



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

Winter 2020 ELECTRONIC EDITION

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Cardiac Certification Changes Announced

As of October 1, 2020 newly implemented changes to the cardiac certification programs administered by the OFA have changed the way that we perform cardiac testing.

The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Cardiology Specialty Group has directed the OFA to require an echocardiogram as part of the cardiac exam protocol for Labrador Retrievers.

The requirement of an echocardiogram is required to increase the accuracy and usefulness of the certification program managed by the OFA by helping to ensure that congenital or acquired forms of heart disease (diseases that may be difficult or impossible to identify on auscultation alone) do not go undetected.

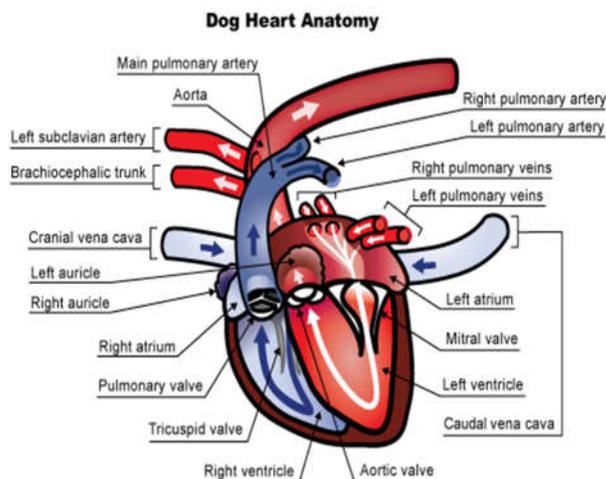
Only echocardiographic examinations performed by board-certified veterinary cardiologists (DACVIM/Cardiology) will be accepted.

The requirement that the dog be at least 12 months of age at the time of exam is still in place. The echocardiographic exam performed by a board certified cardiologist will clear the examined dog for congenital cardiac disease that will be valid for the life of the dog, and an adult onset disease clearance that will be valid for 12 months.

Any legacy cardiac clearances at the OFA site will be known for now on as the Basic Cardiac Database.

Basic Cardiac exams are auscultation only exams that can be performed by any licensed veterinarian. The level of expertise of the veterinarian doing the auscultation exam will continue to have a suffix noted in the basic cardiac clearance that is given: where a P is for a general practitioner, S is for specialist and C is for cardiologists.

Basic cardiac exams are valid for one year since acquired heart disease may develop at anytime during the lifetime of a Labrador Retriever. If you opt to do a basic cardiac exam, you'll need to do it annually from this point forward to keep your cardiac clearance current on your Labrador.



Labradors with cruciate ligament rupture needed for study

Purebred Labrador Retrievers that are both affected or that are over 8 years of age and are unaffected with cruciate ligament ruptures are needed for a study at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine.

Participation involves submitting a saliva sample for DNA and study related paperwork. Unaffected dogs must receive screening radiographs (x-rays) which can be performed by the unaffected dogs own veterinarian.

If Labrador Retriever owners are interested in participating, you can contact the laboratory at the University of Wisconsin at genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu

The cranial cruciate ligament (CCL), also known as the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), as a major stabilizing structure in the knee of dogs and people. Non contact cruciate ligament rupture (rupture not associated with any known trauma) occurs in about 6% of Labrador Retrievers. It is responsible for 20% of canine (continued next page)

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 ap-

ply 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

Labradors with cruciate ligament rupture needed, continued

Lameness and burdens U.S. pet owners with at least \$1 billion in healthcare costs each year.

It is accepted that a majority of ruptures are not associated with trauma, but the reason dogs rupture their ligament is not known. About 50% of dogs will rupture both of the CCLs (in each hindlimb). It is likely that part of the risk that a dog has for developing this condition is genetic. With generous funding from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, the Comparative Genetics Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine is working to determine the genetic contributions to the development of cruciate ligament rupture in Labradors.

There are two groups of dogs that currently qualify for the study:

- Labrador Retrievers with knee problems due to a torn cruciate ligament
- Labrador Retrievers over 8 years of age with no history of knee problems

Qualifying dogs and their owners will receive a package containing a study questionnaire and a saliva swab for DNA collection. Unaffected dogs must receive screening radiographs, which can be performed at their local veterinary office (please contact our lab for more information). Owners are asked to provide a pedigree or registration papers, if available.

This work is expected to result in the development of a genetic test for cruciate ligament rupture. This test would be available for use by any veterinarian. A blood or saliva sample taken in puppyhood would identify dogs at risk for non-contact cruciate rupture. This will provide information for purchasing and breeding decisions and allow medical intervention to slow disease progression.

Moreover, it has long been established that dogs and humans share a similar profile of diseases, and cruciate rupture is no exception.

Evidence exists for genetic contribution to ACL rupture in humans. Therefore, it is possible that this research will contribute to human as well as veterinary medical knowledge. There is no charge to participate in this study.

Please contact the University of Wisconsin-Madison Comparative Genetics Laboratory at genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu.

You can also visit our lab webpage: www.vetmed.wisc.edu/lab/corl/genetic-studies.

Study updates are posted to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SVMgenetics.



School of
Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

New Progesterone Analyzer - the CubeVet

One thing that remains a constant when breeding is the need to know the progesterone level of your girl for breeding or for c-section plans.

There's a quality product that offers technical advantages to the consumer when measuring progesterone called the CubeVet. It's a small, compact, Austrian-built progesterone analyzer that can do progesterone assays as well as having the ability to perform thirteen other relevant general health tests.

This unit is one of the first of its class to commercially use absorption-spectrometry as the measurement method for testing progesterone. Called "ab-spec" for short, or simply photometry, this method essentially measures how much light is "absorbed" or "captured" by the substance being tested at a particular measurable wavelength of light. The amount of light captured or absorbed, is compared to the amount of light passing through progesterone (or other analyte sample) being examined.

This absorption-spectrometry method allows for a rapid measurement of progesterone which produces a result in only 8 minutes.

Other comparative progesterone analyzers utilize fluorescent measurement techniques and require one or more manual mixing steps by the user. No internal pipetting or transfer of fluids is required with the CubeVet. The steps are minimal and limited to adding a fixed volume of sample to a reagent vial, covering it with the provided antibody-coated cap, and then placing the sample in the CubeVet machine for processing and measurement of a progesterone sample.

The CubeVet machine accomplishes internal mixing via a built-in internal magnetic stirrer. The built-in circulating magnetic stirrer moves around a BB-sized metal ball within the sample being tested which circulates in the fluid and properly mixes the constituents, with no user intervention required.

The CubeVet has a reportable range for progesterone testing of 1.2-20ng/mL. This narrow reportable range coupled with internal mixing and ab-spec technology creates better precision of the results. For example, a sample with the "absolute value" of 7.0 (tested and validated in-house) has the clinically acceptable range of about 6.7-7.3 ng/mL. Analytical devices are typically limited in their capability to produce the same absolute values each and every time because of systematic, random, operator, production, liquid volume, and even electrical errors; each of which can lead to variation in the reported value of any given sample when tested multiple times.

For more information with using the CubeVet to progesterone test your girls, ask for Sam Decker at www.CanineP4.com who can answer any questions you might have in regards to progesterone testing.



Donation to Heart of Texas Lab Rescue acknowledgement



Heart of Texas Lab Rescue, Inc.

PO BOX 81821 Austin, TX 78708

WWW.HOTLABRESCUE.ORG

Dear Chris Woehr,

We thank you for your generous donation made on March 4, 2020, in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00). We are very appreciative of your support.

It is through financial contributions such as yours that Heart of Texas Lab Rescue, Inc. (HOTLR) is able to achieve its mission of rescuing endangered Labrador Retrievers and placing them in loving homes as well as educating the public about responsible pet ownership in an effort to limit the number of abandoned or unwanted dogs. We are aware that we would be unable to continue our work were it not for the kindness and generosity of friends like you.

Donations to HOTLR are exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HOTLR has not provided any goods or services for this donation. **Please keep this for your tax records.**

On behalf of all the Labradors we rescue and work with, thank you for your generous gift.

Sincerely,

Janet Hasty

Janet Hasty, Secretary
Heart of Texas Lab Rescue, Inc.



BRONZE GRAND CHAMPION SPIRIT OAKS POSEIDON

Cathy Chavez' Bronze Grand CH Spirit Oaks Poseidon



National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

Board of Directors Contact Information

President: Sue Willumsen - Willcare@comcast.net

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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

