Retriever Believer

The Newsletter of the P.S.L.R.A.

April 1992

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Animal Rights THE POLITICALLY CORRECT MOVEMENT

by Patti Stranci

In 22 years of breeding dogs, I 've periodically had pangs of guilt for all the time and money we've poured into our dogs. This amount of effort and passion might have cured world hunger. My husband, likewise, goes through periods of concern that we don t live like most folks and that we haven't accumulated the kind of wealth we expected when we were both in college 25 years and 50 champions ago. And what effect has our unending breeding program with summer vacations at the National Speciaity rather than trips to Yellowstone Park had on our teenage son? I feel an apology welling up in my throat each time the thought of one of my in-laws crosses my mind and I recall the last family gathering we missed due to a dog show, a whelping, or a dog seminar. A friend from college came by to visit recently (after a 25-year separation) and I again felt like apologizing for having been on another planet for over two decades.

Our successes in dogs have served to explain our hobby to family and some dose friends. But those unfamiliar with the fancy simply cant understand our ongoing attraction to the sport. Ours is a difficult hobby to explain!

Throughout all my apologies and explanations, though, for dog hair and unattended parties, It never occurred to me that the art and sport of breeding, raising and showing purebred dogs itself would come under serious attack and be

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Breeding Better Labradors

by Diann Sullivan

Field trial, obedience and bench competitors have different ideas about what constitutes a winning Labrador Retriever and how to breed a winner. Breeders have individual reasons for breeding and their own goals are based upon the sport in which their Labradors are involved. Most breeders-whether for field, obedience or show—believe that, to produce winners, winners must be bred to winners. But is the breeder's first priority to produce a "winner"? Are all "winners" within these different Labrador sports outstanding examples of their breed?

In evaluating the A.K.C. Standard for the Labrador Retriever, many owners are confused about the meaning of structure and conformation terms, as well as how to evaluate their breeding animals against the Breed Standard.

The obedience competitor is seeking a Labrador from sound stock that will be able to withstand years of jumping and whose eyesight will be excellent.

Second to physical considerations, the obedience competitor seeks a temperament that is willing to please and just 'high" enough to be an "up dog" capable of earning high scores. The field trial breeder seeks a similar type, but may be confused about why the show dog is so 'heavy' and why he is not seemingly evaluated at all on retrieving skills, just on 'beauty.' The

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From the Editors

Hopefully everyone has been able to enjoy the beautiful weather we've been having. We would like to thank Sharon Hilton for arranging our speakers at our last general meeting. Both speakers were very informative and brought new insight about the anti-dog legislation in King County and around the country. It was decided at that meeting to postpone our vote on the proposed Code of Ethics until our next general meeting in May. The Code of Ethics will be printed in both the April and May newsletters so that everyone may have the chance to read it. Again, it is very important that the club hears from its members. The next general meeting will be May 17, 1992. The location will be announced later, if you would like to express your opinion, but will be unable to attended the meeting, please contact an officer, board member or write to the newsletter's address.

In this issue, we have reprinted and article about how one breeder feels about the "animal rights" movement. Diann Sullivan gave us her permission to print her excellent article *Breeding for Better Labradors* . Also we would like to start a regular feature on tips. What do you do to make whelping a litter easier for yourself? What do you feed weaning puppies? Has anyone come across a product that you can't live with out? Please write to us with your tips.

Now that the clock is "sprung" forward, there is no excuse not to train your dogs for our upcoming hunting tests. If you are in the area, PSLRA will be at the Everett Mall Canine Fair on Sunday, April 12, 1992, stop by and say hello.

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The Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the Labrador Retriever as an all-around dog. It is our belief that a show dog that will not retrieve is not a true Labrador, that there is no reason why a hunting dog should not conform to the breed standard and that both should be well-mannered family members.

To these ends, we hold AKC sanctioned Specialty Shows and Obedience Trials, Fun Matches, Hunting Tests, Working Certificate Tests, sponsor educational seminars or clinics, publish a newsletter and urge all our members to breed only dogs that will be sound in both type and temperament and contribute to the improvement of the breed.

We encourage all our members to show their dogs and work them in the field and in obedience to develop their full potential and work toward the club's All-Around Labrador Award.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Labrador Retrievers whether that person owns one dog, none, or many.

Annual dues are $15.00 for a voting membership, $20.00 for a family membership with two votes. Junior members, listed separately and receiving their own newsletter are $7.50.

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 subscription rates are $10.00 per year. Contributions in the form of articles, letters or money are always welcome. It is our goal to provide an open forum where members can present their views to the club. If you have an article or would like to write a letter that might benefit the club, please submit it for publication. The Retriever Believer will publish Brags and Litter Listings free of charge for members, non-member cost is $5.00 per submission. Advertising is available at $10.00 per half-page and $20.00 per full page and includes one photograph. Deadline for submission is the 5th of each month. Publishing an article or advertisement does not constitute endorsement or agreement by the P.S.L.R.A. All submissions should be sent to the Editors, Thom & Tina Lerch, 2011 West Zylstra, Oak Harbor WA. 98277.

NEW MEMBERS

Betty Barkley
14787 N.W. Joseph Court
Portland, OR 97229

Margie & Camille Douma
340 Gentle Ave. East
Monmouth, OR 97361

Gene & Sherry Clemans
15804 20th Ave., Ct. E.
Tacoma, WA 98445

UPCOMING LITTERS:

Sire: Can.Ch. Coppertone Cinabar Delta Dash, OFA/ACVO, cleared annually
Dam: Sunnydaze Peaches – n- Cream, OFA, prelim normal/CERF
All chocolate litter, Due on April 17, 1992.
Contact Linda Ruth -Squires, 206-398-8928

WHAT IS A LEASH?

It is a birth control device, preventing random matings and unwanted puppies.

It is the best way to keep your dog uninjured, restraining your dog from darting into traffic, eliminating pain and veterinary bills.

It is the best good neighbor policy-maker, keeping your dog from any sort of trespassing, destructive or otherwise, on your neighbor's lands or on the city's sidewalks. It will also keep your dog from jumping up on children or adults and possibly inflicting injury on them, as well as the discomfort or fright it might cause.

It is the best identification service, as the license attached to the collar will get your dog pack to you if the dog should be lost.

It is the best wildlife and environmental protection, keeping your pet from harassing deer and other wild animals, either by itself or as part of a wild dog pack.

It is the best way to develop an affectionate dog.

From AKC Gazette, Feb., 1988 – via LRCSC's newsletter

BRAGS

Dave Hammar
Chelons – Nova-Lee, BOB & Group 2, Feb. 09, 92 at the Longview-Kelso show. Handled by Cheryl Ostenson & Richard Baggenstos. Co-owned with Cheryl Ostenson.

Marilyn Parker
CHAR-DON'S Mirror Image, JH,Can WC – WB, Mar.01, 1992 at Seattle Kennel Club. 1st in open chocolate bitches at GGLRC, Mar. 07, 1992.

Chuck & Sharon Hilton
Hiltonhall Labradors
Davoeg Hiltonhall Sammy Beau – 1st place, American Bred Class at GGLRC, Mar. 06, 1992 – Judge Mrs. Heather Fone Wiles. Handled by Barbara Ironside.
Fawnhaven First Lite of Dawn – BOB, Mar. 29, 1992 at Peninsula Dog Fanciers' Club. Handled by Don Ironside – Co-owned with Barbara Ironside.

Linda Ruth
Sunnydaze Labradors
Sunnydaze Peaches – n- Cream – RWB, Mar. 07, 1992 and WB, Mar. 08, 1992 for 3 pts at Evergreen Kennel Club.
On April 4th, 1992, Linda Ruth got married. Her name is now Linda Squires. Congratulations to Linda and her husband! We wish you both a life time of happiness.!

Gary & Diann Sullivan
Cedarwood Labradors
Cedarwoods Master Gunner- 1st in the Bred By Exhibitor dogs, Mar. 06, 1992, at GGLRC at 15 mos. old under Mrs. Heather Wiles.
Cedarwoods Pipeline Pepsi – in the final seven out of 45 6 -9 mo. bitches at 7 mos. old, Mar. 06, 1992 at GGLRC, a chocolate puppy breed and co-owned by Diann Sullivan and shown beautifully by owner Kelly Stuckless under Mrs. Heather Wiles.
Can.Ch. Cedarwood Squire O' Fawnhaven, CD WC – 4th out of 19 Stud Dogs with two 7 mo. chocolate puppies as his get, Mar. 07, 1992 at GGLRC. Owned by Don & Barb Ironside – Co-bred and Co-owned by Diann & Gary Sullivan.
Am.Can.Ch. Cedarwoods Clearlake Classic – BOB, Mar. 14, 1992 at Chintimini K.C.
Am.Can.Ch. Cedarwoods Clearlake Classic – BOB, Mar. 15, 1992 at Willamette Valley K.C.

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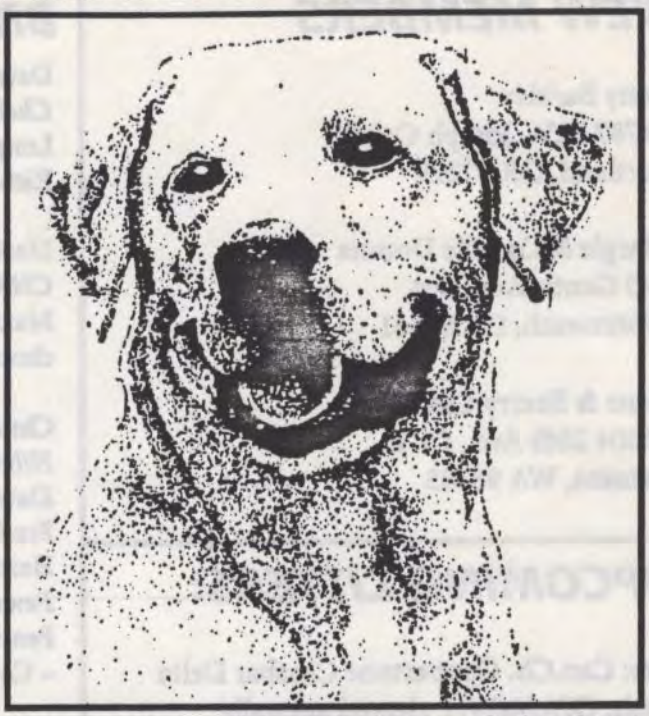
Brags, Continued from page 3

Cedarwood Chesley Park Justin – OFA good and is in training and standing at stud with Pat Gadaleta in PA.

Kelly Stuckless
Pipeline Labradors
Cedarwood Pipeline Pepsi – Best Puppy at Lionsgate Kennel Club, Co-owned with Gary & Diann Sullivan.



"The whole bearing of a true Labrador is one of a dog of great dignity combined with a gentle sensitive nature.."
Lorna Countess Howe

AKC News Bites

CHANGES TO THE SHOW RULES
Effective on March 1, 1992 the Dog Show Rules will be modified. There are three changes planned.
1. Twelve to eighteen month (12-18 month usually called the "Junior") classes will be available at all-breed shows. Formerly, they were only permitted at independent specialty shows.
2. Spayed and neutered dogs will be permitted in certain show classes. They will be allowed only in the veterans classes and only at independent specialty shows. (this will be a great advantage to people who own competitive older animals since neutering extends dogs' lives and keeps them healthier.)
3. At independent specialty shows only, judges may judge up to 200 dogs in a day. Currently they were limited to 175 just as at all-breed shows.

PARENT CLUBS GIVEN MORE CONTROL
At the Quarterly Meeting of the Delegates held in New York on December 10, 1991 a resolution was Passed to amend the AKC By-laws, Article IV, Section 5 giving the parent member- clubs greater authority over their breed Standards.

NEW PROCEDURES FOR CONFORMATION JUDGING
Beginning on January 1, the new program for approval as a licensed provisional conformation judge will incorporate the following changes:
1. Applicant must request permission to apply.
2. No letters of referral will be required.
3. Breeds will be granted to all applicants on a provisional basis.
4. Performance evaluations will be performed on the provisional judge after five (5) assignments.
5. Confidential recommendations will be requested from the AKC field staff.
6. Education will be mandatory and documented.
7. Advancement beyond four (4) Groups will be by invitation only.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD AND GENERAL MEETINGS
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1992

General Meeting
Speakers Dave Frei from WAG (We're Accountable Guardians) and Cheri Graves from RDOWS (Responsible Dog Owners of Western States) were very informative. Everyone who did not attend, missed out. Thanks to Sharon Hilton for arranging this meeting.

The Proposed Code Of Ethics was also discussed. It will be printed in the April and May newsletters and voted on at the May 17th general meeting. Everyone is encouraged to come to the meeting and give your input on this very important matter. This is your club and we want your input. If you can't attend the May 17th meeting, be sure to call an officer or board member with your input.

PSLRA wickets, to measure your dog, are available for $10. Call Barbara Ironside on 334-1076 if you would like to purchase one.

The board is considering several options for ring setups for our specialties. Lance Manus showed us a sample made out of PVC pipe. Come to the next board meeting if you are interested in seeing the sample.

Board Meeting
Class placement trophies for the specialty will be cloisonné medallions. Trophy donations are still needed. Please call Mary Jane Sarbaugh if you would like to sponsor a trophy.

We are still looking for someone to chair our 1993 Specialty. Any volunteers?? Call Joni Willing.

Plans for the May 9-lOth Hunt Test are well underway. Hope you are getting those dogs ready! Call Nina Mann on 483-5947 or Chris Widger on 788-4110 if you can help during the test.

Plans are also progressing for our June 13th Fun Match. Judges are: Georgia Gooch (Ramblin) Conformation, Sue Mobley (Daylight) – Sweeps, & Barbara Crawford – Obedience. Get those puppies ready!

Our Lab Rescue committee is forming. Call Mary Jane Sarbaugh on 321-6537 if you can help in any way. Everyone should be able to donate something: Time, money, food, dishes, temporary housing, telephone committee are just some of the ways you can help. Call Now!!

We will have an eye clinic on October 3rd. Sharon Edwards will organize this event.

The next general meeting is May 17th (time & place to be announced).

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, April 29th, at 7:00pm at Frolic in Redmond, WA. All members are welcome at the Board Meetings. Hope to see you there! The directions are as follows:
Take hwy 520 to Redmond-Fall City Road (turn right at the light). Take right lane (at split) to E. Lake Sammamish Parkway. Turn right on N.E. 65th (at Kindercare), follow sign to back entrance of Marymoor Park. Take 4th left (by chain-link fence). Frolic is the last building on the left. FROLIC COMPANY, 17725 N.E. 65TH, BLDG C, REDMOND WA, 800-622-8882

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Ironside

asked to apologize, cease and desist.

That time is now at hand! They say that a frog tossed into boiling water will leap out unharmed while another placed in a pot of cool water which is warmed gradually as it is brought to a boil will be lulled to sleep before its execution. So it has been with the purebred dogs community and the growth of the animal rights extremists agenda. Twenty years ago the biomedical community was targeted; then trappers and furriers; hunters followed and today the sport of purebred dogs has been added to the agenda. Coast to coast the heat has been increasing for years. The point of the frog illustration is that by the time the heat is detectable its too late. To save our sport and our right to breed dogs, it is critical that we all learn what we are up against, recognize the seriousness of the threat and immediately become involved.

To put this in perspective, the last decade has seen unprecedented growth in the ranks and sophistication of animal rights activist groups. In days gone by, terrorist or militant acts carried out by such groups as the ALF (the Animal Liberation Front: a domestic terrorist group listed by the F.B.I.) and PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) were seen by the public as radical and bizarre; courts found their actions to be criminal. Legislators avoided their extreme positions and neither arson nor spray-painting fur coats won the publics heart or its pocketbook.

But the leopard has changed his spots! Enter the new and improved evangelical and totally trendy animal rights movement of the 90's. Doctrinaire and plugged into every topic of the day from environmentalism to new age one world government and personal responsibility issues, they've got it all. PAWS (the Progressive Animal Welfare Society) and similar modern groups who align themselves with extremists in the new animal rights movement have become masters of propaganda and experts second to none in using the media. Deceptively framed issues make effective emotional appeals to humane and unsuspecting audiences; well-dressed perfectly trained spokespeople dish up servings of guilt, opportunities to scapegoat others and enlightenment en route to fundraising, swaying public opinion and rearranging society through legislation which redistributes human rights (it's impossible to give an animal a right without first taking one away from a human).

The issue of puppy mills is a prime example. Who after all, among the purebred dog community or the public at large, is in favor of puppy mills? Consensus issues like these are used at first to fan the flames of emotional outrage. The second step comes when the uproar is used as a springboard to introduce ordinances which are so broadly drawn that they not only ban exploitive acts such as the so-called puppy mills, but also effectively restrict the breeding practices of the most scrupulous breeders. This process pleases a number of political interests, while public funds for human services are diminishing (which includes enforcement for animal control legislation already on the books) politicians can appear in the media to be animal lovers while turing up the heat on animal possession and ownership rights.

The difference between "animal welfare" and "animal rights" is enormous! This difference is blurred in the media to the extent that many humane people (including our own dog people) are genuinely confused. This confusion has led to the development of what we now call the "humane-industry"; an industry which exploits compassion and sets one segment of the community against another under the pretense of animal welfare, generating an enormous amount of capital in the process.

Because of media exposes' and direct attacks, animal user groups become defensive, apologetic and often fall prey to the tendency to point fingers at others who "are the real problem". This moral one-upmanship game gets breeders to point the finger at pet shops and pet shops at breeders, trainers at veterinarians and most of the above at the AKC. Predictably, this reaction makes the activists' favorite "divide and conquer" techniques extremely effective. Further, the use of scapegoating as a fundraising technique has been wildly successful for the animal rights movement. The combined animal rights network has an annual budget estimated at between $50,000,000 and $200,000,000.

Scapegoating has no historic role in honorable political movements. Rather it has existed throughout time as the handmaiden of hidden agendas and mean-spirited goals. The hidden agenda in the animal rights movement is the total abolition, not the reformation of animal use in society. The glue that holds this cultic-metaphysical system together is not pro-animal but rather anti-human.

Throughout time man has debated the proper role to adopt concerning personal responsibility for animals in his environment. Major world religions have dealt with this question. At one end of the spectrum are people who believe that man has full and total right to do whatever he desires in the area of so-called lower animals; participation in blood sports such as bull-fighting, pit contests and other forms of animal sacrific fall into this category which can be termed animal exploitation. Literally this classification regards man's entertainment as more important than the life of an animal.

At the other end of this spectrum are people who represent the belief that the only ethical behavior man can adopt in relation to an animal is one of "animal protector". (This position dovetails to some degree with environmental causes and their spokespeople: i.e. Endangered Species Act supporter John Hoyt who is also President of the Humane Society of the United States.) For people at this end of the spectrum, even sports such as dog shows, service work performed by guide dogs, 4-H programs and obedience work all represent forms of unacceptable slavery. They believe that domestication itself represents a form of unethical manipulation by man and they do not believe that the deliberate breeding of animals by humans is ever justified. Kim Sturia, a major spokesperson for animal rights, says that someday dog breeding should become an unacceptable practice like smoking and drunk driving! Some at this end of the spectrum claim that the decision as to whom to save from a burning house, choosing between a pet and the life of a child, would depend on which was closest. They literally believe in equal rights for animals!

These radical beliefs are held so intensely that bizarre public relations and news coverage events have been staged to jolt (and

emotionalize) public attention. PAWS, which is a major player in the animal rights movement of the Northwest, puts dogs and cats to sleep on television to make a public point about pet overpopulation and to garner support for legislation which would restrict or ban dog breeding. The Animal Liberation Front, which has claimed responsibility for two cases of arson in the Northwest this spring, believes that crimes committed on behalf of freeing animals are ethically justifiable. A questionnaire published by PETA recently asked respondents whether illegal activities are ever justified when the intent is to rescue suffering animals.

The environmental wind of this movement is as likely to quote religious figures as scientists when discussing issues such as animal protectionism. The religion it most closely resembles is Hindu, but in fairness to that religion, it should be added that they've borrowed only those trendy doctrines which fit their larger goals. Animal rights is not a religion in the strictest sense. It is a cult with an ends justified the means mentality.

It this were not the case, they'd use education rather than emotional manipulation to win converts and they'd oppose terrorism as a political enforcement tactic.

As a political movement they resemble the fascist model. Their intellectual elite have determined that they have the answer, the only answer, for the rest of mankind. Further, they've decided that mankind, through self interest, greed and stupidity is not capable of grasping the importance and truth of their beliefs hence, the majority of the population must be propagandized and regulated into compliance. For those who continue to oppose them, the ALF serves as a terrorist enforcment with their military police.

Dog breeders oppose both the exploitationists and the animal rights extremists and have an orientation which places the vast majority of us squarely in the middle of the spectrum. Historically, we believe in the concept, termed animal welfare, which is based on the Judeo-Christian premise that man has dominion over the animals to the extent that he acts as a responsible, non-exploitive steward. Clearly, in a metaphysical system, man and animal do not have equal rights. We would choose the life of a child over that of our beloved pet. In our Golden Rule- the term others is elusive, but it does mean humans first!

Support is vulnerable. To do a reality check on this premise, ask ten friends casually what they think about biomedical research . Based on what we've seen and heard during the last several months, we would guess that the majority won't even answer the question, but instead will talk about how much they disapprove of cosmetic testing . As with the pet overpopulation issue, you'll find that animal rights propaganda has already distorted the subject so greatly that facts may never gain access to the discussion. Did you know, for instance, that all over the United States there has been a tremendous decline in the number of dogs entering the shelters over the past two decades and a parallel decline in the number of animals euthanized? We have a long way to go and much more work to do, the truth is that public education, spay-neuter clinics and breeder contracts that require spaying and neutering are having an enormous, though incremental effect. In fact, many animal control workers don't use the term pet overpopulation, feeling instead that what we currently have is an unwanted pet problem. A major study introduced by the AVMA, suggests that most dogs who enter shelters today may be healthy but have behavior problems due to improper purchaser/owner expectations and improper or nonexistent puppyhood training.

Notwithstanding these facts and trends, the animal interest landscape is continually being colored by groups who would prefer a specific appearance for a very specific political advantage. The strength of the movement is gained by tactics which range from outright manipulation to opportunistic association: having visibly cozied up to the environmental groups, animal rights activists strike an even more politically correct and recognizable posture and continue to gain credibility from an urban public whose knowledge of animal issues comes primarily from Walt Disney.

As the animal rights movement gains momentum in the 90's, it is critical that we dog breeders who love our sport and work with our animals constantly as a labor of love . . . rather than a doctrinaire methodology to gain access to the new age, get our positive message out to the public. I, for one, am proud to be part of a sport which provides competition that gives everyone – from whatever background – the opportunity to develop; that is a participation sport rather than a spectator sport and thereby provides the potential for physical fitness for all its entrants, that allows families to participate together and children to grow through such programs as 4-H and Junior Showmanship; a sport which has as a judging criterion, an assessment of a persons ability to nurture an animal into a mentally and physically healthy being; that supports the use of dogs for physically limited people; and which, throughout the recent violent decades, has remained virtually drug-free and positive. Our sport is not without problems. There is no endeavor in which man has ever participated that is problem free. Our test lies in whether we love our sport enough to work toward it's improvement without falling victim to tactics designed to cause us to scapegoat its participants and institutions into oblivion.

from September '91 Kennel Review via LRCCC's Wings 'N Rings

breeders producing show prospects see field trial lines producing a totally different type of dog generation after generation, often without much regard to structure. If our working breed is to be kept strong for years to come, each of these types of breeders must care about the physical and mental characteristics we now separately strive to produce. Through learning about the importance of the physical and mental characteristics of our Labrador breeding stock, we can each breed for better Labradors—not only to come up with winners, but to satisfy public market demands as well.

By focusing on the AKC Breed Standard for the Labrador Retriever we can see what structural qualities are important to this breed. Often it is very difficult for the breeder to follow the Standard's written words and "see" structure in his dogs. This article attempts to supply a visual aid.

According to the AKC Standard,"the general appearance of the Labrador should be that of a strongly built, short- coupled dog. He should be fairly wide over the loins, and strong and muscular in the hind quarters.' The illustration shows a Labrador of good structural strength throughout his front assembly, body and rear with the skeletal structure in approximate alignment.

The Standard goes into detail describing the Labrador head. It mentions a "level mouth" which is often confused with a 'level bite." Amounts of "stop," lengths of muzzle, and the width of skull will produce very different head types. We all have preferences.

[Editor's note: In the AKC video on the Labrador Retriever, an aid to interpreting the Standard, the rationale behind head proportions is explained: 'the head should be moderate in proportions. Undue length of muzzle or skull is just as incorrect as a muzzle that is too short and stubby However, it must be remembered that this is a working dog REQUIRING jaws of sufficient length and strength to carry game through heavy cover."]

'The neck should be of medium length, powerful and not throaty. The shoulders should be long and sloping. The chest must be of good width and depth, the ribs well sprung . . .' When we read'"sloping shoulder," or hear of "shoulder layback," it helps to be able to visualize that the scapula (or shoulder bone) is not in a straight upward manner, but is "angled or laid back.' Many books on structure can show the degrees of layback and proposed angles involved, but for the untrained eye, it is easier to consider that the top of this shoulder bone should be behind the point where the neck meets the back. Go through pictures of dogs, taking note of where the neck meets the back (the withers), comparing dog-to-dog. This, together with the length and position (or angle), of the "upper arm' (or humerus bone) basically comprises the 'front." The length of the upper arm should be close to the length of the scapula—picture them meeting close to the center of the forechest. This is not necessarily specified in the wording of the Standard, but, in a description of conformation assembly giving fluid front movement, this gives the dog more ability to 'reach' forward with the front leg. The term 'balanced front angulation' is used in summarizing this type of front assembly that gives the dog the maximum 'reach," allowing it to cover more ground with less effort.

A short neckline joining flat withers above a steeply set or straight shoulder can give the impression of extra length of back. The balance of the shoulder bone to the upper arm sets the center of gravity during movement. The 'well angulated" and "balanced' front allows palpation (the ability to feel) of the prosternum. This is done by raising the head and holding it up in a natural position, then running your hand straight down the front of the neck over the prosternum and following down between the front legs. In the 'straight" dog (scapula positioned in a straight fashion usually with the neck set far forward), the prosternum is difficult to find. Learning to 'see" an angulated front is very difficult. It should be easier in using the visual aid presented here as a guide.

Fairly good balane of scapula to upper arm, yet angled straighter in the shoulder. Lack of poststernum. Nicely turned stifle.

The Standard calls for "stifles well turned and the hindquarters well developed and of great power ... The hocks should be well bent and the dog must neither be cowhocked nor too wide behind..."

To complete balance on our working Labrador, the hindquarters must not only be well developed, they should balance out the front. Again, it takes time in going over many Labradors in photos and in person to develop the "eye" to see different degrees

Well angulated scapula. Slightly shorter upper arm compared to length of scapula, yet front feet are not positioned directly beneath shoulder. Nice well let down hock.

of rear angulation. The stifle or knee on the rear leg of the dog is called to be "well turned." When the dog is properly set up, with the hock or metatarsal bones perpendicular to the ground, and the front set up with feet under the shoulder, it is possible to see whether the stifle is straight or turned. What is difficult is to learn to see the balance of how much 'turn of stifle" goes with the degree of angle the front carries, giving the picture of 'balance."

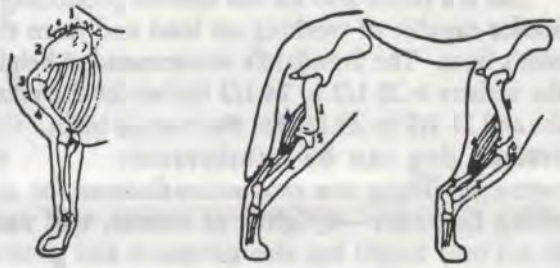
The Standard gives a clear account of well developed legs, feet and pads. What comprises "good' bone and muscle is neither too little nor too heavy an amount to give the general appearance of a strongly built dog. As stated, "A dog well balanced in all points is preferable to one with outstanding good qualities and defects."

"The tail is a distinctive feature of the breed; it should be very thick towards the base, gradually tapering towards the tip, of medium length, should be free from any feathering, and should be clothed thickly all round with the Labrador's short, thick, dense coat, thus giving the peculiar 'rounded appearance' which has been described as the 'otter' tail." The ideal Labrador is called to have a coat that is this very special short, thick, 'double" coat. The dogs being bred to produce winners in the field trial sport often lack undercoat. A good coat, when ruffed back, should expose little skin. Dense weather resistant double coat and otter tail allow our water dog to comfortably perform in the icy waters as the working dog he was intended to be.

The Standard discusses pigmentation and mentions the "Dudley" look (nose pink, without pigmentation) as being unacceptable. Whatever the coat color, dark pigmentation around lips and eyes is required.

The Standard states "Movement should be free and effortless . . . Upon viewing the dog from the rear, one should get the impression that the hind legs, which should be well muscled and not cow hocked, move as nearly parallel as possible, with hocks doing their full share of work and flexing well, thus giving the appearance of power and strength." "Gait tells much about a dog's structure that is not revealed when he is standing still, for it reflects his physical coordination, and balance of body." This portion of structure is too often overlooked in the relationship to working ability. 'Good structure means symmetry of proportion, which provides a smooth, effortless gait, with all parts moving in harmonious rhythm 'Legs that do not move on the same plane produce gait that is akward ward and inefficient.

This strains ligaments and muscles, making us picture the hunter carrying his exhausted dog back to the ruck after a day in the field. The ability of the dog to 'cover more ground "with less effort" is, again, related to assembly—the ability to drive rear legs out behind in response to the front reach. This 'drive' is directly related to the good turn of stifle.



Front assembly	Rear Assembly
1. Withers	1.Femur of thigh bone
2.Scapula or 'shoulder bone"	2.Tibia or fibula bone - Second thigh"
3.Point of chest or Posternum	3.Achilles' tendon.
4.Humerus or "upper arm"	4.Gastromenumius
	5. SM or

An overly long Achilles tendon attached to a shortened gastrocnemius will be more lax than the assembly shown in rear #1. The ability to "push off' and 'flex' depends on the longer length of muscle and its ability to then develop strength and the associated shorter length of tendon in rear #1. The rear assembly with the straight stifle limits ability to push off and extend. Structural balance facilitates "reach" and 'drive" in forming effortless movement. [Editor's note:The author has not covered movement viewed 'from the front. Refer to the Standard for a discussion of this topic.]

For many new to the breed or only involved in the field aspects of Labradors, the often-used word

"type" is a mystery. Simply put, the overall build resembling the short coupled dog described in the Standard, together with three essentials—coat, expression and tail—constitute 'type.' 'Type" is something you can't search for in a dog or study to learn. A dog is 'typey' or it isn't. The human develops the " eye' to see it only after viewing many Labradors. The Standard says very little about temperament. Under 'general appearance" it indicates a "very active' dog. Under the outlining of the head, it tells us that the 'eyes express great intelligence and good temper.' Buyers seeking a good family companion desire a goodnatured ' affectionate and playful dog. The obedience and field competitor desires the dog that will be active and willing to please. The 'hyper" or 'head-strong" dog, often desired for field trialing enabling it to withstand the vigorous training techniques, may not be a good candidate for the average owner/trainer. This temperament type should not be confused with being "birdy" since natural retrieving ability should be present in all types of Labrador.

Size is a factor also for the breeder producing a Labrador capable of working on land and from the hunter's boat. The Standard's recommended height at the withers is 22 1/2 to 24 1/2 inches for the adult male, and 21 1/2 to 23 1/2 for the mature bitch. The oversized dog can be cumbersome in movement. These are recommendations for the working Labrador—weights, of course, wfll vary with not only height but also substance and general build.

If the aim of the breeder is to produce better dogs in each generation, there should be a desire to honestly evaluate each animal, making it possible to complement and breed selectively. By Teaming which dogs and bitches are strong for specific features, the breeder can plan breedings through outcrossing opposite lines to bring in a needed feature or by linebreeding dogs to strengthen prepotent structure.

Too often, dogs and bitches are selected for breeding only on the basis of titles, wins and pedigrees. Not all great titled dogs are great producers. Breed improvement comes when breeders involved in all aspects of the dog "sports" understand the purpose of the Breed Standard, and leam about genetics to improve the odds of achieving correct structure and natural instinct.

Form follows function, and, in learning more about evaluating breeding stock in accordance wfth the Standard, the breeder will be better able to produce a trul y functional dog, capable of the work he is called upon to do.

[Editor's note: For those wanting further information, a slide show on video tape that interprets the Labrador Breed Standard is available from the AKC.

References:
Elliot, Rachel Page, Dogsteps, Howell House, Inc., New York, NY, 1975.
Howe, Dorothy, 7be Labrador Retrieve T. F. H. Publications, Inc., Ltd. 1984.

Rachel Page Elliott, Dogsteps, Howe Book House, Inc. NY, 1975.
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This article was reprinted from the June-July 1987 issue of Retriever International, a now defunct publication, by permission of Diann Sullivan.

PROPOSED PUGET SOUND LABRADOR RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

The Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association, recognizing our responsibility to the Labrador Retriever and the retriever breed enthusiast, sets forth this Code of Ethics, to reflect the desire of the membership to:

- ❖ Keep the Labrador Retriever sound, healthy and free of hereditary diseases.
- ❖ Maintain the working ability of the Labrador Retriever.
- ❖ Conform to the ~~American Kennel Club's published~~ Standard of the Breed. as published by AKC.
- ❖ Be honest in the evaluation of animals used for breeding and/or offered for sale.
- ❖ Exercise truth in advertising.

As an aid to evaluating the suitability of stud dogs and brood bitches, we recommend that members breed only stud dogs and brood bitches who have met the following requirements:

- ❖ Labrador Retrievers that are registered with the AKC or a recognized foreign registry.
- ❖ Certified free of hip and elbow dysplasia by OFA or the Wind/Morgan program (~~OFA prelims are OK~~). Wind Morgan after the age of twenty four mo)
- ❖ Examined annually by a veterinarian ophthalmologist and certified free of all hereditary eye diseases (ACVO or CERF).
- ❖ Are of sound temperament and free from mismarks as described in the breed standard.

Members should guarantee the general health of their breeding stock and their puppies at time of sale.

Only those litters whose sire and dam have met the above requirements and either sire or dam are owned by members in good standing of PSLRA will be allowed to advertise in the Club's newsletter or be listed with the PSLRA Puppy Referral Chairperson.

Only stud dogs that have met the above requirements and are owned by members in good standing of PSLRA may be listed in the PSLRA Stud Dog Referral List.

Copies of certifications must be furnished to puppy and stud dog referral chairperson.

Further, PSLRA urges all members to adopt a spay/neuter program when selling companion animals, and to take back dogs of any age if buyers can no longer keep them for any reason.

In accordance with AKC guidelines, auctions, for laboratories,
A member should not supply puppies for resale to pet stores, or other wholesale outlets.

PSLRA also recommends that its members obtain at least one of the following on their stud dogs and brood bitches before using them in their breeding program:

- ❖ A Companion Dog (CD) obedience ~~degree~~ leg as awarded by AKC. A leg towards a
- ❖ Bench Championship points in an AKC licensed dog show. (~~2 more~~)
- ❖ A judges Award of Merit (JAM) or a placement in an AKC licensed field trial.
- ❖ A Junior Hunting Dog wing ~~(AKC or NAHRA)~~.
- ❖ A ~~PSLRA~~ Working Certificate ~~or specialty~~ club WC
- ❖ The equivalent of the above by a recognized ~~foreign~~ American registry, or organization.

PSLRA strongly urges its members to exercise good sportsmanship at all dog related events.

February 25, 1992

COMING EVENTS

April 19	**Lewis & Clark, Lewiston ID**	**Closes Apr. 01**
April 21	**Ephrata-Moses Lake, Moses Lake WA**	**Closes Apr. 01**
April 22	**Wenatchee, Moses Lake WA**	**Closes Apr. 01**
April 24	**Walla Walla, Walla Walla WA**	**Closes Apr. 08**
April 25	**Richland K.C.**	
April 26	**Yakima, Yakima WA**	**Closes Apr. 08**
April 29	**PSLRA Board Mtg, Frolic Co 7 PM, Redmond WA**	
May 02	**Whidbey Island Kennel Club, Monroe Wa**	
May 02	**RCLRC HRT Contact Cindy Stoner, 502-255-8164**	
May 02	**Spokane Bird Dog Assoc. NAHRA test Contact Gary Erickson, 509-244-2259**	
May 03	**RCLRC HRT**	
May 03	**Spokane Bird Dog Assoc. NAHRA test**	
May 09	**PSLRA HRT Contact Katie Mearns, 206-483-0677**	
May 09	**GPNWRTC NAHRA test Contact Dick Weiner, 503-378-0333**	
May 10	**PSLRA HRT**	

May 10	GPNWRTC NAHRA test	
May 17	PSLRA General Mtg. Location TBA	
May 23	OHRC NAHRA test Contact Martin Loper, 206-944-1062	
May 24	OHRC NAHRA test	
May 24	Inland Empire Kennel Assoc. Spokane Wa	Closes May 06
May 25	OHRC NAHRA test	
May 27	PSLRA Board Mtg. Location TBA	
June 13	PSLRA B Match Location TBA	
June 19	RCLRC Specialty, Canby OR Contact Judy Geist, 503-638-1355	
June 20	RCLRC Specialty, Canby OR	
June 20	Spokane Bird Dog Assoc. NAHRA test Contact Gary Erickson, 509-244-2259	
June 21	Spokane Bird Dog Assoc. NAHRA test	
June 21	All breed show after RCLRC, Canby OR ?	
July 18	ORTC HRT Contact Marty Kuhs, 503-663-6135	
July 19	ORTC HRT	
Aug. 01	PSLRA Specialty, Tukwila WA Contact Joni Willing, 206-858-7445	
Aug. 02	Seattle Kennel Club Show, Seattle WA ?	