

THE WAG



Newsletter of the National Labrador Retriever Association

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Dear Labrador Fancier,

Welcome to the *WAG*. We provide education and news about UKC Labradors. We invite your questions, your comments, your input. We need input for :ALL AREAS Please submit to : newsletter@theukclabradorclub.org
We received NO input after the last issue.

**NATIONAL SPECIALTY
 FRIDAY October 18
 Loves Park IL
 Gun Dog + National Specialty
 2 Conformation Events
 SEE ACCOMPANYING FLIER
 for more info**

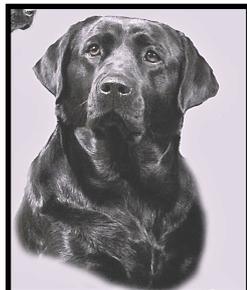
Hello Waggers!
 Winter Newsletter March 2019

Raise your hand if your Winter seems to be lingering on and on and on and on. Here in North Dakota, we have 30 inches of snow on the ground and at the time I'm writing this, another Blizzard starts tomorrow. I think most of us are wishing for warmer days and getting out into the field for training, playing and gardening. As we approach Spring, I look at it as a time of rebirth, bringing forth new life and new experiences, much like our Club is doing now!

The name; Blackhawk Labrador Retriever Club, is now part of our Clubs history as a Regional UKC Club, which was open to everyone. After qualifying through a large list of requirements, listed below, we have now become Ukc's Parent Club for the Labrador Retriever, the National Labrador Retriever Association. All correspondence and references about the Club should use this new name. Our new email is nlraukc@gmail.com. Our website remains the same: www.theukclabradorclub.org
 What has the NLRA been doing since or last Newsletter? Take a look at the UKC's requirements below to see what we've been doing. I want to sincerely thank everyone who has had a hand in gathering this information. A Special 'thank-you' to Martha Anderson for her tireless efforts to gather information and make sure our By Laws, website and all of our printed information was changed from BLRC to NLRA. You don't realize how many times you use a Club name until you have to change every single one of them, LOL!

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.*



Here's Looking at You

*Who can Identify this lovely Labrador? Submit your answers to:
newsletter@theukclabradorclub.org
 Members may submit a photo to the Editor future use.*

*In the last issue ..
 GRCH Ynda's Bonnie Boy Angus
 now almost 13 years old
 Angus enjoys romping in the yard, watching TV with his people and snacking*

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.

DNA Testing: PRA. Blindness is a devastating condition for a dog. Many dogs who are born or become blind are euthanized. Labradors do have a inherited form of blindness, Progressive Retinal Atrophy, in the gene pool. With today's affordable tests, it is inexcusable to produce Labradors affected by this condition. PRA is a simple dominant/recessive disease. This means that otherwise worthy carriers do not have to be eliminated from breeding consideration. BUT they MUST be bred to dogs genetically homozygous normal. A number of laboratories test for PRA. Currently your PRA results from Optigen or Paw Prints can be listed at OFA.

NLRA urges owners to list ALL GENETIC HEALTH SCREENING RESULTS at OFA.

- 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.

Associations will be accepted under a provisional status for a maximum of five years. To be considered for a full national license and to obtain a National Charter with UKC, the Association must show continued growth in UKC registration and participation in UKC events. The growth of the Association can be presented to UKC in registration process at UKC, numbers of litters bred and registered, numbers of titles earned and an outline of the Association's activities to promote growth and breed education since the Association was licensed under a provisional national status.

This was a huge undertaking to gather this information. (Some of you still need to send yours in). In collecting a portion of our current stats, I found our Club to be extremely blessed with a wealth of Centuries of knowledge, experience, generational breeders and activists. In my opinion, just what a National Club needs to be. It will take all of us to keep reporting our numbers, as this is a requirement to stay as the National Club. We must show growth each year so please keep sending in your new Titles, litter numbers etc.

One area where we lack is in our Membership. I think this is because of a number of reasons. First off, the UKC has never had a National Club for the Labrador Retriever, so, this is new for everyone. Secondly, I think that there is a perception, especially in AKC purists, that somehow, dogs shown in UKC are somehow inferior and not worthy of showing in the AKC. This is a perception that we can change. As a matter of fact, almost 90% of our membership show in both venues. I think that there is a real difference in how dogs are judged in AKC, but that's a whole editorial in itself!

As we all move forward with our new National status, the number one thing we must remember is that we are an educational Club. The whole purpose of the Parent Club is to provide information on our Breed and to protect the Breed Standard as it is written. So, I will be calling on all of you to provide articles, information or conference summaries for the Newsletter. I will ask you to share your training tips in the dozens of sports and activities we do with our Labradors and I will ask everyone to share new Health information as they read about it. We want the NLRA to have a rich Library of factual information on all things Labrador, but it will take all of us to contribute. You can send information, old or new, to the Newspaper editor at nlraukc@gmail.com. It is a requirement of membership to be involved, so 'copy and paste' away!

As we all start our busy show/Trial/Test Season, I want to add a comment about the issue of dilute dogs, which is probably the hottest topic in Labradors right now. With the primary purpose of the NLRA to be an educational Club, we must give information to all who ask and are willing to hear or read the information that we research to be true. This means that yes, we will have dilute folks in our midst and possibly in our Membership. We cannot turn away someone who wants to learn. However, since our Club stance and By Laws state, we absolutely do not support the idea that dilute dogs are, or should be registered as Labrador Retrievers. This issue has been hard fought in the past few years in order to make changes in the registration process at UKC. And our work is not done there. We are still working to separate Labradors and dilute dogs into separate Breed registrations. That means that UKC will need to approve a new Breed Standard for dilutes, which we have presented to them. This is a long and slow process but the UKC is listening. Unfortunately, some people have dropped their membership because we allow dilute folks in. We must allow them in as a requirement to educate all, however, they will never be voting members. So, please read the membership rules carefully so you understand that while there may be a dilute household in the membership, that household will never be able to vote on matters that pertain to the Labrador Retriever. In my opinion, there will be a few here to look around and scoop up information, which is exactly what we want them to do! There will be a few who will challenge, but we are well schooled in this already. We will talk more about the issue of dilutes within the Health section of the WAG.

We have our National Specialty coming up this October. A flier is in this issue of the WAG! Everyone is invited to sponsor a Class if they wish to. We can never have too many Sponsors! Please consider attending our National Specialty this year. It is always a fun time for all and who doesn't love all the socializing and of course, our favorite dog show snacks! And don't forget that our By Laws call for a vote for President on all odd years, so, we will be voting for our President this Fall. Please send in your name with a short Bio if you are interested.

The NLRA is OUR Club. It is for everyone who has a comment, an idea, a tip or trick, a suggestion for change or a statement of concern. Be involved. Send your ideas, your art, your photos, your remarks and your knowledge. Without each one of you, the Club is nothing. So, agree or disagree, support, change or offer suggestion. We will never grow without change.

Please travel safely with your dogs and loved ones as the warm weather approaches. Remember to share your wins and accomplishments.

Most of all, love your dogs, this great Breed that we have all come to love, to share our lives with and protect. Every soft ear, every gentle kiss, every snore and every head put upon our lap. It can't get any better than that!

Signing off until next time.....

Ellen McKinnon, President

National Labrador Retriever Association

Labrador Color Controversy: 100 years ago. The original Labradors and earlier St John's dogs were black. The intent of the kennel masters at Malmesbury and Buccleigh was to concentrate the desirable genes for working, health, temperament, structure. They were ruthless in their selection criteria for breeding stock and kept meticulous records, particularly at Buccleigh. The records show generations of Black dogs. Only rarely were dogs gifted to other noble estates, but there were some. Many of the early dogs were known by their master's titles, and many were given names from mythology or Roman history. It was only about the time of WWI that the practice was changed to reflect what we know as kennel names. Lord Munden's Sentry became simply Munden Sentry. Some nobles did not use their own names but adopted place names like Lady Howe who used her estate's name, Banchory. After WWI the dog shows and field trials that were suspended during the War once again started up. There was a group of Labrador owners who were not nobles, many of whom were former Military officers and wealthy upper class merchants, but not titled nobles. This group imported their St John's Dogs much later in time — between 1890 and 1910, and it was from this group that numbers of yellow Labradors emerged. Because the imported dogs were different and the yellow bloodlines contained 'scant' breedings into/from the 'nobles' bloodlines, these Labradors were different genetically.. There were some of the 'noble' bloodlines available through retired gamekeepers who had kept dogs for themselves from the estates. In order to continue to produce yellow Labradors, they were almost exclusively bred to the few existing yellows. There were very few that crossed over into those gamekeepers noble bloodlines. The most popular of field retrievers were still Flat-Coat Retrievers, and the Rockstead owners openly crossed their black flat-coats with yellow Labradors. They had several outstanding field retriever winners — Footspark and Footprint — who were widely admired. This was prior to The Kennel Club prohibiting cross-breeding of recognized breeds to each other. Not that anyone admitted at the time ... but every here and there the yellow Labrador gene began to appear in some of the nobles litters, notably in the Banchory sired litters. The proponents of Black only Labradors tried to amend the Standard to exclude Yellows. Lady Howe of Banchory won the argument against excluding yellows when her Black who had sired yellows was the Crufts Best of Breed winner. The cause of Yellow Labradors was helped by the enthusiasm for them by none other than King George V. It was after the 1917 decision NOT to split the breed was made that Sandylands brought Yellow into its breeding program. There were several early 1920's and 1930's well known and successful yellow breeding programs notably Diant and Poppleton in Eng-



Pictured is Buccleuch Avon, widely considered to be the founder of the Labrador Retriever breed., the dog to which all modern Labradors trace.

GENETIC DIVERSITY

As promised, this issue introduces the topic of genetic diversity.

What the heck is that you may ask?

Genetic diversity simply put is how many different possible genes there are in a given population or breed of dog.

This is important 'why' you ask? Genetic diversity gives a breed of dogs the opportunity to keep genes for healthy characteristics while responsible breeders 'select out' the unhealthy or undesirable genes.

Up until the mapping of the canine genome, genetic diversity had to be maintained by knowledgeable breeders using the techniques of linebreeding and outcrossing. AND their personal knowledge about historical dogs appearing in their pedigrees.

As you can surmise, this knowledge was often based on how much study individual breeders were willing to make, and could be influenced by misinformation from other people. Not to mention the tendency of some breeders to make decisions based on cost and availability of stud dogs OR current winners in the field or show ring.

Enter the modern era of DNA mapping and testing. Now as responsible breeders, we are able to gather and use objective data about a given dog and its heritage.

DNA testing allows us determine and select matings that will NOT produce puppies affected with inherited conditions or diseases that alter quality of life.

But what about the other factors? How as responsible breeders do we determine what are healthy choices for our dogs and our breed?

You used to hear the opinion that 'as long as you outcross you will get more healthy dogs.' But this was based on opinion, not fact.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE ARE NOT CREATING ANY NEW GENES WITHIN OUR BREED. All the genes that we have to work with are already here and have been here since The Kennel Club in England banned cross-breeding-of-pure-bred-dogs. That was more than 100 years ago. Every Labrador today has the same genes that existed in 1919, only in different combinations.

Let that sink in, please.

WE'VE JUST BEEN REMIXING THE SAME GENES OVER AND OVER FOR 100 YEARS.

Many savvy breeders have utilized tools such as Pedigree Analysis for Coefficient of Inbreeding to help them make decisions. But the drawback with COI and other Pedigree Analysis is that it statistically calculates the probability that a dog may have repeating gene sequences from ancestors. Probability is not the same as actual gene makeup. To complicate this probability calculation is the physical way in which canine genes themselves are physically made and passed to offspring. No matter how much we may wish it NOT to be so, each individual gene made by a parent dog is different from every other individual gene every made by that parent dog. There is no such thing as exact replicas when it comes to genes. Simply put, a COI is a 'best guess' on the 'highest probability' that a puppy from a mating will have genetic-material from a given ancestor. In layman's terms, Puppy Wonderful is 15% line-bred on Ancestor Fantastic means that there is a 15% maximum chance that Puppy Wonderful has genes from Fantastic.

Enter DNA mapping. The certificate below is from one of the Editor's dogs whose DNA was used in the initial mapping of the Labrador breed. I've tried to enlarge the certificate so you can read the information given on it. The value of .21 on the left graph shows Interrelatedness compared to the entire breed. This dog was selected to be part of the study because he has both types of ancestors — those who appear to be totally unrelated and those known to be closely related.

The GREAT advantage of DNA Mapping is that you see the analysis of THE ACTUAL GENES that your dog has *versus* the PROBABLE Genes that your dog 'may' have as shown in its pedigree. To repeat, Mapping = Actual and Pedigree = Probable.

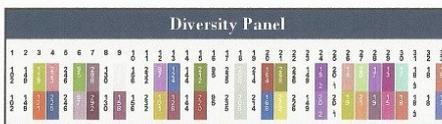
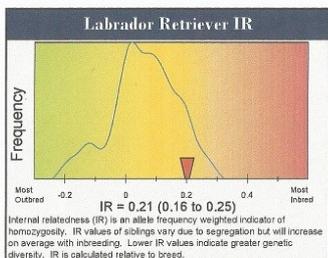
However, please also remind yourself of this. All the Labrador Retriever genes come from the same pool of genes that existed 100 years ago. We've just been remixing them for generations, like shaking a kaleidoscope. So dogs who are 'apparently unrelated' are probably related in their past too distant to be on the pedigree you are reading today.

The full study including how you can enroll your dogs and how you can use Genetic Diversity in your breeding program are included at the link. <https://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/dog/GeneticDiversityInLabradorRetrievers.php> The data are interesting to read as more dogs become part of the data base.

DOG GENETIC DIVERSITY ANALYSIS

Breed: Labrador Retriever
Sex: Male
Color: EeBBDD - BLACK, Undiluted
DOB: 2006
Reg: AKC SR35363002

Case: NCD
Print Date: March 20, 2018
Report ID: 7910-3896-8691-7073



Labrador Retriever DLA

	DLA I	DLA II	
Haplotype 1	1054	2022	Maintaining diversity in the DLA which helps regulate immune responses is beneficial to a breed. Choosing mates differing in their DLA haplotypes helps maintain diversity in litters.
Haplotype 2	1065	2048	



Veterinary Genetics Laboratory
One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616
530-752-2211
www.vgl.ucdavis.edu

MARTHA ANDERSON

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:
National Labrador Retriever Association
603 S Main St McVille ND 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