



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

JUNE 2013 ELECTRONIC EDITION

CERF? Or...is it an OFA ECR?

There's been a change, a change so subtle that it might easily go unnoticed. You will see it at your next annual ophthalmologist appointment with your dogs when you look at your examination form!

The American College of Ophthalmologist examination form deviates from it's historical version in that this form is from the OFA. Fees, which remain unchanged since 2008 are now remitted directly to the OFA and it isn't a CERF number that you are sent now, it's an OFA ECR or, an OFA Eye Certification Registry number.

It's still the same eye certification exam, just the fee recipient has changed! No changes have been made to the ophthalmologic examination performed by American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists Diplomats that still assess a dog for the presence or absence of observable hereditary eye disease. Dogs with normal results will receive an OFA ECR number that like the CERF number, is valid for one year from the date of the exam.

Dogs with non-passing eye exam results can be added to the open database at no charge.

The OFA fee structuring for your OFA ECR number is below:

- \$30 per litter for three or more siblings form a single litter submitted together
- \$7.50 per dog for 5 or more eye applications submitted together with at least one owner in common
- \$7.50 for per dog for 3 or more soft-tissue applications submitted together for a single dog.
- \$12 for one dog.

A portion of the proceeds from all OFA ECR registrations are donated to the ACVO Vision for Animals Foundation to support research leading to the elimination and treatment of ocular diseases.

CERF will continue to update their databases with OFA ECR testing results.

Submitted by: Sandra Underhill

Inside this issue...

Puppy 2

Socialization

NLRC Membership 4

Braggs Pages 5

NLRC Board of Directors 11

Early Puppy Socialization

by: Margo Carter



Research has distinguished the importance of relationships that exists between genetics, puppy experiences, and adult behavior. The future of a puppy is very dependent upon what you as new parents do with this puppy through several very important stages of life, after the puppy leaves mom, littermates, and the breeder.

Traditionally speaking, the psychological and social development of a dog can be divided into four clearly identifiable stages or sensitive periods beginning with the neonatal period on the way to a full adult personality. Each phase of development is equally important.

Neonatal or newborn period takes place from 1 to 2 weeks of age. This is a time of relative quiet. The puppy during this time is deaf and blind to the outside world relying only on tactile (sense of touch) and olfactory (sense of smell) cues. Most of the puppy's time is spent eating and sleeping. Motor ability is very limited at this time. Sleep consumes about 90 percent of time outside eating because the brain is immature. Reticular formation is not developed enough at this stage to enable extended periods of wakefulness. Urination and defecation occur with stimulation from their mother, a time of total dependency upon their mother.



Human handling seems to be of great benefit, both from a behavioral and physiological standpoint. Research proves that early handling reveals a more rapid rate of development, i.e. motor skills and coordination develops at an earlier stage, eyes open sooner, and puppies seem to be less apprehensive when approached by strangers or strange objects.

Although fairly short, a lot takes place in the transitional period from 10 to 14 days. The puppy's eyes open and hearing develops. Urination and defecation begins to occur spontaneously, and they also begin to walk. Early play behavior and barking can be observed during this period. They are still dependent upon their mother.



The socialization period from 3 to 10 or 12 weeks of age has the greatest impact on puppies and their relationship with their littermates and people. This is a "critical" period of socialization because so much of what occurs or doesn't occur during this period of time largely impacts future behavior.

Puppies learn to inhibit their biting through chewing on their littermates, often suffering the consequences. Important social skills are learned as a result of littermate interaction, useful in adulthood. Removed from the litter early, around 4 to 5 weeks of age, (continued next page)

Early Puppy Socialization continued from page 2

puppies often experience difficulty around other dogs when they grow into adulthood, often being frightened by other dogs, or responding aggressively.

Of equal importance is the puppy's exposure to humans. Puppies not exposed to human contact and socialization are often fearful and difficult to train. Not only is human contact important, the quality and variety of human contact is critical. Variety is a significant factor in that puppies need exposure to children, adults and elderly individuals. Early exposure helps eliminate fear reactions in adulthood.

Puppies raised with other animals, i.e. cats or birds learn to adjust and accept them, developing a similar bond, and will not chase them.

The socialization period that occurs between 8 and 10 weeks is referred to as the "fear, avoidance period, or period of extreme/heightened sensitivity". This seems to be the optimal time for puppy placement and bonding with new owners. It is important that new puppy owners be aware of this period, and use it to their advantage with a lot of patience and understanding, moving toward a strong bond.

Puppies during this period are extremely sensitive to poor handling, and stressful, or traumatic experiences.

The juvenile period begins about 12 weeks of age to sexual maturity. This period of time extends from six months of age to a year of age or more, depending upon the individual puppy. During this time, the puppy becomes increasingly independent and existing behavior patterns begin to develop with more refinement as the puppy continues to grow and develop. Behavioral changes occur and the ensuing months can be very challenging.

(continued next page)



Early Puppy Socialization continued from page 2



The puppy that was your shadow last week all of a sudden has a new found independence, turning into a juvenile delinquent, a pest, and continually demanding your attention. He begins to ignore you when called, making your job of getting his attention extra difficult. The teething period also begins at 4 to 6 months when they chew on everything to include people. The biggest mistake made by many owners is postponing obedience training. When training is postponed, the puppy begins to train himself often making your job much more difficult requiring sterner methods of training. Patience is the key. Be able to anticipate what your puppy needs and what he's thinking. If he doesn't have a chance to think about exhibiting unacceptable behavior, he can't do it! You have to be quicker and smarter than he is.

Article and Photos Submitted by: Margo Carter



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

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, use our application form here:

[NLRC Membership Application](#)

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

NLRC Members with full

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

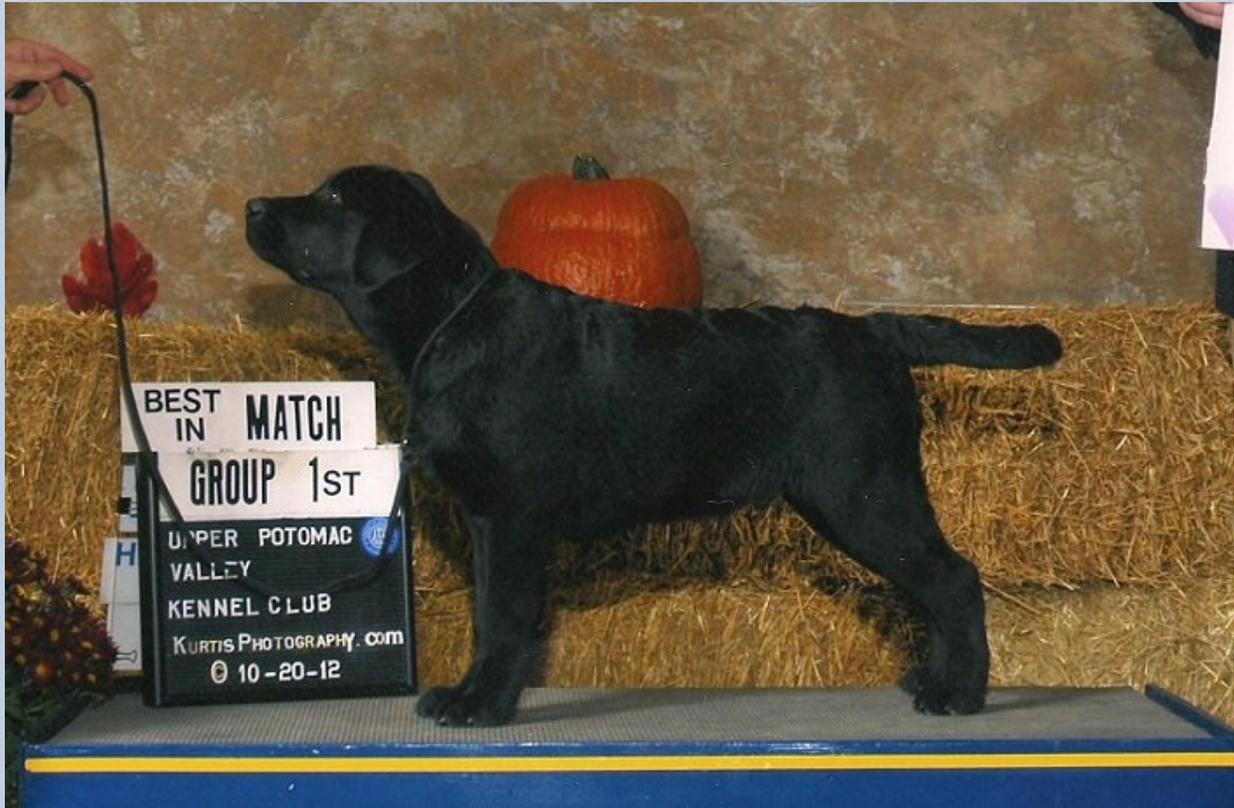
Any questions?

Please contact our Membership Chair: Kevin Bergeson at LegacyLabradors@comcast.net

Support TVD Research!

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

APPLY NOW



SAMPHIRES STARRY KNIGHT – “VINCE”

Alayne Hartuniewicz (Coldwater Labradors) Samphires Starry Knight – “Vince”

Took a Group 1 and BPIS at the Upper Potomac Valley KC 10/20/12 and 10/21/12

Vince is out of BISS CAN CH/AM GR CH Saddlehill Late Knight Scramble x CAN CH Samphire Starlight



INT CH MACH4 PACH6 SHEENARON MERRY SEQUOIA CC CGC – “SIERRA”

Angela Sutton (Sierran Labradors) Int CH MACH4 PACH6 Sheenaron Merry Sequoia CC CGC – “Sierra” was the 2012 Top AKC Agility dog across all breeds in the Preferred Class and was 8th place in the AKC Agility Nationals in Tulsa, OK in the 16 inch preferred class. This is incredible when you consider that she is now 11 1/2 years old!

Photo Courtesy of: GreatDanePhotos



MACH5 SIERRAN CHARISMA CC CGC – “CARRIE”

Angela Sutton (Sierran Labradors) MACH5 Sierran Charisma CC CGC – “Carrie” was the #3 Labrador Retriever in the AKC Agility regular class for 2012. Carrie represented our Labrador Retriever breed at the 2012 AKC Invationals in Orlando, FL. Carrie took 26th place in the 16 inch regular class out of 250 dogs at the AKC agility Nationals in Tulsa, OK in March 2013. Photo Courtesy of: GreatDanePhotos



MACH6 SIERRAN VITESSE CC CGC – “TESSA”

Angela Sutton (Sierran Labradors) MACH6 Sierran Vitesse CC CGC – “Tessa” was the #2 Labrador Retriever in the AKC Agility regular class for 2012. Tessa represented our breed at the 2011 and 2012 AKC Invationals in Orlando, FL

Photo Courtesy of: GreatDanePhotos



**CH GOLDENMOON PRINCE HARRY OF RIALE OAK – "HARRY"
 CH GOLDENMOON'S MISTY'S SPICY MARJORAM, CGC—"MARJIE"
 CH GOLDENMOON'S SUNNY COREOPSIS, CGC, WC, JH – "COREY"**

Ellen Moon (GoldenMoon Labs) wins 3 Titles in one weekend! CH GoldenMoon Prince Harry Of Riale Oak – "Harry" and CH GoldenMoon's Misty's Spicy Marjoram, CGC – "Marjie" earn 2 new show Championships at the National Dog Show in Philadelphia November 15-18, 2012. Plus, a Junior Hunter title on CH GoldenMoon's Sunny Coriopsis, CGC, WC, JH on Nov. 18, 2012 in Remington, VA ... in two Junior Hunt tests on the same day...Corey aced the double tests to qualify 5 out of 5 certifications to earn her JH title with Ellen as breeder, trainer and handler under judges: Bill Roberts, Dan Ramsey, Mario Cilia and Doug Zahniser. Thanks to the Lord — He's the one that puts together the genes and thanks to Dr. Jane Bicks who formulates the absolutely best products for superb health and vitality of our dogs! Thanks to Kitty & Kathy for their professional expertise in showing & behind the scenes loving care of our furry family companions. Thanks to the judges that have recognized and approved our Labrador type, structure and superb movement.



SHE'S ALL CHOCOLATE RN, CGC - "BELLA"

The von Hagn Family's (Russford Labrador Retrievers) She's All Chocolate RN, CGC - "Bella" with her trainer/junior handler, 16 year-old Rachel von Hagn finished their RN title at the Slat City show in Syracuse, New York the weekend of March 30th, 2013 and earned the first leg to their obedience title, too!



National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

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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: *nirc* and then the password: *in08doNATE2tvd*
Once the login window is displayed, enter the password *overview* to view the membership list.