



THE LABRADOR CONNECTION

AUGUST 2010 ELECTRONIC EDITION

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.

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Ordinances prohibiting the retail sale of dogs and cats has passed in

West Hollywood, California

South Lake Tahoe, Nevada

Proposed ordinance banning all retail pets except for fish pending in:

San Francisco, California

In February 2010, West Hollywood California's city council unanimously approved an ordinance to ban the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores.

Sounds benign....or is it?

Remember that anti-animal owning legislation started with wording for a broader ban on breeding that would originally eliminate all pet ownership and now in its updated version — using all the proper buzz words, ie: banning puppy-mill-bred-pups from being sold in pet stores...legislation is being passed.

Will 2011 bring a ban on all sales of dogs and cats?

A ban on the sale of pets is in place in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada which passed its version of the ordinance banning the retail sale of dogs May 5, 2009. Retailers in that city have two years to comply.

The process to date, seems to be: a meeting is held, opposition attends that meeting, the vote is delayed one, maybe more times until there is no opposition left in attendance....and then city officials are able to vote — and officials are voting yes to the bans.

July 2010, at San Francisco's meeting to vote on banning the sale of all pets except for fish, about 100 opponents attended and spoke out in opposition of the proposed ordinance.

The result in San Francisco was the announcement of a delay of the San Francisco's council vote to August 2010. My bet is that if opponents fail to attend in August, the ban on pet sales will be passed in San Francisco in August 2010.

With ordinances like this being passed and put in place, I predict that the next vote will be to update the wording of their ordinances by striking the words, "retail pet shop" and then bam...every breeder is affected.

Suddenly the ordinance that passed this year against puppy-mill-raised puppies comes closer to its original incarnation which was the proposed ban of all breeding.

References: www.msnbc.msn.com www.AnimalLawCoalition.com www.SFChronicle.com

Playing Politics with Purebred Dogs by: Sandra Scarr, PhD.

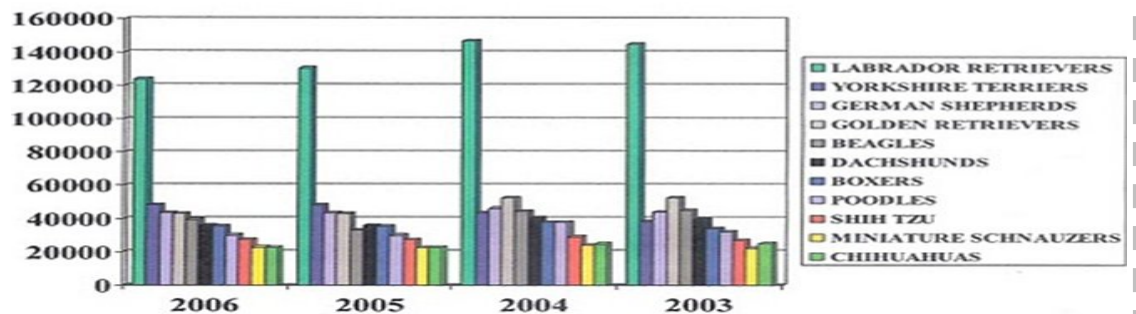
It's distressing to see the American Kennel Club play politics with registration data. The AKC is the world's largest registry of purebred dogs, a non-profit organization that is supposed to be committed to advancing the interests of purebred dogs and their owners. It does not always behave that way.

"More family pets are purebred dogs than ever before, yet fewer are registered with the AKC. AKC registrations of popular breeds are down by 25 - 60% in just 5 years. What's wrong?"

— Sandra Scarr, PhD.

As a breeder of Labrador retrievers, I have followed the popularity of my breed since 2000. Prior to 2007, AKC published numbers of all dog and litter registrations. They posted numbers of dogs and litters registered each year by breed. Each year for the past 19 years, Labrador retrievers were the most frequently registered breed with the largest number of litters per year. Labs are much more popular than any other breed, by a factor of 2.5 to 3 times more registrations than the next most popular

AKC Dog Registrations
Top 10, 2003-2006



"Dog registrations peaked at 1.5 million in 1992. By the end of 2008 it is projected that [the AKC] will register only 725,000 dogs. That's a staggering 53% decline..."

— AKC Chairman's report 2008

breed. The data are astonishing.

As you can see, the total number of dog registrations has declined substantially in these years and has continued to decline through 2009. AKC revenues declined accordingly, and they are scrambling to make up for lost revenue. Although more family dogs are purebred now than a decade ago, fewer purebred dogs are being registered with the AKC and more are listed with competing registries. The AKC is faced with declining registrations and the overwhelming popularity of a single breed. What to do?

"Going forward, [the AKC] needs to do whatever is necessary to stop our registration free-fall."

— AKC Chairman's report 2008

Evidently, they decided the registration data are politically incorrect, because the AKC no longer publishes registration numbers. AKC decided to publish only rank orders of breed registrations, which obscures the overwhelming popularity of Labs and hides their declining registration numbers. (continued page 9)



"STRESS"

He Just Wants to say, "HI!" Part 2 by Suzanne Clothier

Like people, dogs have varying thresholds for what I call the "fool factor." Consider yourself in this situation: you are walking down the street, and a group of loud, noisy teenagers - busy at the center of their own world - bumps into you and knocks you down. Do you smile at them? Do you mutter, "Watch where you're going!" as you brush yourself off? Do you get quite vocal in expressing your displeasure?

All depends on your tolerance threshold. It also depends on your mood, your health, the various stresses at work in your life, etc. Imagine that you had just won the lottery moments before they bumped into you. Chances are pretty good you'd be far more tolerant than if you'd just come from a meeting with the IRS. What if you'd been mugged a year earlier by a similar group of young hooligans? Chances are good that you might view this group as potentially dangerous, again altering your possible response to their rudeness.

Our dogs are no different. Each dog - no matter what the breed - has his own tolerance threshold, and that threshold is variable as a result of many factors, including basic breed characteristics. Some breeds have been selectively bred to have a very high tolerance threshold. It also depends on your mood, your health, the various stresses at work in your life, etc. Imagine that you had just won the lottery moments before they bumped into you. Chances are pretty good you'd be far more tolerant than if you'd just come from a meeting with the IRS. What if you'd been mugged a year earlier by a similar group of young hooligans? Chances are good that you might view this group as potentially dangerous, again altering your possible response to their rudeness.

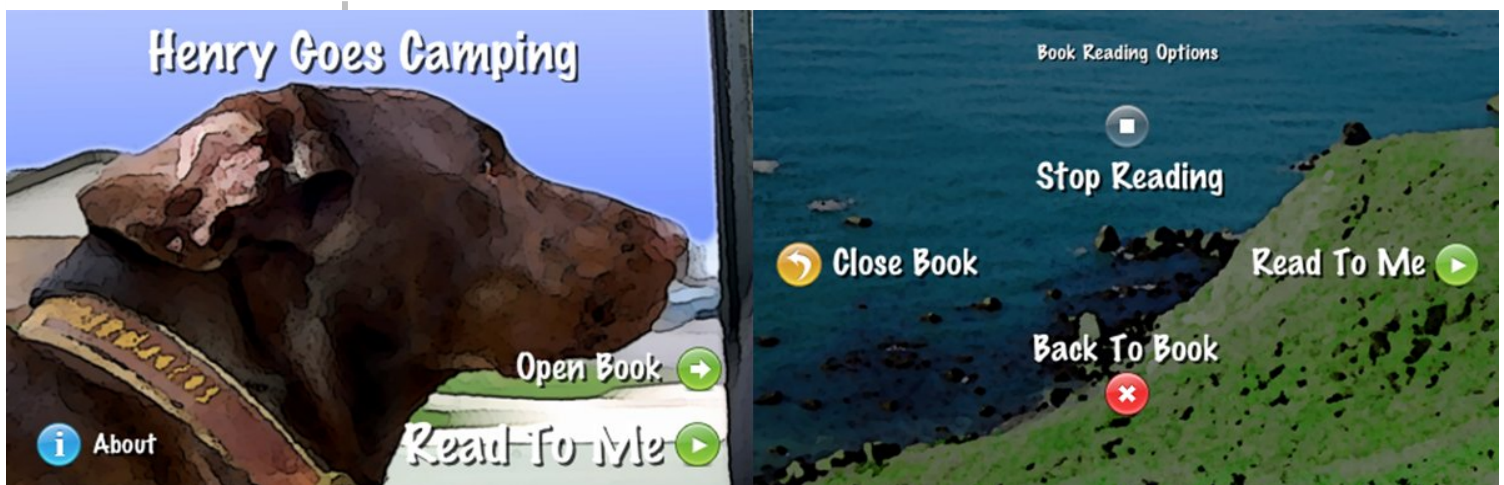
Bad experiences, such as Cream had on several occasions when she was attacked by other dogs, can make a dog quite sensitive to rude behavior by other dogs. From the dog's point of view, there is the very real possibility that such rudeness could become an actual attack - it has in the past. Health problems can also affect a dog's tolerance level. A dog who is in pain (whether just muscle sore from hard work or play, or from a disease such as hip dysplasia or the creeping onset of arthritis) will have far less tolerance than he might when he's feeling fine.

(continued next page)



Henry Goes Camping by Michael Mehlberg

Got kids? Check out, "Henry Goes Camping." an entertaining iTunes app about Henry, a chocolate Labrador who goes camping with his mom and dad. Available at iTunes app store.



He Just Wants to say, "HI!" (cont from previous page)

We cannot expect our dogs to be saints - at least not until we can rise to that level of tolerance ourselves. And that's unlikely to happen any time soon. We can expect our dogs to be tolerant to the degree that we educate them, socialize them and protect them - with respect to their individual needs and boundaries.

In my opinion, Cream has actually tried hard to achieve sainthood. As Lee Anne notes, if put in a setting with puppies, Cream's response is to turn her back to them. I don't know how much more you can ask for from a dog, especially one who's been punished for saying what needs to be said to rude youngsters.

If Cream were a dog with a very short fuse and a very low "fool factor" threshold, I'd feel obligated to help her find coping skills to lengthen that fuse - if only to lower the stress in her life. Fuse lengthening is especially important if you are going to ask the dog to cope with the situations that typically arise in class and dog event settings. But where I find "short fuses," I usually find other contributing factors. So, I'd take a very hard look at the relationship between dog and handler (particularly in the areas of leadership and boundaries), the dog's degree of self control and socialization with other dogs.

Talking over Cream's story with fellow trainers I respect, one question kept popping up: "Why were these dogs allowed to jump all over Cream in the first place?"

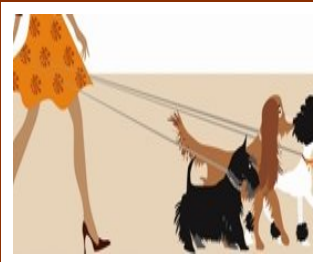
It is an important question. To my way of thinking, a critical part of the relationships I have with my animals is this promise: "I will protect you." And to the best of my abilities, I do not violate this promise in any way.

A few years ago, I was invited to be part of a fund-raising dog walk. One of my duties was to lead the entire group on the first lap of the walk. I had chosen my oldest bitch, Vali, to accompany me. As we waited, hundreds of dogs and handlers assembled in the park. Many of the dogs were quite excited. Some dogs were only under borderline control. Vali laid quietly at my side, watching it all with great tolerance.

One particular dog caught my eye - a huge yellow Labrador who was dragging a small child behind him as he plowed through the crowd. I watched as this dog marked not only every tree or bush he passed, but also several pants legs of unsuspecting people. More aware handlers quietly gathered up their dogs and moved out of Mr. Rude's path, thus avoiding potential altercations.

As he moved closer to us, I saw Vali's head turn toward him and become quite still. Her eyes began to harden as she assessed - quite accurately - just how rude a dog this was. I could see her contemplating possible responses should the Lab be so rude as to invade her space (which in such public settings is perhaps 2-3 feet from her body). The only intervention necessary was to gently touch her on the head and say, "Yes. I see him. And you're right - he is rude. I'll handle it." Then I stepped slightly in front of her so that if he approached, he would have to first come through me. Immediately, Vali relaxed and went back to watching the crowd in general though she did keep an eye on Mr. Rude. Fortunately for us, Mr. Rude veered off to hassle another dog and the moment passed.

(continued next page)



He Just Wants to say, "HI!" (cont from previous page)

There were other ways I could have responded. I could have seen Vali's very appropriate response as potential aggression, and told her harshly, "Leave it!" To my way of thinking, that does not acknowledge or respect her feelings; it merely demonstrates my own fears about losing control of my dog's behavior.

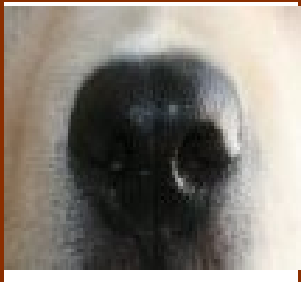
I could have ignored the subtle signs that she had some concerns about Mr. Rude, and waited until he invaded her space then punished her for defending herself against rudeness. To my way of thinking, that would violate my promise to protect those I love, and then add insult to injury by punishing her for protecting herself. Keeping that promise to my dogs means that I am obligated to watch for any sign that they are beginning to feel concerned about a situation, and to act quickly to eliminate or minimize their concerns.

Unfortunately for many dogs labeled "dog aggressive," a weird loop begins to form between dog and handler in the struggle to deal with this behavior. Understandably shocked when their dog exhibits any kind of aggressive behavior, the handler begins to scan the world at large for anything that might trigger that behavior again. They become hyper-alert to any potential situation, and upon sighting a potential problem, grab the lead with a death grip in order to control their "aggressive dog."

Their own concern coupled with the death grip escalates the dog's anxiety and aggression, usually resulting in precisely the behavior they sought to avoid in the first place. Far more insidious, however, is the message sent to the dog whose handler pays intense attention to the world at large but none to the dog himself!

In one of my seminars, a woman presented her terrier Brisky with the complaint that he was "dog aggressive." In reality, Brisky had very little off-lead socialization, was quite fearful of other dogs, and all his "aggression" was nothing more than defensive offense. If given a choice, Brisky would have happily left the room and driven himself home. The woman looked like a Secret Service agent on presidential detail - she never stopped scanning the room for any potential problem. Was that person going to get up and walk their dog past Brisky? Was that dog going to turn around and lie down facing Brisky? She saw potential disaster in every slight adjustment or movement of another dog. What she never looked at was Brisky himself. Consequently, his "sudden" explosions always came as a shock to her. I felt very sorry for Brisky. He sent many signals to his owner that he was worried and afraid. But all his communications were all ignored until he felt so pressured that he had to protect himself in the only way he knew how. It is very hard to feel safe and protected if the person you are with pays no attention to you.

Consider this scenario: A mother and child are walking in a crowded mall. The mother is hyper alert to the crowd, and vigilantly checks for potential dangers to her child. The child sees a woman who looks just like the bad witch in a favorite book. Fearful, the child reaches for her mother's hand, but the mother is so busy scanning the crowd that she ignores the child. As the "bad witch woman" gets closer, the child grabs her mother (continued next page)



He Just Wants to say, "HI!" (cont from previous page)

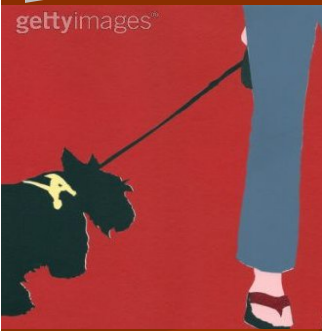
gently. But her mother doesn't respond. The traffic flow of the crowd forces the "bad witch woman" to pass right next to the child who, now completely terrified, screams loudly. The mother, shocked by her child's seemingly inexplicable behavior, asks angrily, "What is the matter with you?" What if, when the child anxiously reached for the mother's hand, she had received a reassuring squeeze and a smile as her mother looked down to check on her? What if the mother had seen the signs of concern on her daughter's face and stopped to ask, "What's wrong?" and then seeing the problem, moved so that she was between the "bad witch woman" and the child as they had to pass. In which child do you think the anxiety level will be higher - the child whose mother ignores her until she screams in terror, or the child whose mother pays attention? Trust within a relationship is built on the belief that our behavior will be noticed and responded to, if not necessarily always fully understood. In my experience, dogs whose owners recognize, acknowledge and act on early signs of discomfort have deep trust in their owners' ability to protect them in almost any situation.

When working with people like Brisky's owners, my goal is to get them *to watch the dog*, not the world at large. If their attention is outward, instead of on the dog, they will miss the early signs that their dog is feeling uncomfortable and needs some help. The earlier the dog receives acknowledgment for what he's feeling, is helped to cope with the situation, and given evidence that you understand his concern and will deal with it on his behalf, the less likely his behavior is to escalate into dramatic displays. This is true whether it's a dog like Vali who believes that a rude dog should be taken down a peg or a dog like Brisky who is afraid.

I encourage handlers to be quite active in protecting their dog - whether that means quietly walking away to a safer area, or, when that's not possible, literally stepping in physically to present the first line of defense. Stepping in between two dogs is a classic act of leadership. Dogs do it with other dogs all the time, so this same gesture coming from a human leader is understood and appreciated. Brisky visibly relaxed when his owner began watching him, not the world; by the end of the day, he was far more tolerant of situations that had previously triggered his explosions. No doubt he felt safer - someone was finally listening to what he had to say, and offering him help (such as changing his body posture and thus his emotional state) when he needed it.

The owner reported that she felt calmer knowing that Brisky would let her know how he was feeling, and that she could help him before he felt the need to protect himself. Instead of having to scan the world at large constantly, she could relax and focus only on what Brisky told her about the world as he saw it.

Cream's owner would not have let a rude child bang Cream on the head or hit her with a stick; she would not have allowed cruel strangers to walk up and kick Cream. No caring owner would ever let another human being do anything to their dog that would create a need for that dog to protect herself. (I am not going to discuss the horrors inflicted in the name of training, and the psychology of why owners willing allow their dogs to be subject to these horrors.) Yet, just like many otherwise loving dog owners, Lee Anne had done nothing to protect her dog from other rude dogs. A hefty portion of responsibility for failing to protect Cream needs to fall on the instructors. Lee Anne, quite reasonably, (continued next page)



He Just Wants to say, "HI!" (cont from previous page)

Looked to the instructors for guidance. If they did not intervene when a dog acted rudely toward Cream, how would Lee Anne know that she should? If they defined Cream's behavior as a problem, then Lee Anne - although upset and unable to make sense of such a diagnosis - also began to see a problem. Fortunately for Cream, Lee Anne kept widening her search as she sought help and advice for her dog. Not all owners work so hard to find an answer that satisfies the unpleasant niggling in the heart that says, "Something is not right here."

In my opinion, an instructor's responsibility is not only to educate dogs and owners, but also to act to protect each dog from the other members of the class. This requires an ever-deepening understanding of canine behavior, and an attendance to subtleties of behavior that foretell problems brewing. During our consultation, Lee Anne asked the question that inevitably arises, "But how do I stop dogs from being rude?" There is no easy answer to that question. Certainly, no matter how aware or dedicated a handler, it is not possible to stop other dogs from being rude - or, more to the point, it is not possible to educate all other handlers so that they won't allow their dogs to be rude. I believe fools and rudeness are widespread, and to the best of my knowledge, there's no concerted government program to eradicate either rudeness or foolishness. (If there were, Capitol Hill would soon be a ghost town. . .)

Here's my advice for dealing with the "fool factor."

1. **Socialize your dog thoroughly with other dogs; for puppies, choose playmates of a similar age and adults who have been well socialized themselves.** This means **off-lead socialization**, not sniffing noses at the end of the lead. The more experience a dog has with other dogs, the more refined his judgment will become about what constitutes rude or foolish behavior and how best to deal with it. He'll also learn how to be a polite dog himself. If a dog has not or cannot be well socialized, be realistic about what you can expect from him in his dealings with other dogs. This may mean altering your training or competition goals to be fair to a dog who may not be able to cope with the stresses of these situations.
2. **When socializing your dog under someone else's instruction or guidance, be careful.** Some instructors and trainers are appalling ignorant about basic behavior, and unable to set up a positive socialization situation. If you feel uncomfortable with a situation, remove your dog. It only takes a few seconds for a bad experience to leave a lasting impression, particularly on a young dog. Just turning dogs loose together to play is **not** socialization. There has to be supervision, and intervention when the potential for a problem appears. The instructor must pay attention to each individual dog as well as the pairings or subsets within the whole play group. If one dog is getting overly excited, it's time to gently capture him, take him out of the play group and calm him down before letting him play again. If a fearful dog has reached his limit, it's time to remove him from the group and give him time to relax and build his courage before putting him back in. If a particular dog or dogs begins to gang up on another dog, time to break up the brat pack. Instructors need to carefully assess groups and not pair dogs inappropriately.
3. **Watch your dog.** Your dog will tell you all you need to know about his perception of the world. When you're with him, really be with him. Pay attention to his behavior. Position yourself and/or the dog so that the dog is always in your peripheral vision. Practice checking on your dog often. If he appears concerned, find (continued next page)



He Just Wants to say, "HI!" (cont from previous page)

out why. And then help him. *Protect him.* Teach yourself to recognize the small, subtle signs that he's shifted out of a perfectly relaxed state of mind. These may be as simple as the tilt of an ear, a raised eyebrow, a slight holding of the breath or tensing of the muscles. Each dog is different - learn to read your own dog. If you can't watch your dog in a situation where there are potential problems, *put him somewhere safe.* I've seen far too many incidents occur unnecessarily because a handler was engrossed in a conversation or fascinated by what was happening in the ring and ignoring the dog at their side.

4. Be pro-active in protecting your dog. If you see a fool and his rude dog headed your way, do your best to protect your dog. If possible, walk away, lightly and quietly asking your dog to come with you. Be sure you are breathing and relaxed. If you can't walk away, try to get the fool to stop. Position yourself between the fool and your dog. If necessary, loudly & firmly tell the approaching person that your dog is not good with other dogs. In close quarters where there really aren't any options for moving away, shield your dog with your own body. (Remember, stepping between dogs is an act of protective leadership.)

DON'T bring an intolerant or under-socialized dog to a puppy kindergarten or other concentrations of rudeness & stupidity when you know he can't handle puppies, stupidity, or rudeness!

DON'T put your dog in a situation you or he are not prepared to handle.

DON'T turn a rude puppy or dog loose with an intolerant adult.

DON'T expect your dog to like every dog he meets

DON'T allow your dog to become overexcited or rude - help him find a more appropriate behavior or remove him briefly from the triggering situation

DON'T allow other people to allow their dogs to be rude to your dog.

DON'T ignore your dog or what your dog tells you about his feelings.

DON'T punish a dog for telling another dog to get the hell out of his face.

DON'T punish an adult for reminding a puppy to mind his manners.

DON'T let your training or competition goals overwhelm your good sense - always be fair to your dog.

DO respect the fact that your dog has a need for & a right to his personal space.

DO socialize your dog so that he's wise in the ways of other dogs.

DO accept the inexplicable disliking that your dog may have for another dog.

DO build your dog's tolerance levels through repeated, positive experiences.

DO continually educate yourself regarding normal and appropriate canine behavior in any given situation.

DO plan ahead to how you will handle difficult situations, people or dogs.

DO earn your dog's trust by keeping your promise to protect him.

DO pay attention to your dog when you are with him.

DO insist that your dog behave politely..

DO put your dog first - all your hopes, dreams, titles & goals all mean nothing if you ignore the needs, fears and realities of who your dog is.

DO honor & respect your dog's concerns, whether or not you share them. Remember how your mom left the light on? It probably wasn't because *she* was afraid of the dark.

Playing Politics with Purebred Dogs (cont from pg 2)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total	Labs:	Others
Registrations by Breed							
Labrador retrievers	145,000	147,000	130,000	124,000	546,000		
Yorkshire Terriers	53,000	53,000	47,000	48,000	201,000	2.7	
German shepherds	44,000	46,000	42,000	44,000	166,000	3.3	
Golden retrievers	53,000	53,000	41,000	43,000	190,000	2.9	
Beagles	45,000	45,000	33,000	39,000	162,000	3.3	
Boxers	34,000	39,000	35,000	35,000	143,000	3.8	

In recent years, Lab registrations sum from 2 1/2 to nearly 4 times as many as other top breeds. The AKC registers about 160 breeds (number changes as new breeds are recognized). From popularity rank 80 to rank 160, fewer than 1,000 dogs in each breed are registered in the US. If you want to buy a Sealyham or Dandie Dinmont terrier, it will be difficult, because fewer than 100 of these (and a dozen other) breeds are registered.

Judges and Breed Standards

Now consider the popularity of breeds that have won AKC honors as Best-In-Show in recent events. Dogs born in the years given above are likely entrants in 2009-2010 AKC shows:

	Number Registered in 2006
English Springer Spaniel	8,205
Norfolk terrier	353
Poodle (all sizes)	30,000
Newfoundland	3,415
Scottish terrier	3,545

In competitions for Group wins and best-in-show in conformation events, judges are supposed to assess the degree to which each entrant meets the ideal standard for the breed. Judges do not compare one breed with another.

What are the odds that a show candidate meets the ideal standard for the breed? Likelihood of meeting a breed standard must be in part a function of how many dogs in each breed are registered and eligible to be shown. Fewer members of a breed should translate into fewer (continued page 16)

“Why don’t Labrador Retrievers win more Sporting Groups and Best-In Show events? More Labs must be close to the Lab breed standard than dogs in less numerous breeds are close to their breed standards. Do AKC Judges favor less popular breeds?”
—Sandra Scarr, PHd.

“The American Kennel club faces enormous challenges in reversing the continuing decline in registrations. Today, we are losing market share at an alarming rate...Make no mistake, the very future of the AKC and our sport is at risk.”
—AKC Chairman’s Report 2008

“Today, there are at least 30 All-Breed registries in addition to the AKC, whose combined registration numbers exceed that of the AKC. If...we do not stop the hemorrhaging of declining registrations, we will no longer be the premier registry in the world, let alone in our country.”
—AKC Chairman’s Report 2008

Dispelling the Myth: Judging for Multiple Registries

By: Christina Trojak—Stormy C Labradors

I am one of a growing crowd of exhibitors who enjoy showing in multiple registries offered in North America; the most popular being the AKC, the CKC (Canadian Kennel Club) and the UKC. On more than one occasion, I have heard the comments, "I heard if you judge in AKC you cannot judge in the UKC" or "If I want to become an AKC judge, I heard I cannot judge for other registries". But it was always hearsay; I could not find anyone with *facts* to support these statements. So I decided to get to the bottom of this judging dilemma... and test my myth-buster skills!

History Lesson: At the May 2006 AKC Board Meeting, it was announced that the AKC Board of Directors had adopted new "Judging Conflict of Interest Policy." and that the AKC believes, *"that it has the best judges in the world and expends millions of dollars a year to administer its judging approval system to ensure that quality remains high."* This policy, as it was originally written, basically stated that AKC approved judges shall not be allowed to judge at almost all non-AKC events and *"any AKC-approved judge, who shall judge a purebred dog events without the express permission of the AKC, may be disciplined even to the extent of having his or her AKC judging approval revoked."*

The policy was met with an uproar by many who were actively judging with multiple registries. Many judges wrote letters in protest - some are available for public viewing (continued next page)

Please feel
free to
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newsletter to
interested
family and
friends

Support TVD Research!

Visit the [National Labrador Retriever Club Website](#) for more info!

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



Dispelling the Myth: Judging for Multiple Registries

(cont from previous page)

on thedogpress.com). Interestingly enough, and without as much commotion, the policy was amended with the limitations regarding judging non-AKC events removed. The policy now reads: Judging Conflict of Interest: "No AKC judge may have a significant interest in a dog registry or dog event-governing organization deemed by the AKC Board to be in competition with The American Kennel Club. Significant interest would include, but not be limited to ownership of, employment by, a directorship in, and holding office in."

So What's the Answer?

I found my answer in the AKC *Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges*. But just to be certain, I also personally contact the AKC to clarify the registry's stance on the subject. The answer is YES; you can be an AKC approved judge and judge other registries... as long as you follow their policy:

<http://www.akc.org/pdfs/rulebooks/REJ999.pdf>

ACCEPTING ASSIGNMENTS, Page 5:

[P] Non-AKC Shows Judges who accept assignments for their approved breeds in the United States at non-AKC shows, where championship titles are awarded, are required to notify the Event Plans Department at AKC in writing at least four months before the show date stating:

The exact location of the show.

The complete assignment being judged at the show.

Such assignments are subject to the 30-day, 200-mile conflict policy (You will not be approved to judge the same breed, Group or Best in Show at events within 30 days and 200 straight-line miles of each other. This conflict Policy does not apply to special attractions.)

Any changes made to these assignments must be reported to the Event Plans Department within five days of the end of the event...

For comparison, I also researched the UKC & CKC policies. The UKC's official response back was: "UKC does NOT have a license specific policy which will restrict which licenses you hold or which events you may (or may not) judge. We [UKC] feel that all judging experience regardless of which registry enhances the judge's knowledge and benefits the judge, the exhibitor and the sport of dogs in general."

After a review of the Canadian Kennel Club website and electronic communications, it was found that CKC licensed judges are not required to obtain authorization from CKC Head Offices to accept judging assignments, and that CKC judges do judge throughout the world.

Myth-Busted!

So despite what the AKC field rep, your mentor or the exhibitor next to you in the ring says...*per the AKC policy* an individual CAN judge for the AKC and also judge for other registries.





Multi-UKC BISS GR CH STORMY C's HURRICANE – "MIDGE"

Christina Trojak's (Stormy C Labradors) Multi-UKC BISS GR CH Stormy C's Hurricane – "Midge" bred by Christina & Steve Trojak and owned by Jennifer Carroll (Lynneville) and Steve & Christina Trojak, went Best in Specialty Show under both Alleyne Dickens and Carianna Glenn at the United Labrador Retriever Association (UKC) specialties in Roanoke, VA April 24-25. Midge, as of 7/2/2010, is current the #1 Labrador



UKC BISS CH STORMY C's TROPIC THUNDER – “NAN”

Christina Trojak's (Stormy C's Labradors) UKC BISS CH Stormy C's Tropic Thunder – “Nan” bred and co-owned by Christina & Steve Trojak, went Best in Specialty Show under Tracey Daugherty at the United Labrador Retriever Association (UKC) Specialty in Roanoke, VA on April 24, 2010. Nan is currently ranked in the UKC Labrador Top Ten for 2010.



BAZURTOS LETS GET THE PARTY STARTED – “LIZZIE”

Katy Bazaruto's (Bazaruto Labrador Retrievers) Bazarutos Lets Get the Party Started – “Lizzie”

Decoys I am Here for the Party x Bazarutos Shadow

**1st 6 month—9 month Puppy Bitch – under all 4 judges, all 4 days at the 2010 Woofstock Show
at Vallejo, CA June 10–13, 2010.**



Julie Brady's (Sun Country Labs) Sun Country Fire and Reign – "James"

Summer 2010

Playing Politics with Purebred Dogs (cont from pg 9)

"If the current trend continues and dog registrations fall to 250,000 over the next several years, AKC will face an annual revenue shortfall of \$40 million."

— AKC Chairman's report 2008

"New AKC revenue-ventures include registering non-pedigree dogs, sponsoring events for 'mutts' and establishing new titles to keep show dogs and other competitors coming back. New beginner/novice classes in AKC events, and just about anything they can think of."

— Sandra Scarr, PhD.



being judged as matching the breed standard. More numerous breeds should contain more individuals close to the breed standard.

Assume a normal distribution of dogs' merit in conformation shows, with 3 standard deviations on the right tail containing individuals close to the breed ideal. A breed with 500,000 dogs will have about 1,500 dogs close to ideal, whereas a breed with 1,000 dogs will have only 3 dogs close to the ideal breed standard. What are the odds that a few of those 1,500 Labs will enter conformation events, compared to the odds a smaller breed will have its few ideal individuals entered?

From more than half a million registered Labrador retrievers, none is judged close to the breed standard in major AKC shows. Labs rarely win even the Sporting Group, which was recently won by an English setter (629 registered in 2006). Breeds with fewer than 10,000 registered individuals are regularly judged to be closer to their breed standards than 550,000 Labradors are to theirs. How can this be?

If judging were fairly based on written instructions and breed standards, more numerous breeds would win shows more often than less popular breeds. Obviously, AKC judges and the AKC itself are highlighting less popular breeds in the hope they will become more popular. By giving them exposure on televised shows, perhaps more people will want a Bedlington terrier (192 registered in 2006) or a Harrier (23). Popularizing less popular breeds is a mission for judges and the AKC, who savor the diversity of man-made breeds.

I object to the AKC refusing to disclose dog and litter registration data, however. Their political agenda should not rest on public ignorance. A recent AKC Press Release on rank orders of 2009 registrations reported that German shepherds had displaced Yorkshire terriers as Number 2 (Labs are still Number 1, of course). Then, they suggested, with hope in their hearts, that German shepherd dogs may overtake Labrador retrievers in popularity.

For the 19th consecutive year, the Labrador Retriever is the most popular purebred dog in America, but could this be the last year for the Lab's reign?

If they had disclosed numerical registration data, I doubt they could have asked that question with a straight face.

For \$100, the AKC provided me with registration numbers for the Top Ten Dogs in 2007, 2008, and 2009. These are the years for which they have hidden registration numbers and published only rank orders. Here are AKC dog registrations from 2007 to 2009 for the Top 10 breeds: (continued next page)

Playing Politics with Purebred Dogs (cont from previous page)

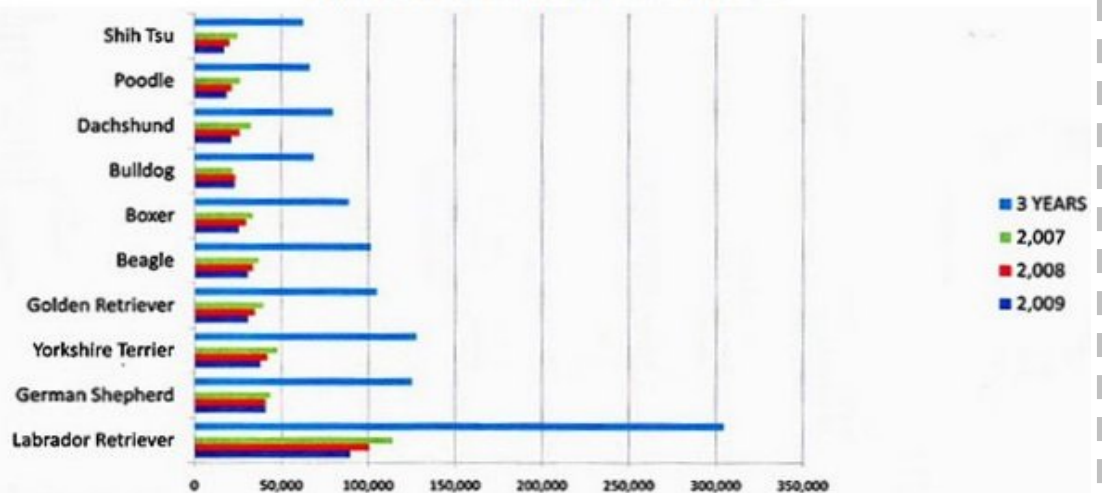
BREED	YEAR			TOTAL 3 YEARS	% LAB TOTAL
	2,009	2,008	2,007		
Labrador Retriever	89,599	100,736	114,113	304,448	
German Shepherd	40,938	40,909	43,376	125,223	41%
Yorkshire Terrier	37,778	41,914	47,850	127,542	42%
Golden Retriever	30,735	34,485	39,659	104,879	34%
Beagle	30,672	33,722	37,021	101,415	33%
Boxer	25,472	29,705	33,548	88,725	29%
Bulldog	23,248	23,413	22,160	68,821	23%
Dachshund	21,089	26,075	32,598	79,762	23%
Poodle	18,601	21,545	26,369	66,515	26%
Shih Tsu	17,314	20,219	24,951	62,484	22%
Total Registrations Top 10	335,446	372,723	421,645	1,129,814	
Lost Registrations from 2007	86,199	48,922			



Breeds are rank-ordered by 2009 registrations. Note that in 2009, there are more than twice as many Labradors as German Shepherds (90,000 versus 41,000). So much for the AKC's musing that German Shepherds may overtake Labs as the Number One Dog.

More than 300,000 Labs were registered in 2007 to 2009. Less than one-third (continued next page) The far right column shows the percentage of Lab registrations are represented by each of the other 9 Top Ten breeds. Six of the 10 breeds have one-third or fewer registrations, compared to Labrador retrievers. I love numbers and statistics, but they do not give joy to everyone. A picture is often worth a thousand words.

TOP 10 AKC BREEDS 2007 TO 2009



Playing Politics with Purebred Dogs (cont from previous page)

More than 300,000 Labs were registered in 2007 to 2009. Less than one-third as many beagles, boxers, bulldogs, dachshunds, poodles, and shih tsus were registered in the same period. Anyone can see that the popularity of Labs is almost "off the chart". Evidently, the disproportionate popularity of Labs is embarrassing to the AKC.

The other reason the AKC did not want to reveal recent registration data is that the organization is going downhill, fast. AKC finances depend heavily on registrations, which generate at least \$20/dog. Annual registrations of 400,000 dogs, generate \$8 million in revenue. The registration data clearly indicate that every year the AKC is losing purebred dog registrations.

Compared to 2007, which was not a banner year, the AKC had 89,000 fewer Top Ten registrations in 2009. That loss of registrations translates into at least \$1.75 million in lost revenue. The trend is ominous. In 2003, Lab registrations numbered 143,000., compared to 90,000 in 2009. The AKC's decline is happening in a context of more and more purebred dogs being adopted as family pets.

If I were CEO of the AKC, I would be alarmed and contemplate what changes need to be made in my organization. Let me offer a few suggestions:

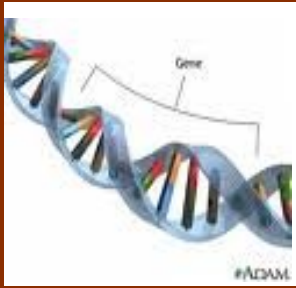
- AKC can improve the health of purebred dogs by incorporating new genetic information in their criteria for participation in AKC activities.
- Intact animals, which participate in AKC conformation shows, field trials, rallies, obedience, and agility events should have clearances as non-carriers of all serious genetic disorders common in the breed.
- Conformation shows should be restructured to be more about dogs' soundness and breed type and less about the handler and showmanship. However entertaining spectators find extreme coiffure and runway behavior, the major focus of shows should be to select sound, typey parents for the next generations of the breed.
- AKC should sever its relationships with commercial sponsors, especially pet-food manufacturers. A less splashy show not sponsored by Eukanuba would be better received by many who care about dogs' health.
- AKC should cease any partnerships with pet-food and drug companies to "educate" veterinarians about pet care and diets. Veterinary education is perverted by pet-food and drug companies anyway, and the AKC should keep it's still-good name out of a corrupt morass.
- AKC should sponsor popular educational programs for pet owners about the evolution of dogs, their identity as a subspecies of wolves, and the implications of these scientifically established facts for dog feeding and care. A television series on "Know Your Dog" could save the health and lives of millions of pets.
- AKC can work with breed organizations that have adopted extreme conformation standards that impair the breed's health or alter their natural appearance by mutilation. Surgical alteration and unhealthy standards have no place in an organization with a mission to improve the welfare of purebred dogs and their owners.

As I think of more ways to help the AKC meet its goals and live up to its mission, I will post them. Meanwhile, let's hope they get more honest by publishing breed registration statistics for 2010, without charging members for the report.

Reader discussion is invited, Sandra Scarr, PhD Aloha Labradors HI SandraScar@aol.com



Genetic Tests: Opportunities to Improve Labrador Retriever's Health! by: Sandra Scarr, PhD - Aloha Labradors, HI



The canine genotype was usefully mapped in 2004. Work on this massive project extended from 1997 and continues today. Genes for many dog diseases have been identified and located on specific chromosomes. After deleterious genes are identified, tests are often developed to identify dogs that carry the defective genes.

Pros and Cons: Genetic testing offers a practical way to improve the health of purebred dogs. If individuals that carry genetic diseases were not bred, the frequency of genetic diseases would be reduced dramatically. If carriers were identified prior to breeding, and they were not bred, the next generation of Labs would be virtually free of disorders caused by single genes.

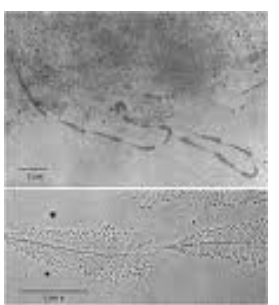
The major problem with restricting breeding to dogs that do not carry major genetic defects is that the genes of many champions and dogs with other titles would be eliminated from the breed's gene pool. Some – perhaps, many -- current Champions and title-holders are carriers of serious genetic diseases. They are not themselves affected, but they pass on their defective genes to many offspring. Show Champions and dogs recognized for excellence in other canine events are preferred sires of many litters.



Preventing the breeding of carriers of genetic diseases would eliminate dogs with excellent conformation and outstanding hunting skills, for example, from contributing their valuable characteristics to the next generation. Herein lies a great dilemma for breeders. What is the relative value of genetic health versus breed standards and test criteria for field, obedience, and agility trials?

Understanding Genetic Disorders: Genetic diseases come in two basic types: Diseases caused by single genes, such as PRA or Progressive Retinal Atrophy, and those influenced by several or many genes, such as hip dysplasia. This article focuses on single-gene disorders that are common in Labrador retrievers, because the frequency of single-gene traits can be reduced or increased rapidly by breeders' choices of which dogs to breed.

Selection against multi-gene traits is slower and less effective, although it is worthwhile for the health of the breed. As an example, dogs with hip dysplasia should not be bred, because their offspring are more likely to have hip problems than the offspring of dogs with good hips. Selection against multi-gene disorders has a *probable* benefit. Selection against single-gene disorders has a known, calculable benefit for the breed.



Single-Gene Disorders: Single-gene diseases are of three types: *Autosomal dominants*, *autosomal recessives*, and genes on the *X chromosome* that affect males far more often than females, because males have only one X chromosome.

Disorders due to *dominant* genes affect individuals who have only one copy of the gene. If a dominant genetic disease appears early in life, individuals with the disorder are rarely bred, so the frequency of gene in the breed remains low. Some incompletely-dominant genes, such as OSC or OculoSkeletal Dysplasia, produce dwarfism and blindness when two copies of the gene are present, but one copy of the gene produces retinal folds that can be detected on CERF (continued next page)

Genetic Tests: Improve Health! (continued from previous page)

exams. Carriers of one OSD gene are not dwarfed or blind, but they have some visual manifestations of the OSD gene.

Defective genes on the *X chromosome* usually produce symptoms in males early in life, thereby eliminating them from breeding and identifying their female relatives as potential carriers of the disorder. Male offspring of female carriers have a 50:50 chance of inheriting the disorder.

Autosomal recessives require two copies of the defective gene to produce the disorder. Individuals with two copies of the gene show symptoms of the disorder and may not be bred at all or will be bred only until symptoms appear. Symptoms of some single-gene disorders appear later in life. A dog with two recessive genes for Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA), for example, will become blind by age 4 to 6 years. He may have been bred many times before developing full-blown PRA. Individuals with only one copy of the defective gene show no symptoms and appear to be as normal as dogs with two normal genes. Unless tested for his carrier status, a carrier may be bred many times over his lifetime, because he has no outward symptoms of disease. Carriers with one recessive PRA gene are not visually impaired, and they will pass on the PRA gene to half of their offspring.

Carriers of Recessive Disorders: Carriers of recessive disorders are the major problem for breeders. A normal-appearing dog that carries a defective gene will pass on the defective gene to half of his offspring. Male carriers with titles are a major source of carriers in the next generation, because they are often bred to dozens of females. Genetic tests to identify carriers could be used to reduce the frequency of defective genes in dog breeds. Before the PRA test was available, carriers were bred by unsuspecting owners. Breeding carriers kept the gene frequency high. Now, if carriers are identified and not bred, the number of PRA genes in Labrador retrievers could be rapidly reduced and eventually eliminated from the breed.

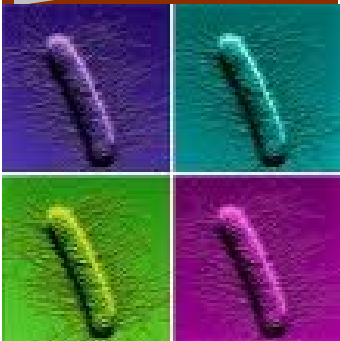
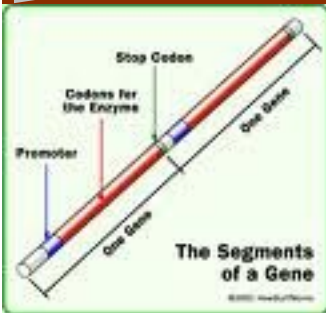
Here's a chart of puppy outcomes from breeding normals, carriers, and affected individuals with recessive disorders:

Puppy Outcomes from Mating Affected, Carrier, and Clear Parents

	Clear Male	Carrier Male	Affected Male
Clear Female	100% Clear	50 Carrier/50 Clear	100% Carrier
Carrier Female	50 Carrier/50 Clear	25 Clear/50 Carrier/25 Affected	50 Carrier/50 Affected
Affected Female	100% Carrier	50 Carrier/50 Affected	100% Affected

The major contributors to the continuing high frequency of genetic diseases in Labs are normal-appearing carriers of recessive disorders. Although only a few affected individuals may appear in each generation, the percentage of carriers is surprisingly high. If 3 to 5% of Labs are affected by a disorder, an estimated 30% of Labs are carriers.

(continued next page)



Genetic Tests: Improve Health! (continued from previous page)

A commitment to test breeding stock for recessive disorders and a commitment not to be breed affected individuals and carriers could greatly reduce the frequency of several recessive disorders in Labs. For example,

CNM -- Centronuclear myopathy in Labrador Retrievers is a recessively inherited muscular disease. This disease was previously known as Labrador muscular myopathy. The disease is characterized by early onset muscular problems such as awkward gait, fatigue, and difficulty eating. Affected puppies generally begin displaying these problems within a few months after birth.

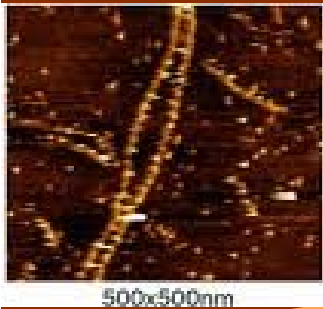
EIC – Exercise Induced Collapse. After intense hunting or retrieving exercise, activities these dogs are trained to perform, affected Labradors start to lose control of their hind limbs. In most cases, their legs get wobbly and the limbs give out, and in rare cases the dogs may die. An estimated 3-5 percent of Labradors have this condition. Researchers also determined that up to 30 percent of Labrador retrievers are carriers of the mutation, and they developed a genetic test to indicate whether dogs have the normal or mutated forms of the gene.

PRA – Progressive Retinal Atrophy -- is the most common recessive disorder affecting the retina of the dog and results from the reduction of retinal blood vessels and atrophy of the receptor cells of the retina. There are two types of PRA: generalized-PRA and centralized-PRA. In generalized-PRA, there is overall retinal function loss. Labrador retrievers are more often affected by the generalized type of PRA. Genetic tests for PRA can identify normals, carriers, and affected dogs.

NARC -- Narcolepsy is a single-gene recessive disorder that affects Labrador retrievers and a few other breeds. If a dam and sire are both carriers, one-quarter of their pups will have the disease and one half will be carriers. Affected dogs suddenly lose control of their hind legs, or even collapse in complete, limb-numbing paralysis—yet they are entirely aware of their surroundings and can track things with their eyes. Attacks last a few seconds, or a minute or two; then the dog is up again and moving, with no residual grogginess, no indication that things were ever amiss. Some dogs have NARC attacks once a year, others a hundred times a day. OptiGen has a test for narcolepsy in Labrador retrievers.

RD/OSD – Retinal dysplasia and OculoSkeletal Dysplasia. Retinal Dysplasia-retinal folds in Labradors and Samoyeds will cause a dog to fail a CERF examination, because RD in these breeds can be an indication that the dog is a carrier of a serious inherited syndrome called OSD (OculoSkeletal Dysplasia). OSD is a severe condition in which the dogs show a variety of skeletal malformations and blindness at an early age. Carriers of OSD often have retinal dysplasia-retinal folds. When two Carriers of OSD are bred, a quarter of their litter, on average, are dwarfed and blind. However, the OSD mutation is not “simple” recessive, because carriers typically show symptoms of RD or partial expression of OSD. Another way to describe this type of inheritance is “autosomal dominant with incomplete penetrance” or “incomplete dominance”.

More single-gene recessive disorders are being identified and tests are developed each year. This is a partial list of some more common recessive disorders in Labs: (continued next page)



Genetic Tests: Improve Health! (continued from previous page)

“Safe” Breeding of Carriers: Genetic tests can inform breeders which dogs have normal genes and which dogs are carriers and affecteds that should not be bred.

On the other hand, tests to identify carriers of recessive genetic disorders give breeders a new tool to avoid producing diseased puppies by breeding carriers to normals. Half of the puppies will carry the defective gene to the next generation, and beyond, but none of the current puppies will be affected. Is this a wise course?

Companies, such as VetGen, Animal Genetics, and OptiGen, and major canine foundations that test for genetic disorders emphasize that the best breeding pair is two individuals with normal genes for major disorders in the breed. Dog with normal genes do not carry genetic disorders to the next generation. If, for various reasons, carriers are bred, they should be bred to dogs with normal genes for that disorder, so that no puppies will have the disease. Further, they recommend selecting from the carrier-normal litter only puppies with normal genes to breed for future generations.

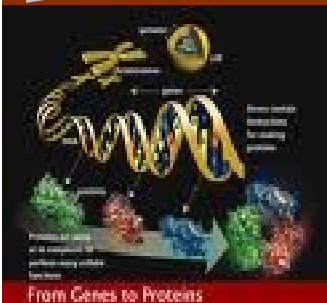
If affected individuals are bred even to normals, all puppies will carry the defective gene to the next generation.

What Price Beauty? Many readers have seen the BBC documentary “Pedigree Dogs Exposed”. It’s a must-see for those who have not seen it. The full documentary can be viewed at <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/pedigree-dogs-exposed/>. Jemima Harrison filmed breeders, dog shows, veterinarians, and Kennel Club officials talking in shocking terms about the poor genetic health of some breeds. The film exposes some horrific genetic diseases perpetuated in some breeds in the name of beauty, but causing pain and suffering for the animals.

In some cases -- Cavalier King Charles spaniels are the gravest example – dogs affected with syringomyelia are entered in shows and judged winners, when their stunted skulls and growing brains will soon cause them horrible pain and early death. Before the winner dies, however, he will be mated to dozens of females and pass on his defects to many in the next generations of Cavaliers. Does this make any sense for the health of a breed?

Grossly misshapen muzzles, hips that fall out of their sockets, knees and elbows that freeze or wobble, eyes that go blind -- the litany of avoidable genetic defects in purebred dogs is alarming -- and most are preventable through genetic knowledge and sound breeding practices. Outraged public reaction to the documentary caused sponsors to withdraw from the venerable Crufts, dog show, and to threaten The Kennel Club with loss of support. In response to public cries for reform, The Kennel Club has opened registries for several breed with serious genetic problems, including Dalmatians, which provide a cautionary tale.

What Cost Perfect Spots? *The Whole Dog Journal* recently published two articles on a defective, recessive gene in Dalmatians. I was shocked to learn that 100% of Dalmatians in the US and UK have defective genes for urea processing, which leads to formation of life-threatening bladder stones. There are no individuals with normal genes left in the Dalmatian breed. In 1973, Bob Shaible, a geneticist and Dalmatian breeder, cross-bred a Dalmatian to a champion Pointer with normal urea-producing genes. Through multiple generations, he was able to develop Dalmatians that look like others of the breed but with normal urea-processing genes. (continued next page)



Genetic Tests: Improve Health! (continued from previous page)

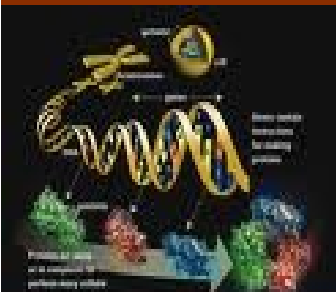
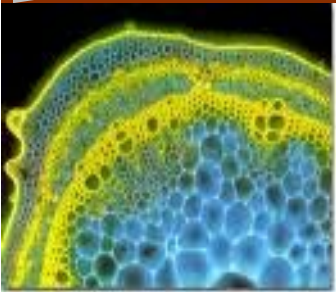
In 1981, Dr. Schaible gained approval of the Dalmatian Club of America and the American Kennel Club to register two dogs from the fourth generation of this backcross. When the general membership of the Dalmatian Club found out about the registration, however, they caused such an uproar, the AKC refused to register any offspring from these dogs. Thus, the AKC stopped the introduction of normal genes into the breed with a known, universal, life-threatening defect.

Far from making progress toward healthier Dalmatians, the breed club banned any discussion of the topic for 22 years! In 2008 the membership of the Dalmatian Club of America again voted against registering descendants of cross-bred Dalmatians with normal urea-processing genes. Therefore ALL registered Dalmatians in the US are homozygous defective for genes that causes high uric acid levels and life-threatening bladder stones. The Kennel Club in the UK now registers descendants of cross-bred Dalmatians with normal urea genes.

What can Breed Clubs do? Whose responsibility is it to educate breeders and dog owners about canine genetic health and how to improve breeds with major genetic defects? Most breeds have serious genetic threats to their health.

Breed clubs can take a stand on the benefits of genetic testing and the wisdom of reducing the frequency of health-threatening genetic disorders. Breed clubs' Code of Ethics could include requirements to test for common genetic disorders in the breed before matings are planned. Rather than rejecting health-improving out crossing, as the Dalmatian club did, some clubs with limited gene pools and many carriers will need to open their registries to bring in normal genes from other breeds to improve the health of their own breed.

Labrador retrievers are so numerous that out crossing is unlikely to be needed to improve Labs' health. Lab breeders can work within the breed to select non-carriers and unaffected individuals as parents of future generations. Breed clubs can require members to obtain tests of potential breeding stock for common genetic disorders, prior to breeding. (cont next page)



From Genes to Proteins

Genetic Tests: Improve Health! (continued from previous page)

What Can Purebred Dog Registries Do? Canine registries can vastly improve the health of purebred dogs simply by requiring genetic testing for every dog that enters a sponsored event and by publishing results of genetic testing in show programs. I am sure such a plan would annoy many show people, financial supporters, members of their governing bodies, and more. Reluctance to act on behalf of canine health is both political and financial. Are these good enough reasons to ignore a huge opportunity to improve purebred dogs' health? Conformation shows and field trials are designed to select the best breeding stock for the next generations. Surely, canine registries and breeders want the healthiest dogs to produce the next generation of every breed. As long as genetic testing is ignored and excluded from consideration, breed registries are not fulfilling their mission.

Here's a proposal: For the first 5 years, affected dogs and carriers could be shown in sponsored events, but information about their genetic profiles for health-related breed defects would be published in event programs. After 5 years, dogs affected by, or who are carriers of, serious health disorders should be excluded from sponsored events.

The AKC's mission includes working for the welfare of purebred dogs and their owners. Surely, canine health is a major component of that mission. Mary Straus, writing in the *Whole Dog Journal*, says "It's time for the AKC to take the lead in improving the health of purebred dogs -- and for breed fanciers to put the health of their dogs above an insistence on genetic purity".

I would add that the idea of "genetic purity" in breeds is arbitrary and illusory. Most dog breeds have been isolated in breed registries for less than 100 years, some for less than 25 years. Many breeds, such as the Labrador retriever, were created by deliberate cross-breeding, before the breed registry was closed. All dogs share 99.8% of the same genes and share 99.8% of their genes with contemporary wolves. More importantly, it seems trivial to talk about "genetic purity" when a breed's health is at stake.

I hope this article will generate discussion among Labrador retriever breeders about the advisability of genetic tests of breeding stock for common genetic defects and the recommendation that only genetically normal dogs be bred. There would be considerable financial and emotional costs from excluding from breeding programs conformation Champions and Senior Hunters that carry defective genes. There are incalculable costs, however, from breeding genetically defective Labs, generation after generation.

Reader discussion is invited, Sandra Scarr, PhD Aloha Labradors HI SandraScar@aol.com





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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



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.