

The Issue of the Silver Labrador

*From Frances O Smith, DVM, PhD Chair,
Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.
Genetics Committee*

"It is the opinion of the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc., the AKC parent club for the breed, that a *silver* Labrador is not a purebred Labrador Retriever. The pet owning public is being duped into believing that animals with this dilute coat color are desirable, purebred and rare and, therefore, warrant special notoriety or a premium purchase price."

"Over the past few years a limited number of breeders have advertised and sold dogs they represent to be purebred Labrador Retrievers with a dilute or gray coat color— hence the term "silver labs." The AKC has accepted some of these "silver labs" for registration. Apparently, the rationale for this decision is that the silver coat color is a shade of chocolate. Interestingly, the original breeders of "silver" Labradors were also involved in the Weimaraner breed."

"Although we cannot conclusively prove that the silver Labrador is a product of crossbreeding the Weimaraner to a Labrador, there is good evidence in scientific literature indicating that the Labrador has never been identified as carrying the dilute gene dd. The Weimaraner is the only known breed in which the universality of dd is a characteristic."

"Recognized coat colors for purebred Labradors are black, yellow and chocolate. No shadings of coat color are recognized for black or chocolate Labradors in either the Labrador Standard or the current research into genetic coat colors. The shadings recognized in

yellow Labrador Retrievers do not depend on the presence of the dilute gene dd, but are modifiers acting on the ee gene."

The Problem is Real

As of March 2015:

- it was estimated that 26,000 so-called rare "silver", "charcoal", and "champagne" dilute dogs in the United States were registered as Labrador Retrievers. That number is rising exponentially.
- there were approximately 575 names of breeders of dilute dogs recorded by the Foundation for the Preservation of the Labrador Retriever (FPLR)
- The problem is global with a reported 27 breeders in Canada and 34 in Europe. Newly discovered names of breeders added weekly at a drastic rate.
- A staggering part of these U.S. breeders in the FPLR database are part of the "Improvement Movement". For more information, go to:

<http://notosilverlabs.wordpress.com/2014/01/15/council-for-purebred-labrador-retrievers-a-shadv-bunch/>

Test for the Dilute Gene

*From Fred Kampo, Jr., President,
The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.
Thursday February 12, 2015.*

"Scientific evidence has shown us that there is no evidence of a dilute gene in the coat color background of the Labrador Retriever. Despite the Parent Club's multiple attempts to request that the American Kennel Club deny full registration to dogs exhibiting a dilute coat color, these dogs still remain in the breeding pool and kennels focusing on dilute coat colors proliferate."

"At this time, our best option to protect the gene pool for the Labrador Retriever is to encourage the use of the DNA test to identify carriers of the dilute gene. I want to urge each of you, especially those with active stud dogs, to have breeding stock tested for the dilute gene and include the information in your advertising. I am also suggesting that we add the test to the requirements for an LRC, Inc. Breeders' Directory listing."

Protect our Breed

Testing for the dilute gene, researching pedigrees and screening all puppy buyers and bitch owners who come for stud service is so very important to protect our pure, DD (dilute clear) lines from ending up in dilute pedigrees.

For more information about the issue of dilutes, please visit:
<http://www.notosilverlabradors.com>

Recognized Labrador Retriever Clubs support and endorse the position of the LRC and are committed to protecting and preserving the pure-bred Labrador Retriever.



BUYER BEWARE!

**TRUE
LABRADOR
RETRIEVERS
ARE BLACK,
YELLOW, AND
CHOCOLATE
ONLY!**