



THE WORLD OF LABRADOR RETRIEVERS

The Labrador Retriever is currently the most popular dog in the Canada. The main reason for their popularity is the amazing versatility of the breed. Labs excel as guide and therapy dogs, in the show, obedience, rally, and agility rings, as hunting companions, in search and rescue work, and, of course, as family pets.

Labs are friendly, loving, energetic dogs who make wonderful family members. One reason that Labs adapt so well in households is their background as duck hunting dogs. When used for duck hunting, a Lab is expected to stay quietly in a duck blind for long periods of time, followed by a short burst of vigorous activity as he plunges into the water and retrieves the ducks. Then he returns for another long, quiet wait in the duck blind. This means that Labs can be perfectly happy spending long, quiet hours in the house, as long as they are provided with several short periods of very active play. Because these dogs love to retrieve, fifteen minutes of chasing a tennis ball or a plastic retrieving bumper can provide them with suitable energy release. They also love to hike, jog, and run with their owners. A short walk around the block will not provide enough exercise for a Lab.

Labs are very people-oriented dogs and are happiest when they are with their families. They do not adapt well to being outside-only dogs, and tend to develop unfortunate behaviors such as barking, digging, destructive chewing, and landscape rearrangement when they are left alone outside for long periods of time. They are not guard dogs, although most will provide acceptable alarm barking when needed. Aggressive behavior is a serious temperament fault in a Lab.

Labs are low-maintenance dogs. The only time a bath is needed is when they have encountered a skunk or rolled in something unspeakable! Weekly brushing with a slicker brush will keep their coats clean and shining. Frequent bathing will remove the natural oils from a Labrador's coat and can result in a variety of skin problems. Labradors shed their heavy winter coat in the spring, and owners can expect to find moderate shedding throughout the year.

Labs come in three colors: black, yellow, and chocolate. There is no difference in personality, temperament, or activity level among the three colors. All three colors may occur in the same litter of puppies.

Labrador pups love to chew and can be quite destructive unless provided with a constant supply of chew toys. They are very slow to mature and are mentally and physically puppies until well over two years of age, regardless of their size. Both sexes make good pets. In general, male Labs are more dependent and love to stay close to their owners, while females are a bit more independent.

There are two types of Labradors: working lines and show lines. Labs from working lines tend to have a more slender build than the stockier build of the show lines. Dogs from working lines often have a very strong drive to retrieve and may have more energy than the typical family is prepared to handle. Dogs from show lines usually have a more laid back temperament. Many Labs fall somewhere between these two types and make excellent pets and hunting dogs.

Labs are very intelligent dogs, and given appropriate guidelines for behavior, they can adapt to almost any living situation. An untrained Lab can be an unmitigated disaster! A well trained Labrador is a welcome addition to almost any family.



A GUIDE FOR BUYING A PUPPY

Introduction

A puppy buyer should understand they are purchasing a companion for ideally the next 15 years. A careful selection will dramatically increase the chances that this will be a healthy, delightful companion.

The primary determining factor of a litter's quality (meaning health, temperament and looks) will be the puppy's parents. A responsible breeder puts a great deal of thought into each litter, matching parents based on health issues, temperament, looks, and performance records. However, don't expect to be able to see both parents in the breeder's own kennel. Often breeders will use an outside stud dog. Typically only the most established breeders will own a stud dog of such quality as to be the very best match for their bitch. Close proximity is usually not a valid reason for a breeding.

The second critical factor in a puppy's future is how it is raised. Much research has been done on critical periods of puppy development, and the consensus is overwhelming--puppies need lots of human contact. While there is no magic age for separating a pup from its littermates and dam, there is conclusive evidence that no puppy should leave the breeder before seven weeks.

While breeders utilize a wide variety of facilities for puppy raising, from elaborate kennel buildings to garages to living rooms, cleanliness and human contact is what's important, not the fanciest setup. As pack animals, puppies learn from their mother that their "den" should remain clean, and eventually they begin to go further and further from their sleeping area to soil making them easy to housetrain. A litter that is kept in a dirty pen learns to disregard where they potty, making them very difficult to housetrain.

Most contracts include basic health warranties and requirements for basic care on the owner's part. Breeders carry an enormous burden to produce dogs that conform to the breed's standard for looks, temperament, and working ability while being free of genetic disease. Making color, sex and other superficial characteristics your priorities increases your risk of not getting a healthy companion for a lifetime. Responsible breeders love contact from puppy buyers only interested in a quality dog, but will be patient with your desire for a particular color or sex if you are willing to wait for the right one to be available.

Guidelines

Each breeding and the resulting puppies should meet the BCLRC Breeder's Code of Ethics. The breeder should be able to explain why this particular match of stud dog and brood bitch took place.

Buyers should be completely honest and forthright as to their home situation, how this puppy will be raised and kept throughout its lifetime, and all of their expectations in acquiring this new family member.

Buyers should be able to meet at least one parent and see pictures of a parent who is not on the premises. All pedigrees and clearances should be available..

All areas where the puppies and other dogs are kept should be clean with obvious marked attention to their safety and well being. Temperature should be kept at comfortable levels. As the puppies out-grow their whelping box, their puppy pen should be the same: clean, comfortable and safe.

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A GUIDE FOR BUYING A PUPPY

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Puppies should appear to be content and not under any stress, either as to health or environment. The puppies should appear to be well socialized.

Buyers should know that every breeder will have different rules regarding visits to their litters. Please understand and abide by them. They are established to keep the puppies and their mother healthy.

Puppies should be on an appropriate worming schedule.

Puppies should receive their first vaccination between 7 and 8 weeks and this vaccination should be given prior to the puppy leaving the breeder's premises.

Puppies should not be available for going to their new homes prior to 7 weeks.

Puppies should be tattooed or microchipped prior to going to their new homes.

All puppies must be registered with the Canadian Kennel Club. It is the breeder's responsibility to do this.

Buyers should understand that breeders are aiming to produce puppies that will fulfill a particular goal such as conformation shows, field events, agility trials, service etc. Puppies in a particular litter that appear to have those qualities will be earmarked for homes that will take that puppy to its full potential. In no way are the other puppies in a litter inferior. A well-thought out breeding with proper raising will produce wonderful, sound and attractive pets.

Buyers should understand that a breeder who takes the effort to produce a litter as described above and gets to know the prospective buyers and their home situations, will be able to best match each puppy to a particular home and family with greater chances of success than if the buyer makes his/her own choice. Many breeders, in fact, insist on making that final decision.

Buyers should familiarize themselves completely with the paperwork and information that a breeder provides. Breeders welcome the opportunity to answer any questions and concerns.

Buyers should be given instructions regarding care and feeding of the puppy. This should take place in plenty of time for them to prepare for the day they take their puppy home.

Contracts and guarantees can be an important consideration when purchasing a puppy. However, remember that a contract is only as good as the person offering it. There are no ironclad guarantees when breeding animals. A breeder can do everything considered normal and appropriate to breed healthy animals, and still produce the occasional genetic health issue.

Potential buyers should receive a copy of the contract/guarantee prior to any deposit being made, in order for them to completely understand both their and the breeder obligations.

Buyers should be treated with complete honesty and openness. They have a right to expect respect and consideration. All agreements between Buyer and Breeder should be spelled out in writing. Deposits and payments on any particular puppy should be written out, with any reservations clearly documented.

Buyers should expect eager and friendly follow up care after their puppy is taken home. In fact, breeders should be available for consultation and take an interest in the welfare of the dog for its entire life.



BREEDER'S CODE OF ETHICS

Purpose

The British Columbia Labrador Retriever Club, recognizing our responsibility to the Labrador Retriever and the Labrador Retriever enthusiast, sets forth this Breeders' Code of Ethics to reflect the desire of the membership to:

- Keep the Labrador Retriever sound, healthy, and free of hereditary diseases by using up-to-date testing for stud dogs and brood bitches.
- Maintain the original working ability of the Labrador Retriever.
- Conform to the Canadian Kennel Club's published standard for the breed.
- Exercise truth in advertising.
- Educate prospective buyers.
- Maintain the reputation of the Club by treating other breeders and prospective puppy purchasers with integrity, dignity, and respect.

Ethics

1. All Breeders should familiarize themselves with the CKC By-Laws pertaining to the breeding, registration and identification of purebred dogs in Canada
2. Labrador Retrievers used as stud dogs and brood bitches must be registered with the CKC or a CKC recognized registry.
3. The breeder should carefully choose stud dogs and brood bitches that exemplify the Labrador Retriever instinct and temperament. Aggressiveness towards humans or other animals or any evidence of shyness in an adult Labrador Retriever is a serious fault
4. Breeders will not knowingly breed a dog or bitch that has any hereditary disease
5. A bitch will not be bred before the age of 18 months.
6. Stud dogs and brood bitches must be certified radiographically free of hip and elbow dysplasia by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), or other recognized registry.
7. Stud dogs and brood bitches must be examined within twelve months prior to breeding and declared free of eye diseases currently recognized as having a hereditary basis by a veterinary ophthalmologist.
8. All pups in a litter should be examined by a veterinary ophthalmologist before 12 weeks of age and be certified clear of eye disease prior to leaving the breeder

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BREEDER'S CODE OF ETHICS

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9. DNA testing for PRA (progressive retinal atrophy), and CNM (centronuclear myopathy) should be done for stud dogs and brood bitches (or their parents) to determine their PRA or CNM status. Breeders should use this information to make sure they do not breed to produce affected puppies. The plan should be to eliminate these diseases by careful breeding.
10. All puppies leaving the breeder's possession must be at least seven weeks of age.
11. All puppies leaving the breeder's possession will be in good medical and mental condition and will have received the vaccinations and deworming appropriate for its age.
12. The breeder shall provide the following to a new buyer at the time of sale:
 - Written agreement as a protection for both the breeder and the new owner. By outlining what is expected of each party, such a contract should help prevent future misunderstandings.
 - The breeder should provide a written guarantee on the health of the puppy including the time frame during which the puppy or dog may be examined by a licensed veterinarian, at the buyer's expense and upon written recommendation of the veterinarian for specific reasons the puppy or dog may be returned to the seller for a full refund of all money paid.
 - A 3 generation pedigree
 - A complete medical history for the puppy
 - Supporting documents certifying absence of hereditary disease of the parents of the puppies.
 - Written instructions for feeding, health care, training and grooming.

Guidelines

1. In order to obtain objective corroboration that the sire and dam possess the desired traits in terms of tractability or conformation the breeder should use stud dogs and brood bitches that have earned or are working toward an Obedience, Field, Hunt, Working Certificate, Conformation, Tracking, Agility, Canine Good Neighbour or any other CKC/AKC approved titles.
2. The breeder should sell puppies with a CKC non-breeding contract.
3. Breeders should not donate puppies to auctions or raffles. No breeder will knowingly sell a Labrador Retriever to a pet dealer, wholesaler, or broker. However, donations to non-profit organizations (such as support dogs, drug dogs and sight dogs) are encouraged.
4. The breeder's responsibility does not end with the sale of the puppy. It is the breeder's duty to accept the responsibility for the welfare of every dog he breeds and he should be willing to take back or re-home a dog at any time in the dog's life.
5. Buyers are encouraged to inform the Club if problems relating to the Breeders' Code of Ethics should arise with a breeder on our Breeders' Referral List.



Breeders List

This is a list of B.C.L.R.C. members who are currently breeding puppies. Members with stud dogs are also included. Please feel free to ask the breeders about their breeding program and if their litter will complement your lifestyle.

To assist you in the purchase of a Labrador puppy we strongly recommend you read [The Puppy Buyer's Guide](#) and the [BCLRC Breeders Code of Ethics](#).

Please contact Sherri Lazaruk at sherri@riversedgelabradors.com if you have further questions.

Disclaimer:

While BCLRC encourages all breeders listed on the club's Breeder List to comply with the club's Code of Ethics, BCLRC cannot enforce these standards. This list is not an endorsement by BCLRC of any breeder. The list is presented in alphabetical order by kennel name.

DREAMLINE LABRADORS

[Marsha Shand](#)

Langley, BC
604-533-5575

Colours bred:
Black & Yellow

ENVERCREEK LABRADORS

[Nancy Ingham](#)

7330 – 149A Street, Surrey, BC, V3S 3H3
604-572-0853

Colours bred:
Chocolate, black & yellow

JANDOR LABRADORS

[Janet Healy](#)

604-856-8824
www.jandorlabradors.com

Colours bred:
Black & yellow

MAKAILA KENNELS

[Cheryl Young](#)

35171 Youngston Road, RR3, Mission, BC V2V 4J1
604-820-8765

Colours bred:
Chocolate, black & yellow

MEGAFLOOD LABRADORS

Geoff Cake

43026 South Sumas Road, Chilliwack, B.C. V2R 4L7
604-823-4950

Colours bred:
Black & yellow

NESS LAKE RETRIEVERS

[Lori Schroeder](#)

25530 Ness Lake Road, Prince George, B.C. V2K 5M5
250-967-4800
www.nesslakeretrievers.com

Colours bred:
Chocolate, black & yellow

RIVERSEDGE LABRADORS

Sherri Lazaruk
Richmond, B.C.
604-275-9330
www.riversedgelabradors.com

Colours bred:
Black, yellow and chocolate

SONGLINE LABRADORS

Lynn Stewart & Colleen Doll
1405 Pilot Way, Nanoose Bay, BC, V9P 9B8
250-468-1430
www.songlinelabradors.com

Colours bred:
Black & yellow

STARCAST LABRADORS

Michelle MacDonald
33235 Dalke Ave, Mission, BC, V2V 6Y2
604-287-2002
www.starcastlabradors.com

Colours bred:
Chocolate, black & yellow

STREAMLINE KENNELS

Barry Kolodychuk
8071 Atchelitz Road, Chilliwack, BC V2R 4H4
604-792-1200

Colours bred:
Black & yellow

TRAYNORS LABRADORS

Robin Traynor
Box 435, 150 Mile House, B.C. V0K 2G0
250-296-3698
www.traynorslabradors.com

Colours bred:
Chocolate, black & yellow

TRISTAR LABRADOR RETRIEVERS

Shelley Maloney
13329 237A Street, Maple Ridge, B.C. V4R 2T9
604-477-2654
www.tristarlabradors.com

Colours bred:
Black & yellow

WILLOW WIND

Rick & Karon Regamble
RR1, Site 28C, Comp 8, 457 Grand Oro Rd, Kaleden, BC,
V0H 1K0
250-497-8757
Cell: 250-495-9849

Stud Service