



THE LABRADOR CONNECTION

AUGUST 2008 ELECTRONIC EDITION

Letter from our Vice President

Why are we here? What do we have in common? I contend we all have a 'passion' for the Labrador Retriever. Here is 'passion' defined by Wikipedia:

Passion (from the Latin patior, meaning to suffer or to endure) is an emotion of feeling very strongly about a person.

Passion is an intense emotion compelling feeling, enthusiasm, or desire for anything and often requiring action.

Passion often applies to lively or eager interest in or admiration for a proposal, cause, or activity or love.

Yes, we 'humanize' our Labradors with this definition of our emotions. We oftentimes put more money towards our Labradors than we do ourselves. Feeding, vet care, shows, travel expenses, TIME, these are just some of the costs of our passion. Testing for genetic challenges is the norm for responsible caretakers of the breed. The NLRC is actively participating in the research to eliminate TVD by funding Dr. Meg Sleeper. Your dues and your private donations have been the spear head to launch this research. The NLRC is 'passionate' about this cause. *This* passion has required some action on our part, and we are enthusiastically asking for donations from other Clubs and individuals. Dr. Sleeper needs more samples from affected and familial dogs, please submit any you have and encourage others to do the same. If you have not already done so, please contact at least one club and one individual and point them to the [University of Pennsylvania's Research/Funding Project](#) with a request for a donation.

Here is a note from Dr. Sleeper (7/24/08):

"Hi Becky,

The total money donated is \$4733.80 (actually, the University takes a percentage for overhead, but this is after that has been taken out). We have received 10 samples from affected TVD dogs and 13 samples from related dogs. We are making and storing DNA from these samples, and once we know about the CHF funds, we hope to have enough samples so that we can jump head first into the project. I am not really sure what else to share with your members, but let me know. I would certainly like to help spread the word!"

As you can see, the funds submitted have been from us, from you! The NLRC was born out of a desire to protect the Labrador Retriever.

Let us continue what Mary began with her passion. Considering everything we cannot do, LOOK AT WHAT WE CAN DO! Thank you for what you have done, you are a Club like no other.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bailey
Vice President, NLRC



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Labrador Health Survey



“The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself, too.”

Samuel Butler, Higg

“There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.”

Ben Williams

“We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It’s the best deal man has ever made.” M.Facklam

There is a one page Labrador Retriever Health Survey that takes only seconds to complete that is reachable from the entry page at the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals website (www.OFFA.org).

It’s quick and easy to participate. The OFA welcomes your visit to enter your responses which are instantly added to their survey’s database.

Survey results are instantly viewable.

Be sure to have each of your dog’s registration numbers handy before you start.

Your dog’s registration number is used to avoid duplicate responses from being entered into the survey.

Survey results tabulated as of the writing of this article at the OFA’s Labrador Health Survey are shared below:

Is your dog still alive?

Yes	89.6%
No	10.4%

Age at Death?

Over 10:	70.7%
5-10 yrs:	17.9%
Under 5:	11.4%

Cause of Death?

Cancer	63.5%
Lame	18.3%
Cardiac	17.3%
Kidney	6.7%

Health?

Has your Labrador had frequent skin or ear problems?

Yes	81%
No	19%

Has your Labrador had seizures:

No	96.8%
Under 5 yrs?	2.3%
5 or over 12 yrs	0.9%

Has your Labrador ever had an episode of bloat?

No	98.2%
Yes	1.8%

Has your Labrador ever been lame?

Rear	68.2%
Front	45.8%

Has your Labrador been diagnosed with a ruptured cruciate ligament?

ACL	77.0%
CCL	27.9%

Has your Labrador experienced collapse or staggering during exercise?

No	77.0%
Yes	6.3%

Has your Labrador experienced problems with vision?

No	93.7%
Over 7 yrs?	3.7%

2-5 yrs?	1.2%
Under 2 yrs?	0.5%

Has your Labrador had behavior problems?

Dogs-	
Aggressive?	35.1%
Noise-shy?	24.0%
People-shy?	23.6%
Other?	55.0%
People-	
Aggressive?	9.9%

survey results shared with the permission of the OFFA.

Health Education Seminar: Genetic Diseases

Featured Speakers: Meg Sleeper, VMD, DACVIM

Geneticists: Petra Werner, DVM & Paula Henthorn, PhD.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Days Inn, Bridgewater, NJ

Cost: \$40.00 per person. Light Dinner included.

Meg Sleeper will focus on the clinical aspects of Tricuspid Valve Disorder (TVD) and treatment options, including her research project at the Univ. of PA Veterinary Hospital. TVD is an often devastating congenital heart defect which involves a malformation of the tricuspid valve. Dogs most severely affected will typically develop right-sided congestive heart failure within the first few years of life. Geneticists Petra Werner and Paula Henthorn will discuss other genetic diseases of Labs in general. A question and answer period will be provided. All Labrador enthusiasts are encouraged to attend!

To view the flyer, visit: <http://www.mjlr.org/08seminarflyer.doc>

"You can say any thing to a dog, and the dog will give you this look that says, "you're right! I NEVER would have thought of that!"

Dave Barry

"Did you ever walk into a room and forget why you walked in? I think that is how dogs spend their lives."

Sue Murphy

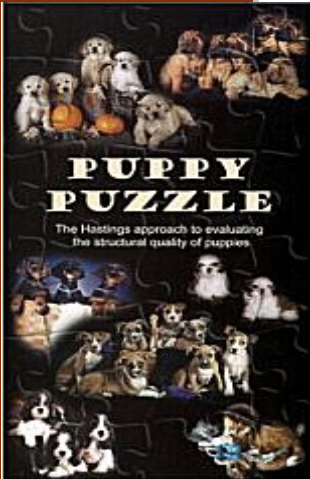
"Dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive."

Gilda Radner

In the News: Auto Collision Coverage for Your Pet

Progressive Auto Insurance now offers pet injury coverage.

New, at the Progressive auto insurance is the inclusion of pet injury coverage that comes complimentary with every progressive auto insurance policy. If your dog or cat is injured in an accident while riding with you, up to \$500 to help with veterinary bills and veterinary medicine is available. Visit, Progressive.com for complete information.



PUPPY PUZZLE
by: Pat Hastings
(above in VHS format)

The Puppy Puzzle

The Puppy Puzzle Video by Pat Hastings (pictured to the left in VHS format) is an in-depth look at the underlying skeletal structure of a young puppy. It has been a must-have part of our reference collection for years and is deserving of mention should anyone not be aware of it.

When looking for the best in your litter, the Puppy

Puzzle explains in excellent detail how to make the best possible choice amongst your puppies for that future hopeful!

Although this video is no longer available in VHS format, the Puppy Puzzle has been re-issued in DVD format by Pat Hastings and is currently listed for sale at several locations including www.Amazon.com for

\$39 plus shipping.

We want to hear from you...have you used Pat Hastings' methods and what were your results as that puppy you chose matured?

Is there another reference out there that we should consider a must have in our library?

Let us know!
[Email us](#) today!

Please feel
free to forward
our
newsletter to
interested
family and
friends

Membership in the National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. is open to all Labrador enthusiasts; however, to join you must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club, Inc. and should consider the guidelines set forth in the [NLRC Code of Ethics](#) when engaged in any activities involving the breeding, exhibiting and selling of Labrador Retrievers.

Two types of annual individual memberships are offered:

- Full (voting member) \$30
- Associate (non-voting) \$20

Click the below links for NLRC Membership forms:

[NLRC Membership Application Form \(that can be printed and mailed in with your membership fee\)](#)

Or to both apply and pay online

[NLRC Membership Application](#)

Are you listed in our [NLRC Breeders Directory](#)?

NLRC Members with full membership rights can apply to participate on the NLRC website Breeder Directory by completing the applicable section on the PDF membership application and submitting a \$10 fee.

Any questions? Contact our Membership Chair:

Deb Arnold 262-849-0962
twin_cedars@prodigy.net



*"The average dog has
one request to all
humankind. Love me."*

Helen Exley



AM/CAN CH IRONCOUNTRY AMARILLO SKY AT NEVEREST

Desirae Pausma's ([NeverestLabs](#)) "Amie" was WB/BOS for a 5 point major and her first points at the first Badger LRC Specialty on Friday 2/29/2008. On Saturday she was again WB/BOS for 4 points and her 2nd major. Then in Iowa at the Clinton Kennel Club show on March 29th, she was WB/BOW for her 3rd major and then went BOB over top ranked specials. She went on to take a Group 3 placement. The next day on March 30th, she was again WB to finish her championship. In May we made a trip to Canada where Amie was WB/BOW/BOB the first show, she was WB for 2 other shows to finish her Canadian championship. What a way to finish our first Champion! A special thanks to her breeder and co-owner Cathy Kishel for letting this special girl come to live with us!



IRONCOUNTRY RUSTIC SKY AT NEVEREST – “RUSTY”

Desirae Pausma's ([NeverestLabs](#)) “Rusty” was at the Badger LRC for his first show. He was 1st in his class each day and 2nd to the BOS Sweeps boy. He came along on our trip to Canada and was WD/BOW/BOB for his first 3pts in Canada all from the puppy class! Again, thanks to Cathy Kishel for this boy!



TANGLEWOOD SIGN OF SPRING AT NEVEREST

Desirae Pausma's ([NeverestLabs](#)) "Robin" was WB/BOS for her first AKC points in May! Way to go Robin!
Thanks to Cindy Schaeffer for this girl!



DEVONSHIRE BRIARWOOD C'EST LA VIE – “CLAIRE”

Desirae Pausma's ([NeverestLabs](#)) "Claire" attended the Canadian shows with us and was WB 2 times for her first points in Canada. Thanks to Stacey Sellers for this girl!



CH ROSEWATER NEW YORKER CGC – “MR. BIG”

Rosy Harkow's (Rosewater Labradors) “Mr. Big” was a treat to watch win Breed at the Lakeland-Winter Haven Kennel Club show Saturday, June 7th under Mr. Eugene Blake. It is always a treat to watch “Big” win, but this win was special. The Group judging will be televised on ESPN later this fall (ESPN Show Dog Championship). It was exciting to see the show site transformed into a “green carpet” event and to have the media there. As an added bonus The Lakeland Ledger photographer was at the Lab ring during Breed judging and treated us with a color photo of our happy moment in Sunday’s paper. More photos of the event can be found at: www.theledger.com/galleries

Congratulations to Mr. Big and his other owners, Mirta Segredo (who he lives with and loves) and Pino Renzulli (also his handler and co-breeder) and to Mr. Big’s parents, CH Sylvan Meadows Black Rock Bravo WC, CGC, WCX “Bravo” and CH Chambrays Mad About Madeline RE, AXP, OJP, NFP “Maddie.” Congratulations also to all the Breed winners that day as I’m sure they’ll get as much of a kick out of watching their babies on TV as we will! Can’t wait to see the show!



National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

Board of Directors Contact Information

President: Sue Willumsen Willcare@comcast.net

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Veterinary Consultant: Autumn Davidson

The National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. exists for the protection and betterment of the breed, to encourage education of the general public who may want to add a Labrador to their family and to meet a social responsibility to its members, the general public, and the Labrador world in particular. To this end, we adopted a [Code of Ethics](#) to serve as a guide.

Our Newsletter, The Labrador Connection, is published by the club periodically when sufficient material is received. The Labrador Connection's newest electronic issue is emailed to members when it is published and all issues may be viewed online at any time.

Visit our website online at www.NationalLabradorRetrieverClub.com



The National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. Membership list is viewable online from our website [MEMBERS](#) link. The NLRC membership list is intended for viewing by fellow NLRC members only. To access the membership list, please enter the user name: *nlrc* and then the password: *in08doNATE2tvd*
Once the login window is displayed, enter the password *overview* to view the membership list.