



The NLRC was organized in 1996 with the idea of creating a national club that would preserve and promote the Labrador Retriever. Everyone in the Labrador community is welcome...from pet owners to old timers.

We are a National Lab Club formed by the members, for the members, working together for the preservation, betterment and service to the Labrador Retriever.

THE LABRADOR CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2008 ELECTRONIC EDITION

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## Letter from our Vice President

Hello Everyone! I just got back from a wonderful dog show circuit known as the "Wine Country Dog Show Circuit" in the Finger Lakes region of New York State.

There were a total of four shows with large Labrador entries each day including a specialty on Saturday.

After the judging, I spent my time with friends engaging in wine tasting and enjoying their company.

I know not all members of this club show, but I wanted to relate this experience as it is like all my other show experiences - a short time in the ring, and then there's time getting to know people I just met or getting to know folks better than I have known them before.

I have the pleasure of traveling in a motor home with my dogs and a friend.

We always invite people we just met or those that we barely know to join us for dinner --that makes for a grand time, we always have too much food and wine so we really get to have wonderful conversations with our new-found friends.

It is a night we all enjoy reminiscing at future events and always enjoy repeating!

The reason I mention this, is that our dogs are wonderful opportunities to meet new people -- regardless of where you are and what you are doing-- as long as you have a Labrador with you, people will come up and talk to you!

What other activity brings such notice?

If you are unable to participate in a Labrador related activity: show, obedience, agility, rally, hunt tests, field trials, tracking, fly ball, dock jumping, etc (in case I missed one!), take your Labrador for a walk around your neighborhood-- it is a great way to meet people! Always remember to enjoy yourself, your dogs, and others -- it makes for GREAT times and memories!

ENJOY the Fall Season!

Sue Willumsen

Willcare Labradors

## Dog Food: The Good, Bad and Ugly by: Charlie Tolkien

*“Scratch a dog and you’ll  
find a permanent job for  
yourself.”*

*Franklin P. Jones*

*“Dogs’ lives are too  
short. Their only fault,  
really”*

*Agnes Sligh Turnbull*

*“A house is not a home  
without a dog”*

*unknown*

Fear has been justified when you consider there have been 5 major recalls involving dog food over the past dozen years all of which killed many pets and involved over 150 brands. But I believe you can still feed dry dog food with confidence if you can read an ingredient label and ask the right questions to the manufacturer. Armed with the proper knowledge breeders can get regular heat cycles and larger litters, pet owners can see a reduction in prescriptions and vet bills and show dogs can shine in the ring.

First we need to realize our dogs are carnivores not omnivores like humans and by nature need about a pound of meat per 50 pounds of weight a day. The meat needs to be very digestible since dogs have a shorter intestine so chicken or lamb are good choices but beef is a questionable choice due to its lack of digestibility and a possible red meat link with arthritis and joint problems. When you look at the label, clearly the first ingredient should be a meat source but it's the wording that tells you about that product. I will use chicken for my example since it is a commonly used meat source. The label could read poultry meal, poultry, poultry by product, poultry by product meal, chicken, chicken meal, chicken by product, chicken digest, chicken by product meal each of these has a government standard that sets what label designation can be used. The one you want in your food is chicken meal. Poultry is not specified enough to know exactly what you are getting. By products can have parts with non digestible protein which are useless to your dog. If the label just reads chicken it is a deception to make you think you are getting more meat, when the standard for chicken as a label ingredient is up to 75% water, by using this pre processed ingredient in the label we invalidate the label since the moisture content on dry dog food averages about 10%. Chicken meal is processed to contain 10% or less moisture and is the product put directly into the mixture. Another concern is many dog foods use fish for a protein source and fish meal doesn't tell the whole story. Many farm raised fish have very high levels of antibiotic (linked to cancer) due to crowded conditions so what you want to see is the specific fish like Herring meal which would be difficult to farm raise. It is also true farm raised Salmon have much higher toxin levels so with Salmon or any other fish you want a wild designation.

Now when we go to the store and see that forty pound bags of dog food range from \$15 to \$55 dollars even though all seem to have similar protein numbers on the bag we now know why. The \$15 bag is using meat by-product for sources of protein many of which are not digestible such as beaks, feet, feathers or egg shells. Plus if the source of the digestible protein, usually from grains, has been chemically laced to give a false protein reading, it could leave your dog in dire straits from a lack of nutrition. I believe if the manufacturer is using all human grade ingredients it shows their commitment to your dogs and their product. Many will advertise human grade and if there is a question call the manufacturer.

To a carnivore the meat source is all important but there are certainly other necessary ingredients. In a quality food a meat meal is the first ingredient followed by a grain. The best grain is brown rice because of excellent digestibility and a more complete amino acid profile. After that pearl barley, wheat and corn with corn gluten meal being a very inexpensive product. (I have found corn gluten meal is a safe effective pre-emergent herbicide when used on your grass to prevent crabgrass or other weeds) All the Chinese recalls I am aware of the products have been related to gluten form of grains maybe we should take a hard look at what form grains are added to dog food with ground being preferred to gluten.

After the grains will be your fat with the important points here how is fat preserved and the quantity and type of fat. Probably the best preservatives are vitamin C and E. Mixing is seldom spread evenly because of thick lumpy nature of fat leading to overuse of preservatives so the safer the better. Since fats are listed on the bag in terms of minimum amount one way to tell if food is maybe a little high in fat is the dog food company advertising very high digestibility because chicken fat is very digestible. However beef fat is very indigestible and frankly shouldn't be used in dog food.

Next are your purpose additives used for immune system boosters, digestion, smell reduction, digestive track fiber and to increase sales. High grade Yucca is commonly used since it performs two uses one is for smell reduction the other is immune system boost. Another common immune system booster is Kelp with the preferred variety being North Sea Kelp. Higher quality dog foods often use lactobacillus acidophilus which is a digestive enzyme that makes sure your animal gets all the benefits from their dog food and allows smaller portion sizes. Beet pulp is a common form of fiber used to prevent constipation but not to move food too quickly as to reduce absorption of nutrients. In today's world where everyone is becoming more informed on healthy eating, vegetables are the most important part of any diet for omnivores. Your dog however is a carnivore and the value of vegetables is questionable at best and the money spent could be better utilized by putting in more quality meat which is commonly lacking in many foods because it is expensive.

Trace minerals and vitamins would seem to be an after thought until a USDA study of 18 breeding beagles in 1994 changed everything. The study was to check the influence of canine reproduction by the dietary sources of zinc, copper and manganese. The bottom line is chelated forms beat sulfates by 23% larger litters. Previous studies of chelates had determined they boosted immune systems significantly in cattle and boosted reproduction in sows. So as a breeder it would be foolish not to make sure all minerals are proteinate (chelated) not sulfate. For example iron proteinate would be preferred to iron sulfate (rust) and would help with regular heat cycling. (continued pg 4)

# Warm up your Dog!

by: Jörn Oleby

*“If it wasn’t for dogs,  
some people would never  
go for a walk.”*

*Author Unknown*

*“Dogs have owners,  
Cats have staff.”*

*Author unknown*

*“Dogs make  
our lives whole”*

*Roger Caras*

Let’s take a racing Greyhound as an example for this article. When the race starts and the dog is released from the starting box the Greyhound reaches a speed of 60 kilometres an hour in a few seconds. If the dog has not warmed up and the tissues are not prepared for exertion there is considerable risk of strain and other injuries. Working dogs, agility dogs and regular family dogs are also often exposed to sudden, extensive pressure, in their work or during lively play in the exercise yard. Putting a dog into a cold car in the winter and then letting it out to run around and play is another example that causes risk of strain and other injuries to dogs.

By, “warming up” we mean getting warm through activity and increasing the temperature in the musculature. The increase in blood flow allows the muscles to absorb nutrients more easily. The speed of nerve impulses causing muscles to contract increases and the dog is able to run faster. A sound warm up does not tire the dog but rather increases blood circulation and warms up the muscles ensuring that the joints are lubricated and more supple. The dog is then ready to perform more demanding physical exertion without running the risk of injury.

## **How to do it!**

Warming up (i.e.: regular family dogs) can involve walking with the dog on the lead for 15 - 20 minutes before allowing it to run freely. In this way the muscles soften up and are ready for physical activity. Competitive and working dogs could warm up in a more goal-oriented way.

Here is a check list that could be used before the exercise:

- Let the dog walk slowly for awhile and then increase the tempo for 2-3 minutes.
- Let the dog trot for 2-3 minutes.
- Let the dog gallop for one minute.
- Then let the dog make some short explosive moves.
- Let the dog wind down a little by going back to trotting and then walking.

(I also strongly recommend that you allow your dog to wind down after the exercise before any stretching activities.)

As a dog owner there is nothing we can do to prevent all accidents. However we can prevent muscle related problems and strain injuries by warming up our dogs regularly.

Under these conditions the dog can access optimal gait and stretch to its full length. This keeps the dog well-balanced physically and psychologically, allowing it to retain the agility of the young dog to an advanced age. Warming up should be an automatic element in the health care, a complement to your dogs daily exercise, obedience training and diet and are suitable for all dogs regardless of breed, age or size.

Jörn Oleby, author of the book “Canine Massage and Stretching – A Dog Owners Manual”

## Dog Food, continued from pg 2

It was Cornell University Veterinary school that stated the weakest part of a Veterinarian's knowledge is understanding dietary needs of dogs. With thousands of dogs becoming ill and in many cases dying from their food I believe this will slowly change but in the meantime it's up to you. What can you do, how about miracles, the first extraordinary event I witnessed was a friend, Scott Krueger came to my kennel to ask about a puppy, it seems his 10 ½ year old was dragging her back legs and was going to have to be put down which was going to break his son's heart. I told him all I had was a male stud dog I was retiring and he could have him if he agreed to feed the food he was on. Scott took Sugar home with 2 bags of food. Scott rather than buy the food in town picked it up from my kennel and over the next two years after he picked up Sugar I told him I thought he was feeding to much. Then I heard the story of making the appointment to put the old arthritic girl down but he was out of food when he got home on Friday with Sugar and feed her some of Sugar's food and she walked on Monday and in five days she was up and running. The old bitch lived many, many years after her date with destiny and walking for all of them Scott called one day to tell me his bitch could only walk in circles and had to be put down due to a stroke. Dennis Ruser of Blue Earth, Minnesota has a passion for hunting pheasants, something he has taught his son. Living in the heart of Minnesota's pheasant range and only a few miles from Iowa means many enjoyable days can be spent in the field. Dennis purchased a dog out of my stud dog Dusty and Dennis felt this bitch was the best pheasant dog he had ever seen but she was eight and the long days in the field were too much for her arthritic rear legs. Dennis came to me to purchase her replacement and I said I felt a couple years were possible from her but he had been to the vet tried the arthritis pills without success and wanted a pup. Well he got his pup and a couple of bags of food and one bag for the old girl and you know the rest of the story she hunted at nine again at ten and finally passed during hunting season when she was eleven.

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

*"The most affectionate  
creature in the world is a  
wet dog."*

*Ambrose Bierce*

## NLRC Membership -- Open Enrollment

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](mailto:twin_cedars@prodigy.net)





## BIS AM CH BELQUEST LOVELY LADY LUMPS, WC – “FERGIE”

Vicky Creamer's ([Belquest](#)) CH Belquest Lovely Lady Lumps - "Fergie" is America's number 1 Labrador in breed and all breed point systems and number 14 sporting dog!



## BIS AM CH BELQUEST LOVELY LADY LUMPS, WC – “FERGIE”

Vicky Creamer's (Belquest) CH Belquest Lovely Lady Lumps - "Fergie" is not only America's number 1 Labrador in breed and all breed point systems and number 14 sporting dog but Fergie also won BIS Best in Show in July!



## CH BORADORS BY GEORGE – “GORDY”

Vicky Creamer's ([Belquest](#)) CH Boradors By George was AKC Top Labrador sire for 2007! Fourteen (14) offspring finished last year. Vicky Creamer was also named top AKC Labrador breeder for 2007.



## GRAMPIAN RAPTOR MYSTIQUE RE, CGC, CC, TDI, RL-1

Barb Burri ([Raptor Labs](#)) Grampian Raptor Mystique RE, CGC, CC, RL-1 - "MERLIN" is excellent! Merlin earned his Rally Excellent title at the Lakes Region KC show in New Hampshire on July 9, 2008.

Merlin is owned, loved and handled by Barb Burri, Raptor Labradors. (CH Hollyhill Delby's Samuel Adam x CH Snowden Hill Mango Crazy, RA, JH, WC, CGC, CC).



## CH MARSHYHOPE'S SATISFACTION CGC, CD, RN – "HUDSON"

Natalie S. Maticka ([Drakemoon Labradors](#)) CH Marshyhope's Satisfaction CGC, CD, RN boy "Hudson" went to Canada and came home with back-to-back 5-point wins from the August 16th show under Judge Dr. Michael Woods and the August 17th show under Judge Mr. R Wm. Taylor. Hudson now only needs a single point or win to finish his Canadian championship.



## CRIBSTONE'S ISLAND ROSE, WC, JH

Colette & Ed Sparks ([Cribstone Labradors](#)) Cribstone's Island Rose, WC JH is pictured above, waiting for the next water series at a practice Hunt Test..



## CRIBSTONE ANNUAL PUPPY REUNION

Colette & Ed Sparks ([Cribstone Labradors](#)) would like to share a photo taken at their 3rd annual Cribstone Labrador Puppy Reunion held June 8th, 2008.

## Dog Food, continued from pg 4

*“Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing right in your ear.”*

*Dave Barry*

*“Who loves me will love my dog.”*

*Author unknown*

*“A hungry dog hunts best”*

*Lee Trevino*

The food I feed was originally formulated to help the skin problems of a breed called Shar-pei which is why I used the food in my show dogs, to give outstanding coat. I was the only one around about ten years ago with the food and a couple of vets at the University of Minnesota Veterinary hospital used to refer their clients to me for food when a skin condition was present. One university client in particular got my attention, I had shipped her food for a couple of years for her Pug and she called and I was leaving for the Nationals and would be gone a while. She explained she couldn't use another food because she had also put her Lab on the food and when she did his seizures stopped. It turns out that not only did it cure the Pug's dandruff but it also suppressed the Labs seizures which it had every 8 days for four years and the last time she ran out of the food the Lab had a seizure. I was so amazed by this story I called the company and talked to the President and when I told him the story he started laughing. It turns out he was a breeder of Borzi's and they just have seizures it's in the breed and the seizures stopped when he started on the food so he bought the company.

Eileen Smith loves her dogs and got sick of the corporate world so she opened a pet store in Centerville Minnesota named Centerville Pet Foods. The bonus here was she got to bring her two German Shepherd's to work. I was in the store a couple of years ago and noticed her large German Shepherd named Jake was swaying in the rear when he stood up. I asked Eileen what was up and she said she had been to multiple vets and tried several treatments with no success. I told her it could be cured in a month with nothing but a food change, I think she thought I was nuts. I told her what to feed and she complied and Jake, who is still alive and well and stands rock solid even though he is considerably older now.

This is a small sample of what I have seen over the last fifteen years from using a correct diet and there are other examples, some of them so amazing I hesitate to put them in print because I'm afraid my sanity would be questioned. Clearly these were not miracles, just examples of the power of a change from improper diet to the correct diet. The arthritic conditions these dogs suffered from did not change, what was changed was the quality of protein in the diet which changed the muscle structure supporting the arthritic joints. So the half dozen manufacturers of high quality carnivore food that currently exist shouldn't look for sainthood at this time but hopefully increased sales will result as we all get more educated. The most efficient way to get all forty of the required nutrients your dog needs is in a hard dry extruded carnivore dog food, something very difficult in a raw food diet.

We now have a basic understanding of what's in quality food and how to buy quality but there is more to know. To get full utilization of nutrients from any dog food you should feed twice a day that way the shorter digestive track can do its work. If your dog eats too fast you should consider a flat pan rather than a bowl making you dog eat each piece rather than gulping the food. This is especially important information when a small pup is involved to prevent choking and aid digestion.

Written by: Charlie Tolkien Goldberry Labs





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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](http://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.