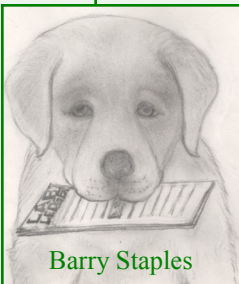


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LAB E D G E R



Barry Staples



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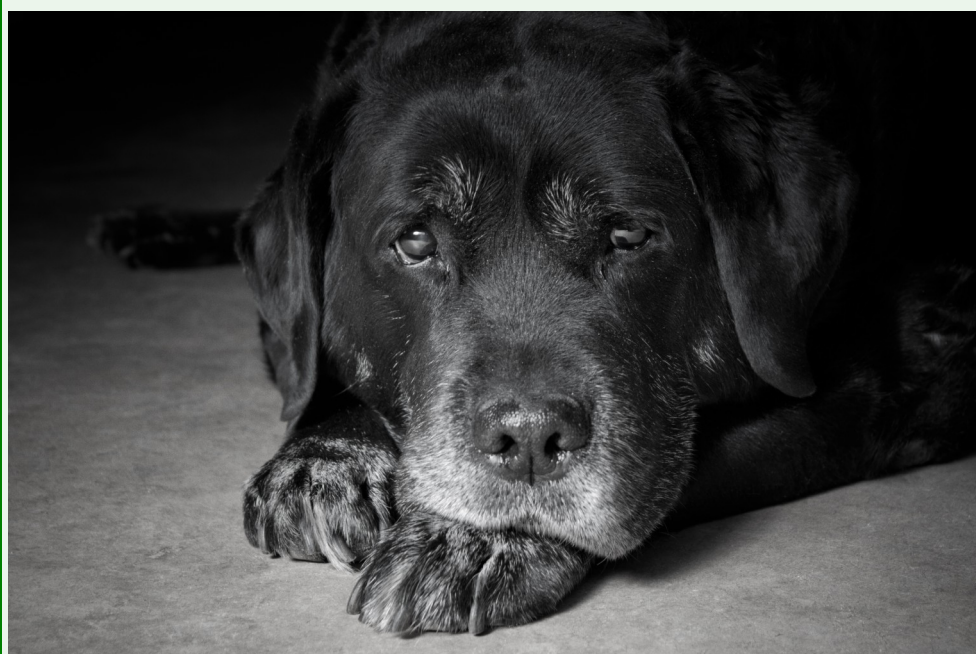
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OLD FRIEND

Centre Court Legal Tender "Barkley" 03/10/1999 - 08/11/2012

Submitted by Dennis Tudor

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P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R

Lately, I was curious to see how Labrador Retrievers were doing in Group and Best in show. From my experience and observation and what I have been told by Lab people when Labs go to the sporting group they often do nothing, sometimes get a group placement, but rarely get a group one. On those very rare occasions where they do win the group they even more rarely go best in show.

I thought I would do some simple research to see if there was any real truth to the thought that Labs get little love outside the breed ring. When I went to the AKC website, I learned that Labrador retrievers have been the most popular breed in this country for over 21 years. People just love them. In fact, there are many more registrations for Labradors than for the next most popular breed (nearly 3 times as many as of 2002) . So is it just mistaken thinking that our breed is disrespected. Certainly there are Labs that have gone group one and even best of show. However some real numbers show that Labs may not be getting their due.

The Westminster Kennel Club has had Labs in it from 1923. No Labrador has ever won best in show. No Labrador has ever won the Sporting Group. Only 4 labs have ever won group 2 and only 6 Labs have won group 4 at Westminster.

A breeder in Florida recently remarked on his website that no Labrador went best in show from October 2011 until July 22 2012 in any show in the country. He states that during that period there were over 1000 shows. I haven't checked his math, but the import is clear. Our favorite dogs are getting very little love above and beyond the breed level.

Certainly we have quality Champions, skilled and well known professional handlers, famous breeder handlers, and just plain good owner handlers who breed and show dogs that are truly representative of our breed.

So why no Love? Because beauty is in the eye of the beholder!

How could any responsible person put up a dog that looks like a mop. a spider. a horse or worse, over the noble yet honest Labrador? You other dogs out there know who you are.

Is it because they are not flashy? Well how being about great movers, obedient, agile, clever, beautiful dogs?

I'm guessing that we need a new group of beholders. Every chance we get to have input into dog show judges at all breed shows we need to speak up and push for Labrador breeder judges. We need to find out from the AKC why the most popular dog does not get used more in group and BIS (We all know how much harder it is to finish a Lab and get him to the group than it is to get some of these others done.) We need to stand up for Labrador rights . We need to ask the judges we know who are not Lab people to consider the dogs they judge as the best example of their breed more than the one they would like to take home or see in a movie.

Maybe I am just a little biased, but I really don't think so.

MORE OLD FRIENDS

I JUST COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF THESE SWEE FACES!!



SUBMITTED BY FLORENCE JONES



SUBMITTED BY DALE STAPLES



MEMBERSHIP & WEB

Membership DUES Reminder

Our membership dues for 2012 will be due starting 11/1/11.

Please completely fill out this form and return it with your check so that we can keep our records up to date.

\$20.00 individual \$25.00 family

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please make checks out to GALRC and mail to
Julia Kuni
5145 Kent Rock Rd
Loganville, GA 30052

GALRC WEBSITE

The GALRC website is getting a facelift thanks to member Jean McLain.

Included in this revamping will be a new member breeder's directory. This will allow the public to locate breeders who are club members. To be included, please send the following information to Jean at jean@galrc.com, using the following format.

Kennel Name:

Contact Person:

Website:

Email Address:

Phone:

General Info: brief

Puppies Available: Dates – Yes/No – Frequency

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Greater Atlanta LRC will be having a Board and Membership meeting on Sat, August 25, 2012 at Cherokee Rose Cluster dog show. Labradors usually have an 8 AM ring time. The ring time and the # of dogs entered will determine the time of the meeting, but we will plan on meeting 30 mins after Best of Breed. We will meet in the food court area.

Atlanta Exposition Center South
3850 Jonesboro Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30354

If anyone has any questions, please contact me. plumtreejk@aol.com
Hope to see everyone there.

Julia

The GALRC is sponsoring the High Scoring Labrador Retriever prize in obedience at the Specialty cluster weekend trials, on Saturday and Sunday only. I hope y'all are warming up your dogs, and if you need help, advice, practice runs, or a training partner, please let me know. I'm available to help all members to learn or re-learn obedience rules and regulations, set jumps (which I have), train in unfamiliar territory, or follow behind with a clipboard.

You can contact me at rehkopfc@bellsouth.net or by telephone, (770) 971-2046 home; or (678) 642-0007 cell.

Good luck and happy training!

Linda Rehkopf
Recording Secretary

DESIGNER DOGS

As many of you may already know. I am very much against persons intentionally breeding and producing Labradors in any other color other than our standard black, chocolate and yellow. I wanted to take this opportunity to let our fellow club members know of a newly formed organization for these "other colored" Labradors called the Labrador Council. <http://www.labradorcouncil.com/index.html>

This organization was created by a handful of very uneducated and unethical persons. They are trying to petition the LRC, Inc along with AKC to allow their dilute dogs, also known as Silver Labradors, Champagne Labradors and Charcoal Labradors. They also have a facebook page if anyone is interested in seeing how bad of a mindset these people have. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/287890777966516/?ref=ts> Their ignorance is outstanding, not to mention comical at times. Please do not "Like" their page, instead just go and take a gander at some of their propaganda.

Kind Regards,

Teresa Gordy
Ashland Labradors

615-289-9535 Verizon Cell
615-792-7095 Home
www.ashlandlabradors.com

It is also interesting to note that several other clubs here and abroad are also putting anti-silver status on their website for public education purposes. I would be very interested to see if our own GALRC would also want to do the same? After all, educating persons about our breed is the FIRST step in not only finding a reputable breeder but also putting the word out by discouraging unsuspecting puppy buyers from getting a "dilute" dog. Any impact we can make is better than none at all.

Also, the LRC, Inc has recently changed their stance and website comments on dilute. Here is what they have to say:

(NEXT PAGE)

DESIGNER DOGS

Another "designer" dog

By LRC Directors - Tuesday July 17, 2012.

BUYER BEWARE!

TRUE LABRADOR RETRIEVERS ARE BLACK, YELLOW, AND CHOCOLATE ONLY!

The Issue of the Silver Labrador

Frances O Smith, DVM, PhD Chair, Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. Genetics Committee

It is the opinion of the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc., the AKC parent club for the breed, that a *silver* Labrador is not a purebred Labrador retriever. The pet owning public is being duped into believing that animals with this dilute coat color are desirable, purebred and rare and, therefore, warrant special notoriety or a premium purchase price.

Over the past few years a limited number of breeders have advertised and sold dogs they represent to be purebred Labrador Retrievers with a dilute or gray coat color—hence the term “silver labs.” The AKC has accepted some of these “silver labs” for registration. Apparently, the rationale for this decision is that the silver coat color is a shade of chocolate. Interestingly, the original breeders of “silver” Labradors were also involved in the Weimaraner breed.

Although we cannot conclusively prove that the silver Labrador is a product of cross-breeding the Weimaraner to a Labrador, there is good evidence in scientific literature indicating that the Labrador has never been identified as carrying the dilute gene *dd*. The Weimaraner is the only known breed in which the universality of *dd* is a characteristic.

From the website for **Vetgen**:

The *D* locus is the primary locus associated with diluted pigment, which results in coats that would otherwise be black or brown instead showing up as gray or blue, in the case of black, and pale brown in the case of brown. The melanophilin gene has recently been shown to be responsible, but not all of the dilute causing mutations have been identified yet.

Recognized coat colors for purebred Labradors are black, yellow and chocolate. No shadings of coat color are recognized for black or chocolate Labradors in either the Labrador Standard or the current research into genetic coat colors. The shadings recognized in yellow Labrador Retrievers do not depend on the presence of the dilute gene *dd*, but are modifiers acting on the *ee* gene. The **identified coat color genes** in the Labrador include:

DESIGNER DOGS

A	B	C	D	E	g	in	s	i
a	b	c		e		t		

The omission of “d,” and thus the impossibility of a dd dilute gene resulting from a pure Labrador breeding, is certainly persuasive evidence that the *silver* Labrador is not a purebred.

It's a bit of a problem when it comes to breeding because recessive traits, such as [recessives] and dilution, can remain hidden in lines for many generations, then suddenly crop up when a dog carrying the trait is bred to another with it (if the gene is very rare in the breed then it can be a long time until this happens, if it ever does). This is why breedings sometimes throw complete surprises, like silver (blue) Labrador puppies in a breed, which, to all intents and purposes, contains no *silver* at all. That one lone recessive *silver* gene (**d**, on the D locus) has been passed down from generation to generation, completely unknown to the breeders, until finally it's met another one. It might have come from a cross-breeding with another breed many years ago, which doesn't show up on the pedigrees and no longer has any effect on the look of the dog (so all the dogs in the line look exactly like normal Labradors, not a crossbred), but they still carry one gene left over from the cross-breeding). Such rare recessive traits can be impossible to eradicate from a breed, simply because you can't tell which dogs carry them. However, in recent years, genetic testing has helped to identify the carriers.

CONTRACT

THE IMPORTANCE OF A CONTRACT

Are you a breeder? Are you a *professional* breeder? There is a vast difference! Anyone can breed AKC Labrador Retrievers – all you need is an AKC registered male and female. You don't have to be concerned with health, temperament, structure, etc. You don't even have to care what eventually happens to the pups – just get them sold!

In my opinion, a professional breeder takes everything into consideration prior to breeding the male and female, but it does not stop there. Placement of puppies is carefully screened, and a solid, enforceable contract is essential. This contract should include purchase/sell information, health guarantee, seller's obligation, buyer's obligation, future transfer, and breach of contract requirements. We have a responsibility to care about all of the puppies that leave our home, and to be willing to take them back whenever there is a need to do so, including recalling a puppy that is in physical or emotional danger. A professional breeder, after all, should also be an animal lover!

If you have established a good relationship and maintain contact with the new owners, the responsibility is not so difficult. But, it does take time and effort. Occasionally some detective work is necessary, and this is where networking with other breeders is essential. They can keep us informed of rumors of problems, and assist with gathering information.

I have lost track of the number of "puppies" we have taken back into our home for a variety of reason, such as divorce, moves, allergies, management issues, etc. We have also recalled three Labs in our 15 years of breeding, and all were because of poor living conditions and/or care. It wasn't too difficult to accomplish because it was obvious the individual didn't care. Even with the most thorough of screening, bad placements can occur. We will take any of our placed Labs back into our home with no questions asked! We brought these puppies into this world and they are our responsibility. We have successful re-homed most, if not all, of these "puppies".

Some of you will say this is unnecessary, impractical, or even foolish. Maybe so, but we believe this is a major factor that separates a breeder from a professional breeder. We care.

If you would like to see our contract I will forward you a copy. It has stood the test of time, and hopefully will continue to do so.

Marian Gardner
Dewberries Labradors

dewberries@gulftel.com www.dewberrieslabradors.com