

THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 23, Number 2, February 2006



PSLRA Officers

President: Jan Palumbo

206-362-2098

Vice President: Dave Lawniczak

253-939-7984

Secretary: Carole Jensen

360-856-2902

Treasurer: Darlene Pado

206-937-9765

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253-946-5890

Bea Ferguson

425-778-6938

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509-925-1259

Vickie Hoskinson

360-856-0649

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425-483-8993

Cheri Levine

425-888-2719

Linda Maffett

360-961-5269

Nina Mann

360-629-7619

Chantel Nahoopii

360-724-5227

Ron Perry

206-523-1615

Susie Sharp

425-488-0772

Field Chair

Bryant and Cindy Meyer

Rockingmlabs@qwest.net

Western Time Zone Coordinator-LRC

Nina Mann

Membership

Chantel Nahoopii

Public Information

Ron Perry

Litter Listings

Marlys Swanson 360-658-7604

mlswanson@verizon.net

Public Puppy Inquiries

Merlyn Foote 425-402-1362

Rescue

Edith Bryan 360-678-1556

Newsletter

Terrie Sato 425-788-6628

WDSato@aol.com

Web site

pslra.org

President's Message

The crocuses are up, daylight is returning, Spring is around the corner! And we can get out in the field with our labs!

*PSLRA has two field events coming up soon. First, a field Fun/Training Day on March 4 at Greenleaf's Farm, near Monroe, Washington. This is a great opportunity to introduce your dog to field work, or for the experienced dogs to get some practice. New club members are especially invited. Several experienced club members will be there to help new people teach their Labradors what field work is all about. It will be both a **fun day** and a **training day!** Then on April 8 our 5 Series, also at Greenleaf's Farm, will give us another field opportunity. Please see the articles in this newsletter for more information on both these events. If you'd like to help in either event, contact the chairpersons, Terrie Sato for the Fun/Training Day and Liz Skyllingstad for the 5 Series.*

Our club booth was on display at the Sportsman Show in Puyallup last month. Several club members and their dogs were there showing off their great Labradors and distributing literature about Labradors and PSLRA. Thanks to Cheri Levine for organizing it and to the club members who helped out.

You can also see our booth at the Seattle Kennel Club show in March. Be sure and stop by and see all the great photos of our Labradors at work and play that will be on display. If you'd like to help out, contact Lucy Issacson-Logan.

Hope to see you all at these events!—Jan



IMPORTANT DATES

March 4 Field Fun/Training Day, Greenleaf's Farm, Terrie Sato WDSato@aol.com
March 11-12 Seattle Kennel Club, Meet the Breed
March 22 Board Meeting
April 8 5 Series, Greenleaf's Farm, Liz Skyllingstad, LSKY@harboret.com

Newsletter Information:

Publishing of an article or advertisement does not constitute endorsement or agreement by the PSLRA.

All submissions should be sent to:

Terrie Sato, Editor
 31902 NE 139th St.
 Duvall, WA 98019

e-mail: WDSato@aol.com

Submissions must be received by the editor by the 22nd of each month.

The Retriever Believer is published monthly by the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association in the interest of providing information and promoting the Labrador retriever. 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 other advertising of litters must comply with the PSLRA Code of Ethics.

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:
Chantel Nahoopii, Membership Chair
3413 Woodcrest Lane
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
 koalabs@msn.com

club business

March 4 Training Day

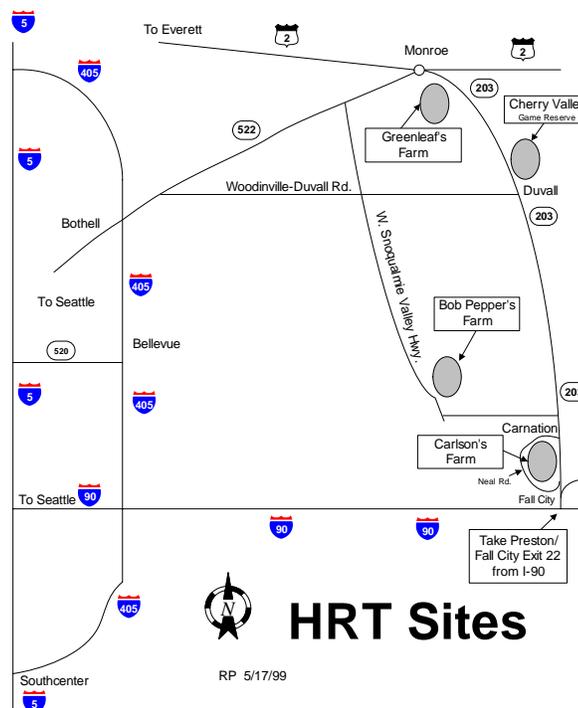
Saturday, March 4 marks the date of the PSLRA field training day. This event will be held at Greenleaf's Field just south of Monroe on Highway 203, see map below, and will begin at 10 a.m.. Experienced club members will be on hand to help with basic obedience as well as to help you and your dog learn about retrieving for field events. This is strictly a training day and is truly fun for both dog and handler.

Take advantage of this terrific opportunity to meet club members, socialize your dog and get in some training time. Pigeons will be available for live shot retrieves at a cost of \$5 a bird. Young puppies will be introduced to birds in preparation for the WC, the Five Series and field training practice. The equipment used at hunt tests will be available so that both you and your dog can become familiar with it. Learn about holding blinds, gun stations and wingers. Get tips on teaching your dog to walk on

a leash without pulling, sit, stay and come when called. Take a turn learning to use the equipment needed for hunt tests. Marks will be set up for retrieving practice. Experienced hunt test judges will be available to advise new handlers.

When you arrive, sign in at the table. At 10:15, a short gun safety discussion will be held. Obedience aid will be provided throughout the day. A location will be set aside for introducing pups and inexperienced dogs to birds. Marshals with clip boards and your sign in names will be on hand to direct you into the holding blinds for your turn with the flyers and marked retrieves. Please be prepared to take your turn working the equipment so that everyone gets a chance to practice with their dogs. Bring a sack lunch and dress for the weather. Look for the PSLRA sign at the entrance to Greenleaf's just before the bridge into Monroe on Highway 203. Rain or shine plan on spending the day!

To volunteer to help or for more information contact Terrie Sato at 425-788-6628, WDSato@aol.com.



Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association 5 SERIES SINGLES—Adult & Puppy Stakes

for all Retrievers, Irish Water Spaniels, Standard Poodles, and Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers
Saturday, April 8, 2006, Starting at 8 a.m.



Start time for puppies & junior handlers is 10 a.m.
Greenleaf's Farm, Monroe (see map, page 2)

5 Series Adult Stakes: \$22.50 Pre-Entry \$30.00 Day of Event
(3 series guaranteed, 2 live birds)
Puppy Stakes & Junior Handler: \$10.00 Pre-Entry \$15.00 Day of Event
(3 series total) (Junior Puppy 4-6 mos.) (Senior Puppy 6-12 mos.)

AWARDS

5 Series Adults: Trophy for First Place; 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place Rosettes;
Rosettes for all qualifying scores.
Puppies: Best Jr. Puppy, Best Sr. Puppy receive Rosettes; 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place Rosettes;
Rosettes for all qualifying puppies.
Junior Handlers (18 years or younger) will receive Rosettes.

Judges

5 Series Adults: Jim Charboneau and Doug Gallucci
Puppies & Jr. Handlers: Cindy Meyer and Liz Skyllingstad

~~~~~ PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2006 ~~~~~  
Registration on day of event (April 8) between 7 and 8 a.m. ONLY  
(Dogs registered on day of event will run after the pre-entry dogs)

Make checks payable to PSLRA and send with entry form to: Liz Skyllingstad  
P O Box 7427, Tacoma WA 98406-0427 (253)752-1696  
E-mail: LSKY@harbornet.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Registered Name/Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Level(s) entered (check all that apply) \_\_\_ 5 Series Adult \_\_\_ Jr. Puppy \_\_\_ Sr. Puppy  
Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Junior Handler: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
I will hold PSLRA and its members free from liability for any claim arising out of the entry of this dog(s) or its presence at the event.  
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: ONE ENTRY FORM PER DOG  
Please make copies of this form to enter additional dogs

# This Stinks

by Mike Foreman

Out of the corner of my eye I caught a glimpse of movement. Wyatt was anxiously awaiting the blow of my duck call which signals him that the birds are on their way. Down they come, wings cupped and committed. The big greenhead out front and two hens not far behind, were headed our way. Not too much calling, I was telling myself, as long as they keep coming. The leader started to swing wide so I gave them a soft come back call and sure enough, they turned to come around on their final approach. Wait... wait... OK... TAKE EM! I jumped up and swung on the leader, Butt, Bill, BANG! As the greenhead dropped I took a swing on one of the other hens... get out in front of it, and BANG. The hen crippled off and landed about 75 yards out in the weathered, winter brown grass. I sent Wyatt on the cripple first as the drake lay quiet on the pond. Back...good line...whistle...left over and good...bring it on back. I didn't need to remind Wyatt that there was one more bird to pick up. As soon as I took the hen, he was lined up and waiting for his release. It's getting late and we're losing light. Better head back soon...maybe just a few more minutes.

As the day ended, I thought of the many such memories that Wyatt and I have shared. These days afield are what the training has truly been about. We work as a team and know each other well. Little did I realize that the memory making for the day was not yet finished. It seems as though more often than not, as shooting time ends and twilight falls, those darn ducks start pouring into the flooded grass. It's always fun to watch the dog follow the birds in flight, and I, with my two ducks hanging over my shoulder, started the walk back to the truck. This is the

time Wyatt gets to explore a little bit and perhaps make some judgment calls of his own.

As we walked to the truck, pretty dark now, Wyatt ran off ahead of me and just off the gravel road. I'm thinking to myself that he must have seen a low flying bird or ... as I squinted to see what he had his



Mike Foreman and Wyatt after a successful day in the field with no pungent close encounters.

nose in... it struck me... TWO WHITE TAILS... NO!!! HERE!!! I could see the tails slowly moving away and Wyatt came back toward me... let's see now... any smell... not bad... maybe ... OH NO!!! The stench was unbelievable and it surrounded me like a fog, my nose was burning, and there was little left to do but get Wyatt into his crate for the ride home.

As I got into the truck, the skunk scent stayed with me. I headed home and decided to call Rhonda and let her know that I was bringing home a different dog. Rhonda said she would get on the internet and see what she could find out about ridding the dog of skunk smell.

- 1) Do not use most types of rinses such as tomato juice. These rinses only mask the smell and do not remove it.
- 2) Do mix one quart of peroxide, one quarter cup baking soda, and one teaspoon liquid dish detergent. Mix together in an open container. DO NOT enclose the mixture as it emits gasses that might explode if contained.

We took Wyatt's collar off and put him in the downstairs shower stall. With rubber gloves and warm water we lathered in the mixture concentrating on the neck area. Usually, a dog will turn its head to avoid the spray and get most of it on the neck under the chin. We used the entire mixture, rinsing and applying several times. I did go over almost all of him again, concentrating on the neck. We dried him off and, to our relief, 90 percent of the smell was gone, enough so that he was able to sleep inside. The leather collar had to go as well as the crate mat. If you got your nose up to the neck area, you could still discern some skunk scent, but at a very tolerable level. The scent completely disappeared in about two weeks. Every thing that Wyatt touched, whether it be his crate or the deck post he rubbed against, needed time to air.

It is recommended that you completely look the dog over after contact with the skunk, or skunks in this case, to check for any bites as skunks can carry rabies. Wyatt had no sign of any bites.

So I guess the moral of this story is that there are many memories we hold close to our hearts and some we would just as soon forget.

Good hunting,  
Mike Foreman

## Sportsmen's Show Thank You From PSLRA

PSLRA would like to thank O'Loughlin Trade Shows, its family and staff, for providing space for our club's booth at the Sportsmen's Show in Puyallup each year. This opportunity enables our club to exhibit the versatility of our breed, to educate the public, and to promote responsible dog breeding and ownership. We also want to thank Bob Gibble for his efforts that enable us to set-up and staff the booth during the show.

## Membership

### *New Address:*

Chamaschuk, Lorie/Proctor, Brian M2-06  
(1993)  
122-52472 RR224 "Cambridge"  
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 4R6 Canada  
250-727-6180 / Email  
cambridg@telus.net

Maloney, Shelly M1-06 (2004)  
27828 Aspen Place  
Maple Ridge, B.C. V2W 1N4  
604-466-0900 / Email trilabs@telus.net

Gunther, Robert and Evelyn M2-06  
(1998)  
PO Box 698 / 1150 E Quilcene Rd  
Quilcene, WA 98376-0698  
360-765-0786 / 206-782-8081 (Bob's Cell)  
Email bgunthers@aol.com

Tyler, Kim & Erica M2-06 (1988)  
12533 Persons Road "Bayview"  
Bow, WA 98232  
360-941-5227 / Email  
bayview@pugetsound.net

### *New E-mail:*

Korn, Jan and Steve - wetdoggie@mac.com  
Edinger, Tim - T181x2@comcast.net  
Mearns, Robert and Katie -  
katiemearns@verizon.net  
Laura Berger - cheshirelabs@comcast.net

### *New Members:*

Colleen Bergman  
1224 E Hemmi Road  
Everson, WA 98247-9779  
360-398-8964 / 360-398-8965 (work)  
Email colleen.bergman@gmail.com

Sidney Ocheltree  
22223 2nd Ave W  
Bothell, WA 98021  
425-770-5285  
Email rose-anemone@yahoo.com

Diane Sullivan-August M1-06 (2006)  
PO Box 1824  
Bellingham, WA 98227  
360-592-5215

Styner, Christina  
M1-06 (2006)  
618 West Market  
Aberdeen, WA 98520  
360-532-6922 (wk);  
360-580-7771 (cell)  
Email westside@seanet.com

## Braggs

**Intn'l Ch Merganser's Hi Rollin Hudson SH CD** and Liz Scott earned a third place in the gun dog category of the qualifying stakes at the Washington Retriever Club picnic trial in January.

I'm so happy to report that Deuce earned his third utility leg at the Linn County KC obedience trial February 11. He's now **Deuces are Wild UD JH!**  
Monica Buchstatter.

**Shilshole's Shift'n Gears SH**, below, and Terrie Sato earned a second place in the gun dog category of the qualifying stakes at the Washington Retriever Club's picnic trial on February 11.



Jack (black), Shooter (gray muzzle) and Murphy (young chocolate) show three generations of Labrador males.

# Stud Dog Forum

PSLRA is an organization dedicated to the Labrador. It consists of breeders, competitors and pet owners. An important goal of the club is to educate members about the responsibilities that come with dog ownership. One of the frequently asked questions is where can I find a bitch to breed to my dog? In the interest of helping new members understand the challenges that come from owning a stud dog, five club members agreed to participate in a forum by answering questions about stud dog ownership.

The questions were:

1. What do you consider to be the four most important considerations for a stud dog owner?
2. What criteria do you use before agreeing to use your dog as stud?
3. What titles (if any) should a stud dog have? Why?
4. What influence can one dog used frequently have over the breed?

These members were also asked to contribute any other thoughts they had on the subject. Their very well thought out responses and advice follow.

*Nina Mann of Harbortop Labradors is a founding member of PSLRA.*

1. A stud dog should be healthy, sound, have a good, by that I mean typical, Labrador temperament, and he should have something to contribute to the breed. It is a given that he should also have all his clearances, and I think the owner should have a goal in mind, should know what kind of dogs he wants to produce.

I was involved with Labradors for 15 years before I owned my first stud dog, although from time to time I had handled dogs of my breeding at stud for their owners and had had visiting stud dogs at my place. When I decided that what I wanted to do was to try to improve the rather sorry looking chocolates in the ring at that time, I went looking for a male that could help do this. I was looking for a dog from particular blood lines, from a mostly black background, and from one that could complement the lines my bitches were based on.

I was lucky enough to find such a dog, with a classic head and a correct front with good shoulder layback, things that were missing in chocolates in the 1980s. He turned out to be dominant for his head and for his wonderful temperament and can be found in the pedigrees of many of the specialty winning chocolates of the present day. I never worried much about the look of the bitches that came to him as he consistently improved them.

2. Bitches to be bred to my dogs must be two years old, or very close to that, and have at least hip and eye clearances and good temperaments.

3. If a stud dog is a champion, it reassures the bitch owners that his conformation is correct. If he is at least a Junior Hunter, it reassures hunters that their puppies will hunt for them. If he has a CD, it demonstrates his trainability. Titles are not necessary, however, depending on your goals. I had one dog that sired litters for various seeing eye dog organizations and assistance dog organizations. He hated the show ring, but he had all his clearances, a lovely front and head, and he produced the type of temperament the service people were looking for. He lived in the city and had no titles whatsoever but he was successful at my goals for him.

4. The frequently used sire can have a tremendous influence, for good or for bad, on the breed. In the extreme, they reduce the diversity in the gene pool. That's not a big concern in Labradors as it is a breed with so many different blood lines, but it can be a real problem in breeds with smaller gene pools. Too often, however,

many of the people who use him are breeding to ribbons without considering whether he complements their bitch. All too often they end up with unexpected genetic problems. A quote of unknown origin that I like says: "Do not blame everything that goes wrong on the stud dog. Remember who was the dummy who chose him."

*Sharon Edwards of ShaRay Labradors has been a member of PSLRA since 1988. Sharon has owned labs since '85 and has been standing a dog at stud since '90. She shares the following thoughts.*

1. & 2. When I get a call asking to use one of my stud dogs, the answer is certainly not an automatic yes. There are multiple questions to ask to see if the bitch should be bred, if the people understand what is involved concerning their female and if they realize what they are potentially in for.

I will list the questions I ask in a semblance of an order, not necessarily in the order of importance. Many things influence my decision. As a stud dog owner I feel as responsible for the puppies produced as if I had whelped and placed them myself. No one wants to see their kennel name in the background of a dog in a bad situation.

1. How old is your bitch?
2. Has she had her hips, elbows, eyes cleared? By whom? Do you have the paperwork?
3. What is her pedigree? Does she have full registration? Have you talked with her breeder about any reasons not to breed her?
4. Is this her first litter? If not, how and where are the puppies from the other litters? Have you kept in contact with the owners?
5. Are you willing to take any of the puppies back during any time of their lives?
6. Do you know about limited registration? Will you be willing to sell your pups on limited?

If all that is good, then I discuss the amount of work involved in whelping and raising a litter. I mention the catastrophes that can happen to mom or pups. I ask what they will do with puppies at eight weeks if there aren't enough good homes available. I also tell them I want to see a bitch before I will totally agree to the breeding. I had one gentleman bring his sweet little girl over and I could tell her bite was terrible as soon as she got out of the car. You could see the parrot mouth from a distance.

Below is part of my stud contract. However, unless you move in with the bitch owner, enforcing the contract is quite impossible.

## Partial STUD CONTRACT

If a repeat breeding is necessary, stud owner will require progesterone tests on this bitch to verify ovulation at a nonogram number of 5 (five). Bitch owner is responsible for keeping bitch away from any other intact male dogs for the time before breeding and for the remainder of her cycle. If any puppy from this breeding is found to be afflicted with any known heritable disorder, stud owner will be notified immediately.

- \* A litter consists of two or more live puppies, at one week of age.
- \* Puppies will NOT be donated to raffles, auctions or sold from a wholesale facility (pet store etc.).
- \* Puppies will not go to new homes before 7 weeks of age.
- \* Puppies will be sold on limited registrations, unless stud owner agrees to other conditions in writing.
- \* Bitch owner will provide stud owner with names and addresses of puppy buyers.
- \* Bitch owner agrees to take any puppy back at anytime during puppies' lives.

Additional Terms or Conditions:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Stud Owner Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bitch Owner Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date in Season: \_\_\_\_\_, 2006  
 Dates Bred: \_\_\_\_\_,  
 Approx. Whelp Dates: \_\_\_\_\_,  
 Puppies whelped: \_\_\_\_\_, 2006  
 Males: \_\_\_\_\_ Females \_\_\_\_\_

3. Titles: As many as possible. Why use a dog that has not put its money where its mouth is. Anyone can be kennel blind and say their dog meets the standard, but let at least three judges agree with you and two wins (majors) which are next to impossible to accomplish prove it. Same thing with performance titles. Sure your dog is smart. If it is so smart why doesn't it have those titles to prove it? Our breeding stock is supposed to improve the breed, not just multiply it.

4. One dog can set the look of an area. If it is a fad look it can take years to change it again. If a late onset health issue rears its ugly head, a popular stud can wipe out a lot of breeding programs. On the other hand, a wonderful dog with dominant traits can help many breeders get on the right track. I don't think it is as big an issue anymore with semen flying around the world on short notice. If a breeder is really a breeder they can improve/change their stock quite easily via Fed-Ex.

The only other thing I think deserves to be mentioned is stud owner ethics. In a perfect world stud owners wouldn't tout their dogs' attributes by defaming other stud dogs.

*Barb Ironside of Fawnhaven Labradors has been a member of PSLRA since 1989. In discussing her involvement with Labradors she states, "Don and I have been active in Labradors since 1986. Prior to that we had Labs as pets since 1974. We have bred and owned Specialty winners, National Specialty winners, Master Hunters, Master National Qualifiers, and many fine companion and hunting dogs."*

1. Important considerations of stud dog ownership include: Honesty about your stud dog and any potential health issues that may be lurking behind his pedigree. Just because you have a "Specialty winner" or a "Champion - Master Hunter" doesn't mean your dog is going to be a good producer or the right match for every bitch that comes along.

Customer Service - The willingness to go out of your way to make sure the breeding happens. We've often made last minute trips to the airport (which is an hour trip each way for us). Working around a weekend or holiday to make sure semen gets where it needs to be can be difficult. If a bitch owner arranges to breed to your dog in advance, but when the time comes, it's inconvenient for you, you still need to accommodate that bitch. The bitch owner is counting on you and she cannot control when her bitch will be ready to breed.

Caring for another person's bitch is a huge responsibility. Keeping her safe, walking her on a lead whenever she is out of her kennel or crate to be sure she safe, is not always convenient, but it is what you would want someone to do with your bitch. Breedings should be done in a controlled environment to ensure the safety of both dogs.

It's not just a matter of putting the dog and bitch together and letting nature take its course.

Our breedings are done in the same room every time. Our boys learn to let us help them. One of us holds the bitch, the other one helps the stud dog. Once the dogs are tied, care is taken to make sure the bitch cannot suddenly decide she doesn't want to be there. If she were to bolt, she could injure your stud dog. We have also learned how to collect semen and artificially inseminate bitches. This method is much easier on both stud dog and bitch. If done correctly there should be no difference in your pregnancy success rate or size of litter.

2. Before agreeing to use a dog for stud my first questions are: Why do you want to breed your bitch and have you ever had a litter before. I talk with the bitch owner about the potential problems that can happen, their willingness to take puppies back if necessary and the importance of limited registration. We require hip, elbow and eye clearances. I try to get a gut feeling about the potential breeder. Do I think they will be responsible. Many new breeders come to us trying to get started and/or improve what they have. We don't require that they have a "show dog" or a "titled" dog in order to breed. But they do have to satisfy me about their intentions.

I know that some breeders don't agree with this, but everyone has to start somewhere. Here is just one example: Many years ago one such new person came to us about breeding her bitch. The bitch had no titles at all and the owners were not involved in any conformation or performance events, nor were they intending to be. After some discussion, we agreed to breed our old chocolate dog JJ to her bitch. That "new breeder" went on to become very involved in our sport. Had I said NO to that person, we would never have had the pleasure of having Bonnie and Gordie McGhie as great friends. As most of you know, Bonnie and Gordie have gone on to breed some outstanding show and working dogs. But when we first met them, they did not know that they would get involved in the sport of dogs to this extent.

3. What titles (if any) should a stud dog have? Why? In my opinion, ideally, a stud dog should have "titles at both ends" meaning performance as well as conformation titles. I would also hope that the stud dog had at least a WC, since the Lab is supposed to be a working gun dog. A JH is preferable and an SH or MH makes them a more attractive addition to a breeding program (in my book). Having said that, I will also say that I have used stud dogs that did not have field titles. In those cases I felt that what the particular dog had to offer my bitch outweighed the lack of a title. It's a decision that each breeder needs to make for themselves. Breeding to the latest specialty winner or the dog that everyone is using is not doing justice to your bitch. Research the pedigree of the prospective stud dog. Will it compliment your bitch's pedigree. If possible, see what he has produced. Also look at his sire and dam and what else they have produced. Sometimes if you really like a particular dog, you might want to breed to his sire instead. Look for a dog that compliments your bitch. Ask yourself - what are her weaknesses. Try to find a dog that has strengths where she is weak. Breeding two dogs that both have the same weakness, will likely produce that same weakness. I also strongly believe in linebreeding, as long as you know what health issues may be behind the pedigree. Breeding an uncle to niece, cousins, granddaughter to grandsire are all line breedings that have worked very well for us.

Stud Dog Forum, *continued from page 7*

4. What influence can one dog used frequently have over the breed? HUGE! There have been dogs over the years since we've been involved that have had huge impacts on the breed (good and bad). If everyone breeds to the same dog, the gene pool in effect becomes smaller. If a health issue suddenly pops up and it becomes necessary to avoid doubling up on that pedigree, it becomes hard to find a dog unrelated to that popular dog.

*Stephanie Harris has been a PSLRA member since 1992. I believe that it is a testament to the founders of the breed that, by and large, most Labradors you meet no matter the "type" (field, show, English, American, Canadian) have good temperaments, and show a willingness to retrieve. That doesn't mean that most Labradors should be bred. A stud dog owner must remember a stud dog who gets used even moderately (three to five times a year) will produce many, many more puppies than any given bitch in a lifetime. That being the case the male in question must be of superior quality.*

1. Four most important considerations when choosing (or choosing to become) a stud dog owner: Honesty, Knowledge, Dedication, Love of the Breed.

**Honesty:** As a stud dog owner (this is true for all breeders) you have to be totally honest about your dog, who and what he is – his strengths and weaknesses, his faults and outstanding qualities, his instinct and ability. Honest about what he produces because bitch owners will ask and they want to know the truth, not a smoke screen.

**Knowledge:** People send their girls to you for one reason and one reason only – they want her to come home full of puppies. A stud dog owner must have the knowledge, ability, and facilities to get that accomplished. Some girls will have to be artificially inseminated because of physical issues. The stud dog owner must be able to collect and AI girls as needed. They need to recognize the signs of all stages of the bitch's cycle so that she's not sent home too early or bred too late.

**Dedication:** Taking a bitch on vacation with you so that she's bred when she needs to be; getting up two hours early so that you can have time to collect the boy and AI the girl if needed; taking care of someone's family member (because that's what most girls are) for five days or two weeks while they visit your boy. Dedication is also training and competing with your boy to prove he's worthy. Hauling him down the road to shows and/or hunt tests. Getting all of the clearances done on him and disclosing the results.

**Love of the Breed:** This covers so many issues.... Having the intestinal fortitude to refuse to breed a bitch with a bad temperament, or who has failed a clearance ("I won't register the puppies, we just want to have puppies, I'll pay double, it doesn't really matter that she's dysplastic"). Being available to someone who has a puppy sired by your boy, who didn't buy it from you, to help, answer questions, mentor. Being open to learn and educate yourself continually. A true breeder must look beyond this puppy or this stud dog or this litter to what will happen down the road. Will this decision be an asset to the Labrador gene pool?

Four most important considerations when choosing a Stud Dog: Type, Temperament, Hunting Instinct, Soundness. Like a builder who is building a table – if more emphasis is placed on one leg than

the others, the table will wobble. Equal emphasis must be placed on all four legs when building a Labrador.

**Type:** Type is not just pretty looks. The standard is a written description of what a Labrador should look (and act) like. The attributes described are desirable because they allow the dog to do his job. **Temperament:** Whether a show dog, a hunting dog, or whatever, the Labrador should be first and foremost a family dog. **Hunting Instinct:** Let's face it, the number of people who are hunting with their dogs dwindles every year; however, almost anyone who has a Labrador wants to be able to take him to the lake and have him chase a stick or a ball (and bring it back!). **Soundness:** This is passing health clearances: hips; elbows; eyes at eight weeks and annually; hearts. But this is more. This is knowledge of other health issues, allergies? injuries caused by bad structure? seizures? Optigen status? This is good structure that allows a dog to live to a ripe old age without pain and joint issues because bad structure has put undue pressure on other parts of the body.

2. The bitch must have OFA (or equivalent) Hips and Elbows cleared, eyes cleared annually, a current negative brucellosis test, and I strongly encourage breeders to do hearts on all breeding dogs as well. I require bitch owners to place all puppies on limited registration. In addition, I stipulate that the puppies will be raised in an acceptable manner, not sold until at least seven weeks of age, and not sold to a pet shop, broker, or taken to a pound or shelter no matter how long it takes to sell or place them. The owner of the bitch is required to notify me if any puppy is found to be afflicted with any known heritable disorder.

3. Titles? Again, there are so many Labradors out there that there needs to be a reason to choose a particular dog. A title is validation that someone out there (and unless it's a WC or a CGC more than one someone out there) thought this dog was worthy to earn their title. We all know dogs out there that we can't believe earned their <insert title here>, but that is far the exception to the rule. A conformation title tells us that the dog is a good representative of the breed. Conformation goes farther than looks though. A dog with good structure is less likely to break down and suffer injuries because they have a solid foundation. Hunting titles tell us that the dog has the ability to do what it was bred to do. Other performance titles (agility, obedience, flyball, etc) tell us that the dog is trainable and willing. At times breeders will choose to breed to a dog without titles but it is generally for very specific reasons: usually the dog is young and being campaigned toward his titles; occasionally it is a dog who has a pedigree that can't be found anywhere else and meets all the other criteria for a stud dog; a breeder may choose to breed to their own stud dog before he has finished his titles to see what he will produce and if he is worthy of breeding.

4. What influence can one dog used frequently [FUS] have over the breed? The Labrador gene pool is a pretty big one and we don't have the same problems as some of the smaller breeds when considering this issue, but it certainly is something to consider when making breeding decisions. The frequently used stud dog can pigeon hole a breed. Even if he is of superior quality and producing genetically very cleanly.... After everybody and their brother has bred to him, a few generations down the road everything is related. Linebreeding will set (good and bad) traits. I'm a fan of line breeding, but it is important to know more about a dog than his name when choosing to line breed on him. When everything is related because of the FUS issue, you might be line breeding

without even knowing it. If the FUS had some hidden health issues or other undesirable recessive traits, a couple of generations down the road when the breedings are doubling up on him - there can be big trouble.

Stephanie concludes, "Thank you for asking for my opinion. We've owned, bred, hunted and competed with Labradors for 15 years under the Skyfire name."

*Cheri Wildes has been a member of PSLRA since 1997. Cheri's thoughts come from the perspective of someone relatively new to the responsibility of stud dog ownership.*

1. The most important considerations for a stud dog owner include: Stud dog owners should have all up-to-date clearances on their dogs, including relevant genetic tests that are available, to ensure as clean a bill of health as possible and to support making educated breeding decisions. I believe stud dog owners should be honest about any defects in litters that have been produced even if they assume the inherited defect is not from the stud dog; e.g., bite problems, seizures, OCD, etc. to allow for open discussion regarding whether or not certain gene pools should be mixed.

Be prepared. Have the appropriate set up to accommodate good breeding practices; e.g., safe/secure area for bitches while they are on your premises. Stud dog owners should also research all breeding options; e.g., natural breeding, AIs, chilled semen and provide the type of services that are right for them.

Be prepared to honor your commitments. If you have contracted to provide stud services, follow through even if it means giving up weekends, evenings and holidays to breed a bitch or provide chilled semen. (Our limited experience has shown that girls are always ready to breed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.)

Have a good Stud Contract and ensure the breeder or one time breeder has an appropriate Puppy Purchase Agreement. Our Stud Contract is written similar to a Puppy Purchase Agreement and requires the bitch owner to take lifetime responsibility for the puppies, and all puppies are to be placed with Limited Registration. Also, if you co-own a dog you plan to use for stud, make sure that you and the co-owner are clear regarding what if any portion of the stud fees will be split, or if they are able to use the dog for stud free of charge.

Obtain good mentors who can answer general questions, help with breeding decisions and assist if you experience breeding challenges.

Don't be in it for the money. Be honest with yourself why you want to breed your dog. Breed because you have a nice dog that will enhance the breed. Don't be kennel blind.

Be willing to advertise. You will get very few inquiries about your dog if you don't advertise. (This is something we have not done much of for two reasons: a. We've done some limited breedings that went well/were successful, but we weren't really set up for it. We are in the process of getting set up now; b. We don't want to over-breed our dog. We will advertise along with announcing our kennel and website in the near future and once we are appropriately set up to take on bitches. We will do limited breeding and plan to mostly use our dog on our own girls. We would also prefer to provide chilled semen versus having other people's bitches on our property).

2. What criteria do you use before agreeing to use your dog as stud? Bitches must have all health clearances, hips, elbows, eyes, Optigen, etc. We also ask direct questions about any known health issues in the line.

We review the bitch's pedigree to make sure it is an appropriate pairing, and seek advice from our mentors regarding the two pedigrees prior to committing.

We ensure the bitch owner has an acceptable Puppy Purchase Agreement, get an understanding of how the breeder will find suitable homes for the puppies, and what mechanism will they use to screen potential puppy buyer's, and ensure they take responsibility for the puppies for their lifetime.

Clearly understand why the bitch owner wants to breed the dog? How knowledgeable are they regarding breeding, whelping, etc. How realistic are they, do they really know what they are getting into?

What is their set up and are they prepared for the litter; e.g., do they have the appropriate area to whelp the litter, keep the puppies warm and safe, have the time to devote to the litter, have money to pay for vet bills for both the bitch and the puppies, etc.

What is the age of the bitch, how many litters has she had in the past and were there any complications?

3. What titles (if any) should a stud dog have?

Our goal is to breed all around dogs. We like to see hunting, conformation and obedience titles. We also recognize not everyone is involved in conformation, hunting and obedience and that there are good dogs without titles. Since we are primarily working dog people, and Labradors are working dogs, we are mostly interested in advanced hunting titles followed by conformation titles. A WC or JH is okay, but SH or MH is more desirable to us, both for the girls being bred to our boy, or boys we would consider breeding to our girls.

4. What affect do think any one dog used frequently can have on the gene pool?

If the dog has a clean bill of health, is a good representative of the breed and excels in some type of working ability, it can add a lot to the gene pool. People should do their research to ensure the use of a popular dog will have a positive impact on their breeding program, versus just having a popular dog in their pedigree.

Additional Comments: One of the downsides of being a stud dog owner is that you have no real control over what type of homes the puppies go to, have limited contact with the puppy owners or the ability to communicate, and get minimal feedback if any on the long term welfare of the puppies. This is one of the reasons why we want to breed our boy on a limited basis in addition to the fact that there are already too many good dogs needing homes in the world.

**Thank you to all who participated in this forum. It is obvious that the welfare of the dog is at the heart of each answer.**



**LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 2/10/06 that conform to the PSLRA 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 PSLRA of any litter or any one litter over another. Litters are removed from the list after three months.

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. Dogs and bitches whelped before 5/1/87 are exempt from elbow clearance requirements and will be marked OFEL N/A. Prelims are not acceptable! The board has recently agreed to accept PennHip clearances that score in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher, passing Wind-Morgan clearances, and clearances from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) in Canada. Female Labradors (bitches) with a Wind-Morgan, Penn Hip, or OVC clearance must not be bred before the age of 20 months, or 24 months with an OFA clearance. Male Labradors (dogs) with a Wind-Morgan, Penn Hip or OVC clearance must not be bred before the age of 12 months, or 24 months with an OFA clearance.
  - Eye clearances on both parents annually. After the dog's examination at age 10, annual examinations are no longer necessary.
  - 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 contact Marlys if you need a Litter Listing form, to be used for ALL litters.**
  - All Breeders must update their litters each week with Marlys Swanson via email (marlyss982@aol.com) as to the sex and color of puppies you have sold. The listing will be deleted after three months from the first litter listing date unless she hears from you.
1. Mail the completed form and a check for \$10 (operating expenses for Breeder Listing and Puppy Referral Programs) to: **Marlys Swanson, 3512 – 93<sup>rd</sup> Place NE, Marysville, WA 98270.**
  2. Your litter notice will appear 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 Marlys Swanson) to show your appreciation. These donations will all be used for Lab Rescue.

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**LITTER LISTING FORMS** available from Marlys Swanson  
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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Litter born 9/16/05</b> (Available 2 BM, 3 YM)<br/>           Sire: Cimarron Runnin in the Rain<br/>               OFA 26G, OFEL 26, ACVO 6/24/05<br/>           Dam: Sunrise Get a Dream<br/>               OFA 25G, OFEL 25, ACVO 3/26/05<br/>           Litter: 2 BM, 2 BF, 4 YM, 1 YF<br/>           Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787 6093<br/>           Email: Katie_Somers@msn.com<br/>           Listed 11/27/05, 2/6/06 Quincy, WA</p>                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><b>Litter born 12/22/05</b> (Available 2 BM)<br/>           Sire: Ch Belgairn Tom Jones<br/>               OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05, Heart OFA<br/>           Dam: Can Ch Sunnysdaze Supernatural<br/>               OFA 54G, OFEL 24, CERF 10/3/05<br/>           Litter: 5 BM, 1 BF<br/>           Contact: Linda Maffett (360) 961-5269<br/>           Email: Sunnysdazelabradors@hotmail.com<br/>           Listed 11/9/05, 02/05/06 Bellingham, WA</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>Litter born 10/11/05</b> (Available 2 BM, 1 BF)<br/>           Sire: Int. Ch Hiltonhall's Rainbow Warrior WC<br/>               OFA 24 E, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05<br/>               Optigen Clear, Heart clear 34 mos.<br/>           Dam: Chelon's MoonShadow<br/>               Windmorgan hips, elbows@19mos., PennHip 80<sup>th</sup><br/>               percentile, Cardiac normal 9/26/04, ACVO 11/20/05<br/>           Litter: 1 YM, 2 BF, 3 BM<br/>           Contact: Chuck &amp; Sharon Hilton (425) 334-0303<br/>           Email: Hiltonhall@msn.com<br/>           Snohomish, WA Listed 12/6/05, 02/05/06</p> | <p><b>Litter born 12/28/05</b> (Available 1 CF)<br/>           Sire: Int Ch. Bayviews Blazing Payton WC<br/>               OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 11/19/05, Heart clear 11/19/05<br/>           Dam: Skyfire's Phoenix WC<br/>               OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05, Heart clear 9/25/05<br/>           Litter: 5CF, 3 CM<br/>           Contact: Jennifer &amp; Mike Hajny (509) 968-3888<br/>           Email: blutopfarms@hotmail.com<br/>           Listed 1/7/06, 02/05/06 Ellensburg, WA</p>                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Litter born 11/23/05</b> (Available 2 BM)<br/>           Sire: Sunnysdaze Peterson's Thor SH<br/>               OFA 25G, OFEL 26, CERF 12/07/04, OFA Cardiac 10/06/02<br/>           Dam: Redwick Roughcut Ruby<br/>               OFA 26G, OFEL 26, CERF 3/20/05, OFA Cardiac 3/18/01<br/>           Litter: 5 BM, 1 CM, 1 YM, 2 BF, 1 CF<br/>           Contact: Julie Kirk (509) 588-6955 or Eve (509) 588-6712<br/>           Email: redwick@televar.com<br/>           Listed 11/26/05, 02/06/06 Benton City, WA</p>                                                                                                 | <p><b>Litter born 1/4/06</b> (Available 2 BF, 1 BM, 2YM)<br/>           Sire: Skyfire Dangerous Company<br/>               OFA 25G, OFEL 25, CERF 9/17/05, Optigen Normal<br/>               OFA Cardiac<br/>           Dam: Int. Ch Wyntercreek Ryder at Blu Top CD WC CGC<br/>               OFA 25G, OFEL 25, ACVO 8/3/05, Optigen, Cardiac Normal<br/>           Litter: 4 BF, 1 BM, 2 YM<br/>           Contact: Mary Jane Sarbaugh/Jenn Hajny (360) 221-6121<br/>           Email: labsix@whidbey.com<br/>           Listed 1/17/06, 2/5/06 Langley, WA</p>                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>Litter born 11/30/05</b> (Available 1 BM, 1 BF)<br/>           Sire: Can Ch Fawnhaven Indigo Jones, WC<br/>               OFA 24 G, OFEL, CERF 9/2005, Cardiac OFA<br/>           Dam: Nika Chelon O'Fawnhaven<br/>               OFA 60E, OFEL, ACVO 11/30/04<br/>           Litter: 3 BM, 1 BF, 1 CM, 2 CF<br/>           Contact: Michelle Johnson (360) 312-8508<br/>           Email: JackJohnson_5@msn.com<br/>           Listed 1/22/06, 2/6/06 Bellingham, WA</p>                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Litter born 1/21/06</b> (Available 3 YM, 2 BM, 1 BF)<br/>           Sire: Can Ch. The Flying Fortress Hunts-on Am/Can CD, JH,<br/>               WC, CGC, TT, Pet Partner<br/>               OFA 44G, OFEL 44, OFA Heart 22mo, ACVO 9/25/05,<br/>               Windmorgan 19 mos – Hips, elbows, shoulders, tarsus<br/>           Dam: Int. Ch. Kelly Firey Embr of Priceille<br/>               OVC Hips &amp; elbows clear 11/2003, ACVO 12/12/05<br/>           Litter: 4 YM, 3 BM, 1 BF<br/>           Contact: Deborah Price (360) 305-1155, eve: (360) 398-8903<br/>           Email: dpricedogs@aol.com<br/>           Listed: 01/18/06, 02/04/06 Lynden, WA</p> |

**Litter born 02/06/06 (Available 1 BM, 1 BF, 1 CF, 2 CM)**

Sire: Am/Can CH Skyfire's Oughta Be A Law JH CD WC  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, Wind-Morgan Hips, Elbows, Hocks,  
Shoulders, Heart clear by Echo, CERF 9/05, Optigen A1  
normal/clear.

Dam: Skyfire's Kodiak Bombshell  
OFA Hips 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05, Heart Clear 22mo  
Litter: 1 BM, 1 BF, 2 CF, 3 CM  
Contact: Stephanie Harris (509) 925-1259 or (509) 929-5227  
Email: stephanie@skyfirelabs.com  
Listed 12/29/05, 2/6/06 Ellensburg, WA

**Litter born 02/09/06 (Available 7 BM, 1 YM)**

Sire: Cimarron's Griffindog  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 09/25/05, OFA Heart  
Dam: Cimarron Jessica's Montana  
OFA 25G, OFEL 25, ACVO 09/25/05, OFA Heart  
Litter: 7 BM, 3 YM  
Contact: Laura Steward DVM (360) 731-9017 (Day)  
(360) 876-6199 (Evening)  
Email: Laura@cimarronfarm.com  
Listed 02/11/06 Port Orchard, WA

**Litter expected 3/8/06**

Sire: CH HySpire Slim Shady  
OFA 27 E, OFEL 27, ACVO 05/20/05, Heart OFA  
Dam: Sunnydaze It's All About Mee, JH  
OFA 24 G, OFEL 24, ACVO 1/26/06  
Litter: Black expected  
Contact: Linda Maffett (360) 961-5269  
Email: Sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com  
Listed 01/18/06, 2/06/06 Bellingham, WA

**Other Dogs That A Breeder Has Decided To Place**

(Note) Owners of all dogs that are listed here have filled out and signed a PSLRA "Listing Form" disclosing to perspective buyers any known health and/or temperament issues and are on file with the Breeder Listing Chairperson. These dogs are usually well socialized, frequently have some training, and are very desirable as companions. These dogs may not meet either owner's requirements for show or field performance or the code of ethics for breeding. Prospective buyers are encouraged to ask whether these older dogs have acceptable clearances on eyes, hips, and elbows and the reason why the dog is being placed. The listing of other dogs in no way constitutes an endorsement by PSLRA. Price will vary.

**Yellow male, 6 months (as of 11/17/05) intact**

Sweet, mellow boy who is looking for a family of his own. Second pick puppy in the litter, both parents have all their clearances. Merlin is a quick and willing learner. Crate trained, raised with kids and other animals, started retrieving, loves the birds.  
Contact: Stephanie Harris (509) 925-1259  
Email: stephanie@skyfirelabs.com  
Listed 11/17/05, 02/06/06 Ellensburg, WA

**Yellow Female, 5 1/2 months (as of 11/26/05) intact**

Sweet and very loving.  
Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787 6093  
Email: Katie\_Somers@msn.com  
Listed 11/26/05, 02/06/06 Quincy, WA

**Yellow Male, 12 months (as of 11/26/05) Intact (must be neutered)**

"Harry" is a big, sweet, good natured boy. Parents have all health clearances. Very beautiful light yellow with black pigment, he would make a super family companion. Vaccinated, dewclaws removed, hips x-rayed normal, healthy and easy to work with.  
Contact: Cecilie Drege (360) 435-0456  
Email: cougarcreeklabs@peoplepc.com  
Website: www.cougarcreeklabs.com  
Listed 11/26/05, 2/05/06 Arlington, WA

**Yellow Female, 12 months (as of 12/10/05) spayed**

Basic obedience, crate trained, very sweet girl and quite mellow for a year old girl. Loves everybody and animals. Loves to play.  
Contact Julia Wilson (360) 332-4844 or (360) 920-6648  
Email: juliaw8@juno.com  
Listed 12/10/05, 02/05/05 Blaine, WA

**Yellow Male, 2 years 3 months (12/26/05) intact (must be neutered)**

Basic obedience, crate trained, OFA good hips, clear elbows. He has a wonderful personality, great with people/children and other animals.  
Contact Julia Wilson (360) 332-4844 or (360) 920-6648  
Email: juliaw8@juno.com  
Listed 12/27/05, 2/05/06 Blaine, WA

**Chocolate Female, 5 years spayed**

Int. CH, 3 legs towards JH, she also has her WC and CC. This girl is the sweetest dog with lots of love to give in her retirement. She is looking for a home where she can be the only dog and receive tons of love and attention. She is crate trained and loves kids and cats. She has clear hips, elbows, eyes and heart.  
Contact Misha Lynch (360) 445-3566  
Email: liberty@Fidalgo.net  
Listed 1/30/06, 2/6/06 Mt. Vernon, WA

**Black Female, 2 years spayed**

Nice black girl with a wonderful temperament. She has been used in 4-H and as a junior dog. She is crate trained and loves everyone. She is looking for a home where she can be loved on. She does very well with kids, cats and other dogs. She has clear hips, elbows and eyes.  
Contact Misha Lynch (360) 445-3566  
Email: liberty@Fidalgo.net  
Listed 1/30/06, 2/6/06 Mt. Vernon, WA



*The Retriever Believer*  
*Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association*  
Web: [www.pslra.org](http://www.pslra.org)  
Terrie Sato, Editor  
31902 NE 139th Street  
Duvall, WA 98019

Upcoming events --- Mark your calendar!

March 4, Field Training Day, Greenleaf's

March 11-12, Club Booth at Seattle Kennel Club shows

April 8, 5 Series Singles, Greenleaf's