



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 and protection of the Labrador Retriever.

THE LABRADOR CONNECTION

FALL 2021 ELECTRONIC EDITION

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Are your dogs experiencing Fecundity issues lately?

If you feel like your dogs haven't been as fecund (fertile) of late, you aren't alone.

Fecundity, or Fertility has been decreasing globally and across all species studied, it's not just happening in dogs.

Reports published by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say that the reasons for impaired fertility are many, but the major factor in lowered fertility is the endless exposure of our dogs to pesticides, dioxins and phthalates in the environment.

Bisphenol A (BPA) was found in 95% of the human participants in a recent test by the CDC. BPA is in plastic products and is found in the lining of our dog's canned food containers. Animal studies have shown BPA causes breast and prostate cancers, reduced sperm counts and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS causes irregular cycling).



Phthalates was found in 80% of the human participants in a recent test by the CDC. Phthalates are in dog toys, the garden hose that we use to fill up the dog's water bowls, chair cushions that our dogs lay on, car seats, your vet's incubator, canine grooming products and are in just about everything that is soft and pliable.

Animal studies showed that phthalates caused testicular damage and developmental abnormalities.

We've known with since 2002 that minute amounts of phthalates can cause sperm damage and in 2005 animal studies proved that phthalates adversely affected the genital development in males.

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Feeling less Fecund lately? (continued from page 1)

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are present in every living organism. POPs are things that don't deteriorate or disappear from the environment. POPs are pesticides like DDT that has been banned for years, but is still present in the environment and can accumulate in animal tissue and in the food chain. POP exposure causes infertility.

Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) is the flame retardants on dog clothing, dog furniture, carpets and electronics. PBDEs are released in the air and are inhaled every time your dog sits on his chair, the sofa or lays down in his/her pet bed. PBDEs are released when your dog rolls on the carpet or sits in the room with you while watching TV or while you are on the computer.

PBDEs cause problems with reproductive development and permanently cause low sperm counts.

Studies have shown that the fertility levels of all males, including male dogs are decreasing from constant exposure to environmental toxins. It is difficult to nearly impossible to avoid these fertility damaging chemicals in our environment.

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

*We Support Studies and
Grants that benefit the
Labrador Retriever*

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 Interim Membership Chair:
Sandra Underhill
Sandy@LabsToLove.com

New Members Welcomed
Apply Online Today

Verifying Sperm Health - iSperm Can Easily Do It For You!

Missing a litter can be an enormous disappointment. If you used your own male and missed a litter, not investigating and verifying his sperm health could mean missing his next litter, and maybe missing his litter after that.

Knowing if your stud dogs' sperm is healthy is not just a one-time test performed once in the lifetime of your male dog. Sperm health can change and vary significantly between collections or breedings.

In professional studies, good semen quality, morphology, and concentrations of over 220 million/ml were found to result in increased pregnancy rates.*

You could know the concentration of the semen you are shipping or you could know if the chilled semen you just received is healthy sperm by checking the sperm's health using iSperm.

The semen factors thought to be the most important to fertility are the number, the morphology, and the motility of the spermatozoa.**

A study conducted by PubMed (Linde-Forsberg C) showed that controlling for healthy sperm increased pregnancy rates by 20% and also increased the

average size of litters.***

Just looking under the microscope and seeing if there are live sperm is not sufficient enough to know if the sperm is actually healthy or if the sperm is capable of fertilizing eggs.

Being able to analyze sperm health has not been something that has been very accessible to the average breeder. Computer Assisted Sperm Analysis (CASA) has historically been a high priced option that required steep learning curves to utilize; leaving the breeder who wants their semen evaluated the option of traveling to see their reproductive veterinarian for sperm health analysis.

A reproductive vet can be expensive and time-consuming. But doing your own sperm health testing can mean profound savings and results are obtainable in just one minute.

iSperm makes sperm analysis accessible for everyone. At home or on the go!

The iSperm is the first mobile computer-assisted sperm analyzer. Verification of sperm health is now possible for anyone to do, easily and accurately.

(Continued next page)

*Mickelsen, W.D., et al. "The Relationship of Semen Quality to Pregnancy Rate and Litter Size following Artificial Insemination in the Bitch." *Theriogenology*, Elsevier, 7 Oct 2003, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0093691X9390397N

**Johnson, DVM, Cheri. "Semen Quality and Artificial Insemination (proceedings)." *DVM 360* 18 Aug 2021, www.dvm360.com/view/semen-quality-and-artificial-insemination-proceedings

***Linde-Forsberg C, Forsberg M. Fertility in dogs relation to semen quality and the time and site of insemination with fresh and frozen semen. *J Reprod Fertil Suppl* 1989;39:299-310 PMID2621732



Verifying Sperm Health - iSperm (continued from page 3)

The iSperm is built around an iPad mini, setup and maintenance is simple. Video training and product support is available.*

The analysis iSperm offers is a comprehensive examination of sperm from the expected values one normally is looking for: sperm concentration (million per ml), total motility, progressive motility — all of which are computed automatically for you — to sperm kinetics.

Sperm kinetics include the ability to track sperm traveling in a curvilinear (Vcl) path, an average path for sperm (Vap) and sperm traveling in a straight line (Vsp) with easy to visualize differently colored lines (labeled sperm tracks). The percentage of linearity and straightness are also measured.**



This product is awesome and allows breeders and vets to add this portable professional semen analyzer, weighing less than a laptop and fitting in a small briefcase, to their tool kits.

The user can inspect the sperm up close, without a bulky, fragile microscope and with equivalent clarity.

Save sperm health data and track changes in individual stud dog samples over time via iPad storage and a cloud account through iSperm's parent company, Aidmics.

The iSperm allows you to store all the of the data you test. An accurate graph of your stud's metrics over time is produced automatically. This allows you to monitor the fertility and sperm health of a male over time and have insight into patterns or problems that may arise.

The iSperm can be paired with an available Bluetooth photo printer to print the actual zoomed-in photo of sperm with motility and concentration data displayed all on the same page.

iSperm is available from the US authorized canine version iSperm distributor at www.caninep4.com NLRC members get \$100 discount - use Code: NLRCdiscount (Expires 10/31/21)

*Sperm Kinetics <http://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8827340>

**Training and product support is available from the US authorized iSperm Distributor,

California AB702 was Withdrawn

California Assembly Bill 702 was scheduled for a hearing at the end of April 2021, but was withdrawn by its author before being voted upon. Did our voices end up mattering after all?

Before AB702 was withdrawn, amendments were made to AB702 to remove the limit on canine breeding ages and the requisite that breeders have an enclosed yard were added to AB702.

But what would breeding have looked like if AB702 had passed for Californian dog breeders?

Breeder permits would have been required for anyone who kept intact dogs for the purpose of breeding.

Applicants for breeder permits would have had to demonstrate compliance with all state and local business license requirements, applicants would have been limited to being able to breed one litter per dog, per year and applicants would have had to demonstrate compliance with posted care requirements.

Problems with the requisite to have business licenses is that hobbyists who may have a single litter in their home may not be able to obtain a business license in a residentially zoned location. How many breeders are located on commercial property?

The local jurisdictions responsible for enforcement of AB702 (ie: Department of Animal Control) would have been required to generate funding for AB702 enforcement through the sale of breeder permits and from fines imposed upon law breakers. An amendment to AB702 allowed for fines of not less than \$250 per violation could be assessed, with no cap to how high those fines could be that could have been.

Holders of breeder permits would have been mandated to report births to their local jurisdiction within 10 days of their occurrence.

All advertising by a permitted breeder would have been required to include both the breeder's permit number and the identity of the permitting local jurisdiction.

Legislation is being introduced every day in assorted states throughout the year. For information on recent legislation that may affect your state, visit www.AKC.org/legislative-alerts

If we all remain too busy or if we believe our input doesn't make a difference when new legislation is presented....one day we may be legislated right out of the hobby that we all love so much.

Akc.org/legislative-alerts/California-amendments-filed-ab-702-breeding-permits-primary-concerns-remain-call-today

It's not a Dog Show anymore — It's Conformation Events!

The AKC has made it official...the terminology for dog shows is CONFORMATION.

Defined as: the act of conforming or producing conformity. The AKC's announcement reminds us that "Dogs are not being compared to each other; they're being measured by how closely they conform to the standard of their particular breed." "The closer the dog's appearance is to the breed's standard, the better that dog's ability will be to produce puppies that meet the standard."

To compete in an AKC Conformation show:

- Dogs must be six months or older on the day of the show
- Be a recognized breed by the AKC
- Be registered with the AKC
- Not be desexed.
- Have no disqualifying faults & be in sound health and up-to-date on vaccinations.

Reference: <https://akc.org/sports/conformation>

New Requirement from the Parent Club

The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. has updated the requirements for their club's Conformation Certificate.

Effective July 1, 2021, Labrador Retriever applicants for the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.'s conformation certificate evaluation will now be required to show proof by DNA certification or similar DNA verifying document that the Labrador Retriever to be evaluated has been tested dilute gene clear.

Cleared by Parentage's DNA clearances will not be accepted.

Reference: <https://thelabradorclub.com/events-programs/lrc-certificates-awards/>



National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

Board of Directors Contact Information

President: Sue Willumsen - Willcare@comcast.net

Vice President: Rebecca Bailey - TarrahLabs@gmail.com

Secretary: Sandra Underhill - Sandy@LabsToLove.com

Treasurer: Chris Woehr - NLRClnc@gmail.com

Education: Margo Carter - Info@McNeilLabradors.com

Member: Rebecca Gorton - NipnTuckLR@aol.com

Member: Vicky Creamer - Belquest1@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Loose Leaf: Gail Cayce-Adams - IvySpringLabs@yahoo.com

Membership: Sandra Underhill - Sandy@LabsToLove.com

Webmaster/Newsletter: Sandra Underhill - Sandy@LabsToLove.com

Veterinary Consultant: Autumn Davidson

The National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. exists for the preservation and protection 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

