

# THE WAG



Newsletter of the Blackhawk Labrador Retriever Club

### In this issue:

- The Standard
- Looking at You
- DNA testing
- Club Matters
- From the President
- In Lab History
- From UKC

Coming up next issue  
Genetic Diversity

Dear Labrador Fancier,

Welcome to the *WAG*, newsletter of Blackhawk LRC. We provide education and news about UKC Labradors. We invite your questions, your comments, your input. We need input for :

- \* Member Highlight
- \* Brags
- \* Juniors News
- \* Recipes
- \* Looking at You

Please submit to : [newsletter@theukclabradorclub.org](mailto:newsletter@theukclabradorclub.org)  
*your Editor*

### THE STANDARD

The opening paragraphs of the UKC Standard for Labrador Retrievers state:

The goals and purposes of this breed standard include: to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world; and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this breed, and must take the responsibility to see that these are not perpetuated.

Membership in a Parent or National Club usually carries with it the solemn assurance that you as an individual breeder WILL abide by the Standard and encourage others to do the same. The second paragraph of the UKC Standard emphasizes this:

*continued page 3*

*“ What’s the point of having a breed standard anyway “*  
*... comment recently overheard ringside ...*



*Who can identify For us This 12 year old GRCH ?*

*\*Answers to the Editor and \*SUBMIT your photo for a future edition to the Editor:*

[newsletter@theukclabradorclub.org](mailto:newsletter@theukclabradorclub.org)

*Here's looking at you*

### DNA Testing

DNA testing represents a quantum leap forward in breeding healthy dogs. While it does not assist in selecting breeding candidates for breed type/conformation to the standard or for temperament, properly used it does guarantee that responsible breeders can avoid producing dogs with known and testable heritable problems.

Responsible Labrador breeders should be selecting breeding candidates so that each generation improves. Dogs with egregious faults and dogs with disqualifications should NOT be used. Maintaining and improving the breed is our responsibility.

In this column space we'll be exploring various DNA tests and the traits/characteristics/health problems they detect.

For further reading: Start by reading the [Health, Genetics and Responsible Breeding](#) section on our web site.

*From Your President*

Dear Waggors,

As Fall approaches in 2018, the trees and dog coats aren't the only things undergoing change. In 2015, after being approved as the Parent Club for the Labrador Retriever in UKC, we were on a Probationary period of 5 years, which would finalize in 2020. The probationary period is used by UKC to monitor progress by the Club to develop open policies for Education, Membership recruiting, hosting National Specialties and producing a Newsletter that reports research, fun and practical matters related to the Labrador, among other things.

This September, UKC announced a change in the application process to become a National Club, which is bringing some changes to the Blackhawk Labrador Retriever Club, including a name change! I wrestled with the name change. We had so carefully chosen it when we first became a Club, to incorporate the history of the area where it first started. We had a beautiful logo that represented some Native American folklore to go with the history. We had ribbons, pins and Club merchandise printed up to show our pride. Didn't UKC understand how important this was to us? I mean, come on, changing a Club name is like telling us that we never existed! It's like telling us that all of our hard work means nothing and to tell you the truth, I was upset about it. I felt a bit of hope when I was asked to present this historical information about our name to a committee at UKC. They stated that while the History was very interesting, it was local History and therefore, did not represent anything outside of its own area. The name Blackhawk was perfect for a regional Club, but not a National Club. And then I understood better. The BLRC *is* a Regional Club.

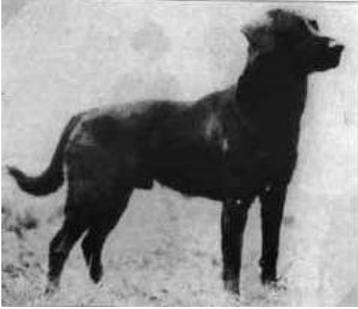
It was developed, operated and maintained mostly by a group of folks right from that area. But as we move forward to welcome everyone who owns, breeds and loves the Labrador Retriever, they too, need to know that we are a nationally diverse group. That everyone will have an opportunity to learn, to be involved and to establish a Code of Ethics that will uphold our Breed Standard for generations to come. That we welcome all who might want to join us, for the opportunity of fact based Education and that even though we may disagree on a few issues, we have in place, an oath that prohibits those who do not wish to uphold the Breed Standard but that are willing to learn and be mentored by our highly diverse and exceptionally knowledgeable membership. And yes, with these ideas and plans before us, we should be bigger than our Regional status. Our Membership has already grown Internationally and we need to reflect that growth. The name, Blackhawk, now becomes part of our Club history and we move forward with a name that better reflects our place in UKC history as well. Names have been submitted to UKC and we are awaiting confirmation of our new name, tentatively, the National Labrador Retriever Association (NLRA).

So, please join me in our new chapter. Help us in our membership recruiting and volunteer in the many options available to help with the Clubs work. Growth means expansion and we have some simple ways that you can get involved. Please see our Volunteer Opportunity section on the website at [Blackhawk LRC, the National LR Association](#)

I'd like to personally thank our membership for all of their hard work this last year. We accomplished a lot with our Outreach to Hurricane and Wild Fire damaged areas, our support of local dog events in our home States, our commitment to the Service Dog program for our Veterans, Labrador Health Research and a host of other current and ongoing issues. You have put the planning, the sweat equity and the resources into action over and over again and I look forward to watching all of your success in the coming year!

Ellen McKinnon, President  
(Signing off for the last time as)  
Blackhawk Labrador Retriever Club

100 years ago in Labrador History: World War I was ending. It was devastating to the populations of Western Europe, essentially wiping out an entire generation of men. Labrador Retrievers were known among the aristocracy in Britain, who used them along with spaniels and setters in organized hunts where beaters flushed game birds, men [and a very few women] shot, and dogs retrieved the downed birds. Peter of Faskally became a Field Trial Champion, and was credited with bringing renown to the Labrador breed because he was the first bird dog to be trained like a herding dog to respond to whistle commands and be directed to fallen birds. Dual FC-CH Banchory Bolo was the first dog to earn a dual championship by winning both the bench Championship CH as well as becoming a Field Trial Champion in England. Each of his litters produced either a Field Champion or a Show Champion. He was born in 1915, during WWI, and lived until 1927. Dogs today with white spots on their pads or white spots hidden in the undercoat of the base of their tails are said to have 'Bolo spots'. Bred by Sir John Banner and owned by Lady Howe. He was originally named Caerhowell Bully. FTCH Peter of Faskally is on the left and DCH Banchory Bolo is on the right.



## The Standard

## continued

### Question: Why are there disqualifications under the Standard?

Here is what the UKC Standard says about Disqualifications in the Labrador retriever:

A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a conformation event, and must be reported to UKC.

Why are some things about a Labrador Retriever so incorrect that they warrant being a Disqualification? The purpose of Disqualifications is to identify the characteristics that are so AGGREGIOUS to the essence of the breed that dogs having these characteristics must be removed from the breeding pool, and must be reported to the UKC who will take administrative action on their individual registrations toward this end. The things that ARE Disqualifications immediately eliminate a dog from being a breeding or conformation dog, and that is why they must be reported to UKC.

A dog who exhibits a Disqualification must NOT have that Disqualification perpetuated in the breed. The individual dog may be a wonderful companion. It must NOT be a breeding dog.

A dog who produces Disqualifying Traits must be removed from the breeding pool to help remove the Disqualifying Traits from the gene pool.

### Question: What are the Disqualifications for Labrador Retrievers in the UKC Standard?

The Disqualifications in the UKC Standard for Labrador Retrievers are:

- Any color or combination of colors other than described in the "Color" paragraph.
- Nose completely unpigmented.
- Absence of pigmentation in eye rims.
- Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.
- Viciousness or extreme shyness.
- Aggressiveness toward humans or other dogs.
- Albinism.

The first group is specific to the Labrador Retriever. The second group is included in all UKC breed Standards. There is NO latitude within the Disqualifications. As a breeder you should adhere to these Disqualifications. Judges in the conformation ring will also be adhering to these Disqualifications.

### Question: Why are the UKC Disqualifications different than in other Standards?

Each Standard governing body or registry may be different from each other in delineating Disqualifications or Disqualifying Faults.

Since the Labrador retriever was first recognized as a breed in the United Kingdom, you should be concerned with the Kennel Club Standard and how our British counterparts interpret the Standard and the breed. If you are planning to enter AKC events, you should be familiar with the AKC Standard for Labrador Retrievers. In breeding, registering and exhibiting Labradors in UKC, your primary focus should be the UKC Standard.

### Question: What if I disagree with the Standard? Don't I have the right of free speech in America? Can't I do what I want to in my breeding program with my dogs?

As a citizen of the USA you are protected by the First Amendment for Freedom of Speech. And yes you do have right to make decisions regarding your dogs as Property in the State in which you live.

However, if you choose to enter Dog Events held under the auspices of a Registry, then you agree to abide by the parameters of that Registry. Read your entry forms. You are agreeing.

If you choose to Register Dogs under the auspices of a Registry, then you agree to abide by the parameters of that Registry. Read your applications.

If you disagree with the Standard then the option left open to you is to work WITHIN the Registry's accepted process to make your disagreements known and to substantiate your reasons for them. Standards are not changed merely on the basis of opinion.

## **LETTER TO BLACKHAWK LRC FROM UKC**

full letter in its original pdf format is available in the Members Only page of the club website

September 21, 2018

Hello officers of Blackhawk Labrador Retriever Club,

UKC has revised the requirements for our National Breed Associations. These requirements need to be met for new organizations before applying for consideration to become a National Breed Association. Since Blackhawk Labrador Retriever Club was approved before they were imposed, it is understood that the club may not meet all of the requirements. However, Blackhawk Labrador Retriever Club will need to start progressing toward these requirements before it will be eligible for approval as the UKC Chartered National Breed Association. Below is the list of requirements for National Breed Associations, as well as a list of items that will need to be provided by the club.

### **National Breed Association Requirements**

Minimum of 100 years of collective experience among members.

Members with this experience should provide their resume to be included with the National Breed Association's application packet.

Minimum of 200 UKC titles including but not limited to Champion titles, Hunt titles, and Performance titles.

Minimum of 100 UKC Bred by Champions.

Membership distributed nationally in a minimum of 25 different households.

Membership must own a minimum of 150 UKC registered dogs of this breed.

Minimum of 5 breeders with documentation of breeding 3 generations of registered dogs of this breed. The dogs may be registered with any acceptable registry.

Annual Publication to be sent to the members and to UKC electronically or by mail.

The Association must offer educational opportunities to members and the public.

Must hold a National Event specifically for the breed every 1-2 years.

A Code of Ethics in which all members must be held accountable. The Association's Code of Ethics must include that all breeding dogs owned by members must be UKC registered and all litters must be UKC Litter Registered whenever possible.

When applying Associations must present resume for the Association, complete with its mission statement, the reason why the Association is interested in becoming the National Association for this breed, and the Association's plan for growth.

### **Please provide the following information:**

Letter of intent and club goals for meeting new requirements

Updated membership list (which should include number of years of experience and UKC registration number of all dogs owned)

Updated Bylaws (if they have changed)

Any publications/newsletters sent to the membership by the club

A list of dogs owned by members who have earned UKC titles, and what those titles are (Dog's registered name and UKC registration number)

A list of dogs owned by members who are UKC Bred by Champions (Dog's registered name and UKC registration number)

Since this club is pursuing National Breed Association status, the club's name must be changed to encompass the scope of a National Breed Association and not a regional club. Please discuss a club name that fits this request with the board and have the membership vote on it.

If you would like to submit a name for approval by the Club Approval & Review Committee prior to a membership vote, you are welcome to do so. Once a new name has been approved by the club, the club's Bylaws will need to be updated to reflect the change and a new copy submitted to UKC.

*CLUB MATTERS*

**Membership**

membership application consists of the  
application itself +  
the code of ethics +  
the membership dues

The application and Code of Ethics can be found  
in pdf format on the website  
See the Membership Application section

All applications must be mailed to:  
Blackhawk National  
603 N Main St  
McVille NC 58254

**Treasury**

2019 Dues become due on January 1.  
Please remit to the Treasurer

**Data**

Keeping our dogs' data correctly reported  
to UKC is critical.

**Events**

Make sure your events are forwarded  
to the Web Master AND the Newsletter Editor.

**Web**

fB members group link is provided to members by the President  
when your membership is finalized.

Club website is located:

<http://www.theukclabradorclub.org>

**The MEMBERS ONLY page password is  
provided by the President to you**

**Volunteer**

We need the following:

Newsletter Editor  
Dog Data Manager  
Events Manager

**UKC LETTER CONTINUED**

Please submit the requested information, along with the club's intentions and  
goals of moving

forward as the National Breed Association for the Labrador Retriever by December  
31, 2018.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email at  
[clubs@ukcdogs.com](mailto:clubs@ukcdogs.com) or by phone at 269.343.9020.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hunderman

Nicole Esio

UKC Club Coordinator

UKC Club Coordinator

**Cc:** Sydney Suwannarat Sr. Director, Show Operations