Humor Man JH RN Am/Can WC) qualified with fourth place his first time in Beginner Novice B to earn the first leg of his BN title.—Darlene Pado, ReiMur Labradors

# Rescue Report

## Rescue update on “the best dog in the world”

Five years ago, a local family came to us looking to adopt a rescued Lab after their dearly loved black Lab passed away. He had been part of their family for over 15 years.

We were able to match the family with a one-year-old black male Lab who was in need of a new home. The Lab's name was Tuff, but he was soon renamed Tomasso. Tomasso turned out to be a real gem! He quickly settled down into his new life, and his sweet and friendly disposition endeared him to “almost” everyone. For some reason, he has always objected to the visits of the UPS truck (maybe he doesn't like brown uniforms?) Otherwise, Tomasso rarely barks and is a true Lab gentleman.

Tomasso visits a local groomer regularly, and he has been proclaimed the favorite of all of the Labs she grooms. He also has an avid fan in a house sitter, who jumps at any chance to spend time with Tomasso. His family declares that there is no doubt that Tomasso is “the best dog in the world.”

A few weeks ago, Tomasso's family saw a post on a neighborhood web site that a couple was looking for a Lab to rescue. So they went to the PSLRA web page to forward the information about Lab rescue. On the web page they noticed the “donate” button and decided to make a generous recurring donation to our rescue program! We are so grateful to Tomasso's family for both rescuing a deserving Lab and making it possible for us to help other Labs in need.



# Competition Obedience and Proofing

by Terrie Sato

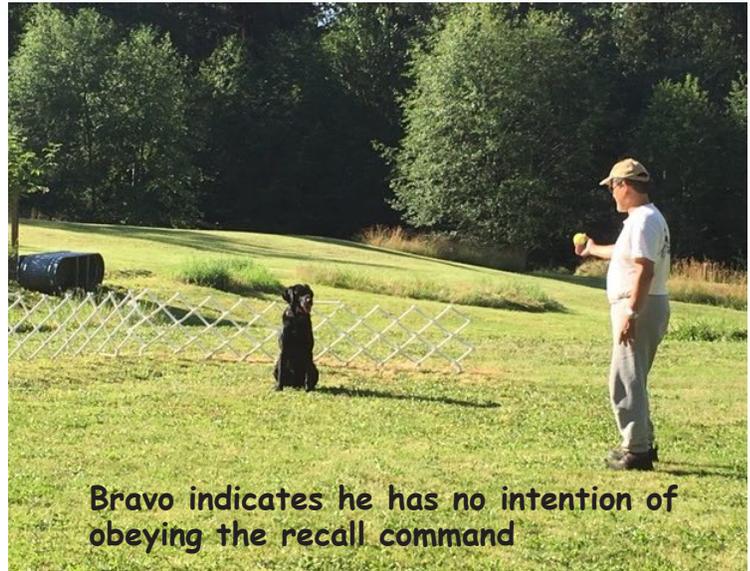
“My dog has never done that before!” This lament is often heard outside the obedience ring. It is frustrating to train the perfect dog at home and in class only to see the dog fail when it enters the ring. Why does this happen? There are many reasons given for a ring failure. One important reason may be overlooked. If your dog has failed an exercise in the ring, ask yourself if the dog has been trained not to make that mistake.

If a dog has never been allowed to make a mistake, does it mean he understands how to perform correctly? Not necessarily. Proofing, or allowing the dog to perform incorrectly, and then showing him that he is wrong, can be a very beneficial addition to your training program. Many do not like to proof. Some feel that setting a dog up with the possibility of failure adds to stress and a poor attitude. They stake their hopes for success on muscle memory. Muscles do not have memories. Once a dog has learned how to perform correctly, showing the dog that there are incorrect ways to perform and correcting those mistakes before entering the ring can only increase the chance of success. Both dog and handler are more confident. Let me use Bravo as an example.

While training the directed jumping I noted that Bravo knocked over the bar jump when someone was throwing a football near by. This could indicate a jumping problem, but more likely it was a distraction problem. It appeared that I needed to show Bravo that he could perform even if someone was throwing a football. However, the football was not really the problem. There are many distractions and it is impossible to proof for every possible distraction a dog might encounter. In breaking down the directed jumping exercise, the part that Bravo failed was simply an advanced recall. On my signal, my dog should take the indicated jump and come to me. If his mind is not focused on jumping and coming to me, he could fail the exercise.

I decided to proof Bravo on the basic Novice recall. I wanted to be sure he understood that he must come when I call. With a helper in tow I placed Bravo in a sit, walked away, then turned to face him with my hands at my side. This is an exercise very familiar to Bravo, and one he has successfully performed many times. My helper held a tennis ball and stood off to the side between us. Bravo could have performed the recall perfectly or made one of three mistakes. No matter the distraction there are only three ways to fail the Novice recall. He could have failed to move when I called, he could have come before I called him, or he could have gotten lost on his way to me by going to my helper holding the tennis ball. Since Bravo had been distracted by the football, my guess was that he might be distracted by someone simply holding a tennis ball.

Obedience, *continued on page 6*



Obedience, *continued from page 5*



From the moment I left him, Bravo clearly indicated that he was more interested in the tennis ball than in coming to me. I called and Bravo made no effort to come. Instead he ran to my helper and the tennis ball. I went to get him, gave him a pop on the collar and told him “no, come” as I backed up a few steps. Having demonstrated a clear lack of effort, the correction was very fair. Bravo demonstrated that he understood his mistake. He executed a beautiful recall when we repeated the exercise with the distraction.



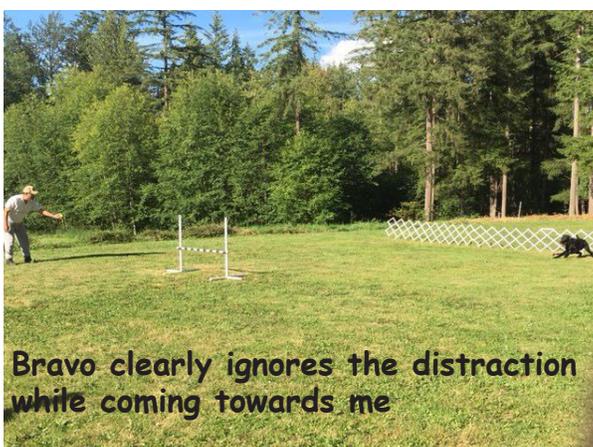
I next decided to use the same distraction on the return from a retrieve. Since we are working on Utility, I had my helper distract Bravo on the way back from a glove retrieve. The return on any retrieve is still a recall exercise. No problem! Bravo clearly demonstrated that he understood the retrieved glove should be brought directly back to me. Perhaps the review and correction on the Novice recall had made him more thoughtful on the glove retrieve. Or perhaps Bravo simply enjoyed and valued the glove retrieve over the tennis ball. I was happy for success, but wondered if it would carry over to the directed jumping exercise.

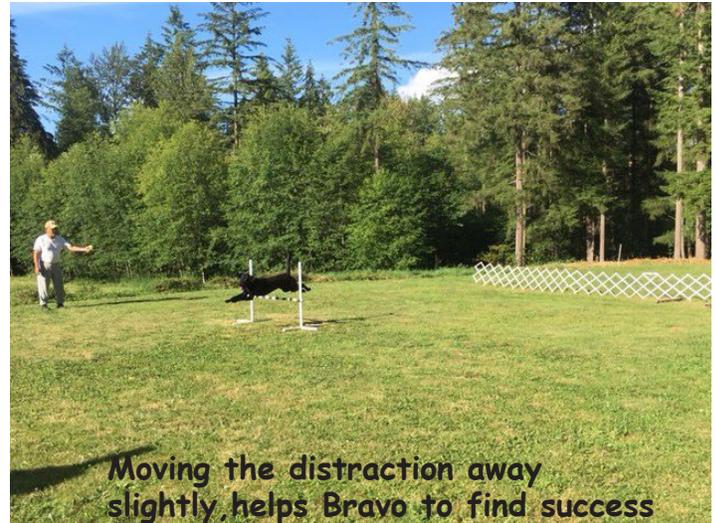


I placed Bravo at the gates between the jumps.

I was working on the recall part of this exercise and didn't want

to get the message ‘come to me’ lost if he should have a poor go out. I also lowered the jump height to simplify the exercise and eliminate a jumping issue. My helper stood near the jump with the tennis ball. I gave Bravo the signal to take the bar jump. Oh Oh! Bravo cut in and missed the jump entirely! This was an effort error. Bravo was clearly attempting to be good by moving away from the distraction. I went to meet Bravo, indicating that missing the jump was not correct. However, this time he did not get a pop correction. Proofing should cause a lack of effort and Bravo was clearly trying to avoid the distraction.





I asked my helper to take a few steps away from the side of the ring to simplify the picture. With the distraction still in view but not quite so close, Bravo was able to perform the exercise correctly. He was enthusiastically rewarded for his effort. Please note that I did not take the distraction away nor did I use food to bribe Bravo. He needed to learn to make the correct decision in spite of the distraction and without a lure. Good dog!!

Each exercise in the obedience ring can only be failed in a finite number of ways. In my recall example I would ideally also proof for failure to come as well as anticipation. While training for the group sit exercise, I would proof my dog for getting up as well as for laying down, as those are the only mistakes the dog can make during that exercise. As seen by Bravo's example, many of the mistakes made in the advanced exercises are related to mistakes made in the Novice exercises. Proofing the basics makes for a better understanding of both how to perform and how not to perform the obedience exercises. Sensible proofing can lead to success. Here's hoping you have great success in the obedience ring!

Thank you to my husband, Mike, for agreeing to be my training buddy, to my son, Andy, for taking the pictures and of course to Bravo for brilliantly displaying the benefits of proofing. Also a big thanks to Connie Cleveland for helping me understand the benefits of sensible proofing.



## June PSLRA Agility Trial

Agility is the most fun you can have with your dog. It's a winning combination of accuracy and speed but most of all, TEAMWORK! If you have a special bond with your dog (we all know we do!) then you can do agility.

June 24 through June 26 PLSRA held their Spring Agility Trial in Mt. Vernon, Washington. We had a wonderful weekend. We honored many types of dogs. Both Friday and Saturday we honored "High in Group" dogs based on the dog of each group that performed clean runs and the fastest runs. Some of those dogs were novice dogs and handlers.

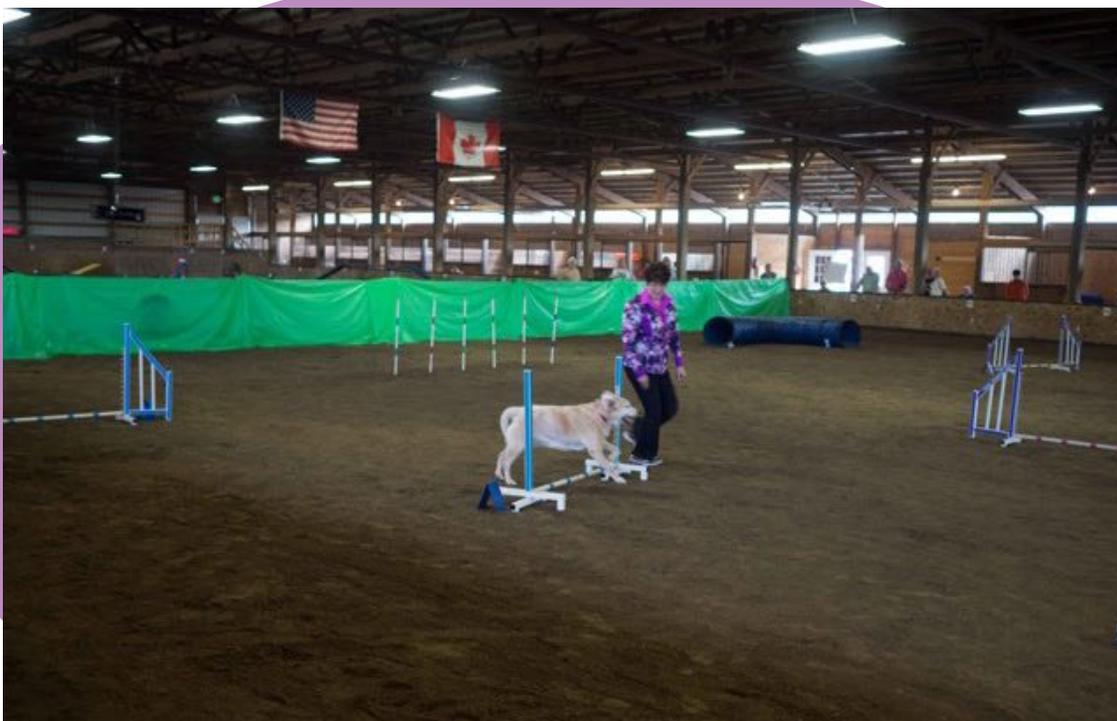
We had two wonderful judges that enjoyed the high-class trial we put together. The most special event was our "Old Dog Run." We had 19 dogs ranging from 5 to 15 years old. Two of the young dogs honored their mothers who had recently passed away. Some of you may have seen the video posted in the PSLRA Facebook page showing my 15-year-old lab enjoying herself.

The veteran dog run benefits Old Dog Haven which is a great community service and we offered runs by dogs to honor dogs that no longer could run. We would like to see more people honor their old agility dogs who in turn are bringing recognition and support to other veteran dogs of Old Dog Haven. We stopped the trial in the middle of the day so all competitors could watch the old dogs. It was so special for all!

We hope to see more labs at our Fall Agility Trial in November. Remember, an event cannot go on without volunteers to help.

*Cheri Levine – Chairman Spring PSLRA Agility Trial*

*Julie Germano – Chairman Spring PSLRA Agility Trial*





**LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 7/30/2016 that conform to the P.S.L.R.A. Code of Ethics.**

Information is as submitted by owners and provided as a service to the public. Listings of litters are in no way an endorsement by P.S.L.R.A. of any litter or any one litter over another. Litters are removed from the list after 12 weeks.

To publish **LITTER LISTINGS** in the newsletter, the following information **must be available**:

- \* Elbows and hips must be certified on both the sire and dam.
  - \* Current eye clearances on both parents annually.
  - \* At least one of each breeding pair must be tested and certified clear of EIC, PRA and CNM or be shown as CBP. Heart clearances will be included in the listing at the discretion of the breeder.
  - \* A PSLRA member must own either the sire or the dam and must submit the listing for a non-member.
  - \* Please obtain a Litter Listing form from the PSLRA web site, to be used for ALL litters.
  - \* All Breeders must update their litters each week with Nina Mann via email ([harbortop@netzero.net](mailto:harbortop@netzero.net)) as to the sex and color of puppies you have sold. The listing will be deleted after 12 weeks from the first litter listing date.
1. Mail or email the completed form to Nina Mann, 5706 312th St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292-9649. Please send the \$10 listing fee to Jill Mahoney, Treasurer, by check or PayPal.
  2. Your litter notice will appear on the web site and in the next PSLRA newsletter if it conforms to the Code of Ethics.
  3. If you know that the Litter Listing and the Puppy Referral programs have helped you sell your puppies, please send a donation to PSLRA (c/o Jill Mahoney, Treasurer) to show your appreciation. These donations will all be used for Lab Rescue.

*Glossary: EIC: Exercise Induced Collapse. CNM: Centronuclear Myopathy. ECHO: Echocardiogram. PRA: Progressive retinal atrophy, DD, dilute clear, CBP: Clear by Parentage.*

*Litter Listings:*

Litter born 6/15/2016 1 BM available

Sire: CH Thornwood's Bold Contender  
OFA24G, OFEL24N, LREYE 5/2016, Cardiac, EIC,  
CNM clear

Dam: Thornwood's Embraceable You  
OFA28F, OFEL28N, LREYE 5/2016

Litter: All black

Call: Cheri Conway (541)723-2467

Email: [forlabs@centurytel.net](mailto:forlabs@centurytel.net)

Listed 6/30/2016

Litter born 6/12/ 2016 1 BM available

Sire: Thornwood's Prepared To Dazzle,  
OFA24G, OFEL24N, LREYE 5/2016, Cardiac EIC CNM  
PRA clear

Dam: Thornwood's Precious Daughter  
OFA28F, OFEL28n, LREYE 5/2016

Litter: All black

Call: Cheri Conway (541) 723-2467

Email: [forlabs@centurytel.net](mailto:forlabs@centurytel.net)

Listed: 6 /30/2015

*Older dog listings:*

Older Dogs listed do not need to conform to the PSLRA Code of Ethics. Prospective buyers are encouraged to ask about the needs of these dogs and why the breeder/owner has decided to place them. Many of the dogs listed have basic obedience and are housebroken.

None at this time



Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Annual Health Clinic—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

NEW LOCATION! RIVERDOG CANINE COACHING
1400 19th Ave NW, Issaquah

Eye and Heart exams limited to Labrador Retrievers (except other breeds owned by PSLRA members)

All breeds and owners welcome for EIC, CNM and Microchips

By pre-reservation only—closes when limits are reached or September 16, whichever is first

Eye clinic-absolute limit of 100 dogs—All other tests, no limit

Payment of all fees is required in advance before reservations are confirmed.

A \$5.00 fee will be charged for canceling after paperwork is completed—NO refunds on day of clinic.

REMEMBER: You MUST enclose a copy of each dog's registration papers or litter registration —type or print entry form legibly!

- Eye clinic will be performed by Dr. Sullivan, ACVO, of Animal Eye Clinic of Seattle and is for genetic screening only.
• Do not bring dogs with eye injuries or other conditions requiring treatment.
• Heart Screening will be performed by Dr. Woodfield, ACVIM (cardiology) of Northwest Cardiology Consultants.
• For confidentiality, please refrain from announcing screen results, either positive or negative, while at this clinic.
• EIC and CNM swabs and identification verification will be done by veterinarians who have donated their time.

COSTS: Eye clinic: \$33.00; Heart Screening: (auscultation) \$35.00; Heart Echo \$175.00; Micro-chipping (TROVAN): \$20.00 (includes registration with AKC/CAR; Centronuclear Myopathy (CNM) \$50.00, also called Labrador Muscular Myopathy, (www.labradorcnm.com) Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC) \$65.00 - - register on line and bring form (http://www.vdl.umn.edu); Dilute Color Gene by DDC \$48.00; HNPk Gene by VetGen \$65.00

EMAIL: MARYJANE labsix@whidbey.com FOR QUESTIONS

Directions TO OUR NEW LOCATION! I-90 to exit 15 ... at exit turn right onto 17th Ave then right again onto NW Gillman then first right at traffic circle onto 19th Ave.

If you have multiple dogs it is GOOD to bring an assistant to help you rotate dogs.

PSLRA HEALTH CLINIC— September 25, 2016 RIVERDOG IN ISSAQUAH

Make checks payable to PSLRA.

Send a copy of your AKC papers AND Fill in the form below for each dog :

Mary Jane Sarbaugh 5062 Wynter Pl Langley, Wa 98260

NO E-MAIL ENTRIES THIS YEAR PLEASE— NO DAY OF CLINIC ENTRIES

WE NEED EVERY BLANK FILLED IN AND A COPY OF AKC PAPERS PLEASE!

Owner \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Microchip or Tattoo # \_\_\_\_\_ Breed (if other than Labrador) \_\_\_\_\_ call name \_\_\_\_\_

Times: 8:00 - 9:00 \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 - 10:00 \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 - 11:00 \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00 - 12:00 \_\_\_\_\_

NO APPOINTMENTS AFTER 12

Please number in order of preference. Scheduled time is for eye drops. Your preferred time may not be available. Confirmations will ONLY be sent via e-mail address.

This dog will be: Eye Screened \_\_\_\_\_ Heart Auscultation \_\_\_\_\_ Heart Echo \_\_\_\_\_

CNM \_\_\_\_\_ EIC \_\_\_\_\_ DILUTE \_\_\_\_\_ HNPk \_\_\_\_\_

Micro-chipped \_\_\_\_\_ (TROVAN ONLY)

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



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*Specialty Time!*