



The Labrador Retriever

The Labrador Retriever Club of Canada Incorporated

The Labrador Retriever Club of Canada Inc. (LRCC) is a national group of Labrador owners dedicated to promoting the breed and educating the general public in the area of responsible dog ownership.

The primary aims of the LRCC are:

1) To promote the Labrador Retriever in all its many uses: e.g. hunting, field trails, show, obedience, tracking, carting, rescue, scent discrimination, etc.

2) To hold an Annual National Specialty Show for Labrador Retrievers that rotates adhering to regions in Article 3, Section 1.

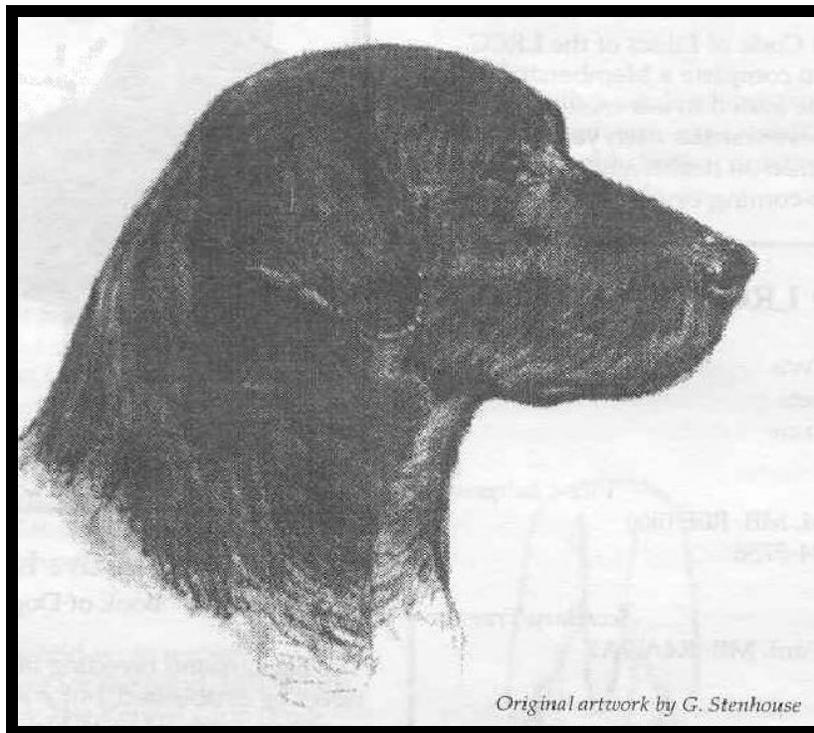
2a) Should the designated region forfeit its right to host the National Specialty, the next in rotation could apply.

3) To hold a sanctioned and Approved CKC Obedience Trial, and a sanctioned and Approved CKC Working Certificate Test and/or Hung Test in conjunction with the Annual National Specialty Show.

4) To correlate a breeders' handbook which will include information on the advantages and disadvantages of spaying and neutering; non-breeding contracts, tattooing, registering, and information necessary to go out with puppies and to owners of bitches after they have been bred.

5) To work towards the CKC recognizing that a Champion must have its 10 points and at least a sanctioned and Approved Working Certificate/Hunt Test.

6) To maintain and publish a list of Labrador Retriever tattoo number combinations to help get lost Labrador Retrievers back to their owners.



The National Specialty shall rotate as per the Constitutional Regions below:

British Columbia/Yukon
Alberta/NWT/Nunavut
Saskatchewan/Manitoba
Ontario
Quebec
Atlantic Provinces

The host region must make a commitment at least 3 years before their assigned year in the rotation.

The club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st of January and end on December 31st of each year. Membership fees shall be payable on January 1st of each year and before April 1st of each year. No member may vote who is not a paid up member for the current year.

The Code of Ethics states that members must agree to:

- 1) Maintain the original purpose of the Labrador Retriever as a retriever, breeding only from sound dogs of good temperament who exemplify the breed standard and are able to represent the breed for conformation in the ring, in the field as a willing worker and/or as a hunting companion.
- 2) Be courteous, cooperative, and responsible members of the LRCC, respecting and not degrading another member's dog(s).
- 3) Breed only to or from stock that, except in a rigorously controlled test breeding, must be:
 - 3a) X-rayed clear of Hip Dysplasia and Elbow Dysplasia and should be certified by the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) or the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or PennHIP.
 - 3b) Ophthalmologically examined and certified clear of hereditary eye diseases when possible. A blood test for PRA by Optigen is strongly recommended.
- 4) Register all Labrador Retrievers with the CKC and abide by their rules and regulations. Keep accurate records of matings, pedigrees, sales, and transfers and pass on only accurate records and pedigrees to purchasers of stock or services, and not in any circumstances knowingly be a part of, or contribute to, false registration.
- 5) Not sell, consign, transfer puppies or adults to pet shops, wholesale dealers, contest sponsors, lotteries, or anyone known to degrade the Labrador Retriever breed or pure-bred dogs, or to individuals breeding and/or selling to the aforementioned.
- 6) Sell all pets sold in Canada on non-breeding contracts, which can be removed only with hips and eye clearances provided they are sound in

temperament and their quality is suitable for breeding.

7) Replace once any pup or dog sold by them which is certified OFA/OFC/PennHip to have Hip Dysplasia/Elbow Dysplasia up to two years of age, or develops PRA, CPRA, or congenital cataracts before four years of age. This agreement may be subject to individual breeder's restrictions.

If you support the Aims and Code of Ethics of the LRCC, please take a few moments to complete a Membership Application form. You will be added to our mailing list and receive at least 3 issues of the newsletter each year. The newsletter provides current info on health and genetics; breeder profiles; training; upcoming events; and what is on the internet.

The Executive of the LRCC for 2008-2011 is:

Kim Beverly *Chairperson*

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If you have any questions regarding the LRCC and its activities, or Labrador Retrievers in general, please feel free to contact any member of the executive.

LRCC Member Regional Breed Clubs:

Atlantic Labrador Retriever Club (902) 532-5865
 Island & Pacific Labrador Retriever Club (250) 658-1342
 Labrador Owners Club (905) 987-3133
 Labrador Retriever Club of Alberta (780) 436-5368

Labrador Retriever Club of Manitoba (204) 757-9397
 Mid Ontario Labrador Retriever Club
 River City Labrador Enthusiasts (204) 853-2017

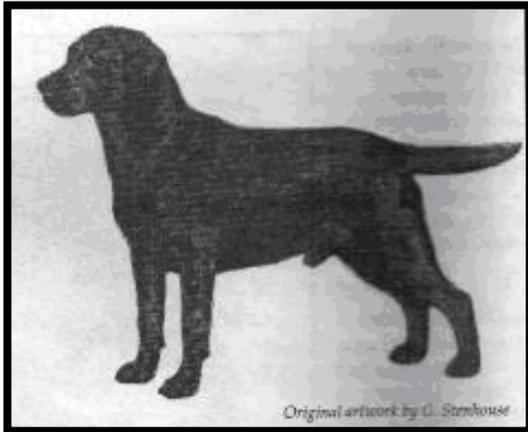
All persons interested in the future of this breed, no matter their background and interests, should consider joining their local breed club. This is especially true for those involved in activities other than conformation showing. Most clubs require that a member or two agree to sponsor your application and that is about it. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with any inquiry to expedite replies.

Background of the Labrador Retriever

(From the CKC *Book of Dogs*, pp. 98-99)

The background breeding of the Labrador Retriever may never be established, but it is safe to assume that the breed's ancestors were taken to Newfoundland by explorers, fishermen, and settlers from England, Europe, and Norway. Thus the dogs, which subsequently were thought to be native to Labrador and Newfoundland, were in all probability the descendants of dogs left there in early years.

They adapted to their environment, and by natural selection had evolved into two distinct types: one was the large heavy-coated dog which became known as the Newfoundland and the other, the smaller shorter-coated, was called the "black Water Dog," the "lesser Newfoundland," and later the "St. John's dog." Both were excellent water dogs, had strong inherent hunting ability acquired from generations of living off the land and thick double coats which protected them against the elements.



In the early 1800s, several keen sportsmen and members of the English nobility acquired a few of the smaller-type dogs that fishermen were bringing back to England. These were found to be excellent retrievers of fish and game. For many years the breed was kept pure, but difficulty arose in obtaining fresh breeding stock, so Labradors were crossed with other sporting breeds, in particular the Flat-Coated Retriever, the Tweed Water Spaniel, and the Curly-Coated Retriever. The Labrador, as we know it today, was thus a British development. As a sporting dog, the Labrador soon took over from the Flat-Coated Retriever as Britain's most popular gun dog, a position the breed has held up to the present time.

In addition, the Labrador Retriever (Lab), has earned world-wide respect as a war dog, police dog and as a guide dog for the blind. In 1903 the breed was officially recognized by The Kennel Club (England) and was first registered in Canada in the years 1906-1907.

Labrador Retriever Breed Standard

(From the CKC Official Breed Standards)

The following is the breed standard for the Labrador Retriever adopted by the Canadian Kennel Club. At dog shows, Conformation Judges use this standard when judging the Labradors to select the best representative of the breed.

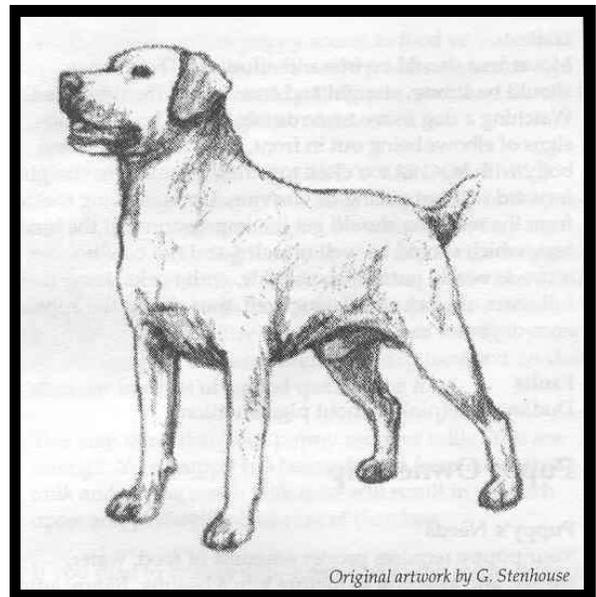
Group 1 Sporting Dogs – Retriever (Labrador)

General Appearance:

The general appearance of the Labrador should be that of a strongly built, short-coupled, very active dog. He should be fairly wide over the loins, and strong and muscular in the hindquarters. The coat should be close, short, dense and free from feather.

Size:

Approximate weights of dogs and bitches in working condition: Dogs 60-75 lb. (27-34 kg); Bitches: 55-70 lb. (25-32 kg). Height at shoulders: Dogs: 22 ½ to 24 ½ inches (57-62 cm); Bitches: 21 ½ to 23 ½ inches (54-60 cm).



Coat and Colour:

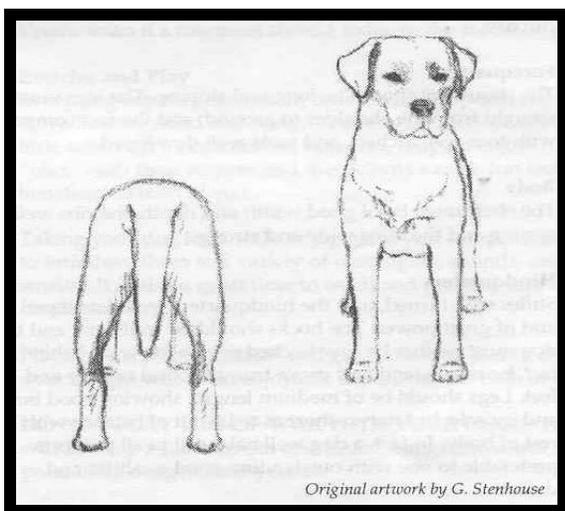
The coat is a very distinctive feature; it should be short, very dense and without wave, and should give a fairly hard feeling to the hand. The colours are black, yellow, or chocolate and are evaluated as follows:

(a) Blacks:

All black, with a small white spot on chest permissible. Eyes to be of medium size, expressing intelligence and good temper, preferably brown or hazel, although black or yellow is permissible.

(b) Yellows:

Yellow may vary in colour from fox-red to light cream with variations in the shading of the



coat on ears, the underparts of the dog, or beneath the tail. A small white spot on chest is permissible. Eye colouring and expression should be the same as that of the blacks, with black or dark brown eye rims. The nose should also be black or dark brown, although “fading” to pink in the winter weather is not serious.

(c) Chocolates:

Shades ranging from light sedge to chocolate. A small white spot on chest permissible. Eyes to be light brown to clear yellow. Nose and eye rim pigmentation dark brown or liver coloured. “Fading” to pink in winter weather not serious.

Head:

Skull should be wide, giving brain room; there should be a slight stop, i.e., the brow should be slightly pronounced, so that the skull is not absolutely in a straight line with the nose. Head should be clean-cut and free from fleshy cheeks. Jaws should be long and powerful and free from snappiness. The nose should be wide and the nostrils well developed. Teeth should be strong and regular, with a level mouth. Eyes should be of a medium size, expressing great intelligence and good temper, and can be brown, yellow or black, but brown or black is preferred. Ears should hang moderately close to the head rather far back, should be set somewhat low, and not be large and heavy.

Neck:

The neck should be medium length, powerful and not throaty.

Forequarters:

The shoulders should be long and sloping. The legs must be straight from the shoulder to ground, and the feet compact with toes well arched, and pads well developed.

Body:

The chest must be of good width and depth, the ribs well sprung and the loins wide and strong.

Hindquarters:

Stifles well turned, and the hindquarters well developed and of great power. The hocks should be well bent, and the dog must neither be cow-hocked nor be too wide behind; in fact, he must stand and move true all round on legs and feet. Legs should be of medium length, showing good bone and muscle, but not so short as to be out of balance with rest of body. In fact, a dog well balanced in all points is preferable to one with outstanding good qualities and defects.

Tail:

The tail is a distinctive feature of the breed; it should be very thick towards the base, gradually tapering towards the tip, of medium length, should be free from any feathering, and should be clothed thickly all around with the Labrador’s short, thick, dense coat, thus giving that peculiar “rounded” appearance which has been described as the “otter” tail. The tail may be carried gaily but should not curl over the back.

Gait:

Movement should be free and effortless. The forelegs should be strong, straight and true, and correctly placed. Watching a dog move towards one, there should be no signs of elbows being out in front, but neatly held to the body with legs not too close together, but moving straight forward without pacing or weaving. Upon viewing, the dog from the rear, one should get the impression that the hind legs, which should be well muscled and not cow-hocked, move as nearly parallel as possible, with hocks doing their full share of work and flexing well, thus giving the appearance of power and strength.

Faults:

Dudley nose (pink without pigmentation).

Puppy Ownership**Puppy's Needs:**

Your puppy requires proper amounts of food, water, shelter, and affection to mature into a healthy, happy adult. It also requires exercise, training, grooming, and a regular visit to your Veterinarian.

Food and Water:

Stainless steel, non-tip bowls and watering pails are recommended as they are virtually indestructible and very easy to clean. They are more costly than similar plastic or ceramic items but, in the long-run, they will pay for themselves.

The water pail should contain clean, fresh water at all times. In the summer, the water will have to be changed and filled frequently. Keep in mind that a dog can "sweat" only from the pads of their feet and cool themselves by panting. Cool drinking water greatly assists in helping a dog to reduce their body temperature and prevents them from dehydration.

Your puppy will be well-started on solid food by the time he leaves the breeder's home. You should follow their feeding instructions for your new puppy.

DO NO ALLOW YOUR DOG TO BECOME FAT! If your dog is in proper condition, you should be able to see the outline of the ribcage (if you can see each and every rib, the dog is too thin!).

Fat dogs are known to have problems with their feet and legs, as well as with their circulatory system. Don't kill your dog with kindness!

The most important part of feeding your puppy is to develop and maintain a strict routine. This will assist greatly in houstraining as a puppy will need to "go outside" immediately after eating.

As well, do not allow puppy access to food or water after 6:00 p.m. This will ensure that they will not need to "go outside" after approximately 10:00 p.m. and they should be content to sleep through the night.

Most important – **DO NOT GIVE YOUR DOG TABLE SCRAPS!** Dogs become "mooches" very easily and no one wants to see a dog drooling by the table when they are trying to eat. The dog food that your dog is currently eating has been scientifically formulated so that it provides all of the essential nutrients that your dog requires in order to lead a long and healthy life. By adding to this diet, you will be changing the nutrient level in the dog food and un-doing all of the benefits of a good quality dog food.

You may think that your puppy requires milk. You are wrong!! Your puppy has been weaned from its mother's milk and giving cow's milk now will result in stomach upset and probably a bad case of diarrhea.

If you plan to change your dog's diet in the future, keep in mind that this should be done **GRADUALLY**. Slowly introduce the new food by mixing a small amount of the new food and simultaneously decrease the amount of the current food. This will avoid, or at least minimize, the possibility of upsetting your dog's stomach.

Its importance is worth stressing – Your dog can only be as healthy as the food it is fed. If you do switch to another dog food, make sure that the nutrient levels and digestibility are similar to the dog food you are currently feeding.

Shelter:

Your puppy needs a place or "den" to call its own and for this we recommend a crate. The crate is an excellent device for houstraining in that you place the puppy in the crate for his naps. When he wakes, you immediately take him outside to the spot where you have decided they can use to defecate and urinate. Praise emphatically when the puppy "goes": If an "accident" should occur in the house, verbally reprimand the puppy then take it outside to their spot. In no time at all the puppy will, understand what is expected of it.

The crate is also ideal for transporting the dog. Anytime you take the dog in a vehicle, place it in its crate. It will help to relieve the dog of stress and also act as a canine seatbelt.

If you plan to take the dog on a vacation you will be able to locate hotel/motel accommodations easier if the dog is crated. On other occasions, you may leave the dog at the boarding kennel. Again, it is much less stressful if the dog can stay in its own crate.

Lastly, the crate is useful when your dog comes into the house from being out in the rain or mud. Just put them in their crate until they are dry and then invite them out for a romp.

Toys:

Your puppy is at a chewing stage. For most dogs this stage will last a long time, or perhaps, forever. To avoid problems later, do not give the puppy an object NOW that you do not want them to chew as an adult.

A DOG CANNOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN AN OLD SLIPPER AND A NEW SHOE!!!

Hand rubber chew toys are the best for your dog. They are expensive but they will outlast the cheaper toys so are more economical in the long run.

Pressed rawhide chews are also an excellent choice for your dog. Give your dog a rawhide if you plan on crating them for several hours and they will keep themselves happy and busy while you are away.

DO NOT give your dog bones or wooden toys to chew. Both of these could result in an emergency visit to the Veterinarian if a fragment should lodge in the throat or gut.

Exercise and Play:

Every dog requires exercise in order to develop and maintain a healthy mind and body. A dog will exercise very little when left to themselves, however, they do enjoy “play” with their owners and this activity can be fun and beneficial to both of you.

Taking your dog for a walk or job gives you an opportunity to introduce them to a variety of new

sights, sounds, and smells. It is also a great time to teach and practice simple obedience.

Playing “fetch” will give your dog plenty of exercise and will be an enjoyable experience for both of you.

DO NOT PLAY TUG-OF-WAR WITH YOUR DOG!! They will develop a hard mouth and become aggressive and potentially dangerous if you do!

Your puppy will grow rapidly in the first year. When exercising or playing with them, always keep in mind that the activity should not be overly strenuous, in order to prevent bone or joint damage.

Try to keep your puppy from jumping off anything which may damage their developing front assembly.

Training:

Your puppy’s training will need to begin as soon as they arrive in your home. However, you should have decided on the “house rules” prior to their arrival (for example, where are they allowed in the house; what are they allowed to do in the house; etc.).

Formal obedience training can begin as early as ten weeks, after their second set of shots by enrolling in a “Puppy Class”. This class will teach you how to train your puppy to walk in *controlled manner*; how to sit, down, and come when called.

Each dog learns in a different way, just as human beings do, so it is important for you to establish how your dog learns. Obedience classes, taught by qualified instructors, will assist you in determining which techniques can be used to train your dog with a minimum of time and effort.

Veterinarian Care:

Your puppy should have received its first set of vaccinations for distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus before he left the breeder’s home. The breeder should give you a health record to verify the vaccination date. This record will also indicate when the next vaccination appointment should be scheduled.

In general, you can use the following schedule:
4 weeks after initial vaccination – Booster for distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus.

8 weeks after initial vaccination – Booster for distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus.

12 weeks after initial vaccination – Rabies vaccination.

Other than regular vaccinations and annual check-up your dog should not require Veterinary care unless there is an accident or as a result of improper care. It is your responsibility to see that your puppy does not escape from your yard; that the puppy cannot injure itself in its new environment, etc.. However, despite your best efforts your dog will, sooner or later, injure itself.

When this happens, call your Veterinarian immediately. Describe what has occurred and seek their advice on the required treatment. If the injury is obviously of a serious nature, take the dog to the Veterinarian at once!! **DO NOT LET THE DOG SUFFER WHILE YOU WAIT!!**

Grooming:

Your dog will require regular grooming care. Toe nails should be clipped every 4-6 weeks. Be sure when clipping the dog's nails that you do not cut the quick. In the event that you do cut the quick, have "Kwik Stop" or a similar cauterizing compound on hand.

Ear canals should be cleaned as required. Use a Q-Tip for cleaning the exterior ear canal. Do not insert a Q-Tip into the ear unless you have first been shown how to do this.

Bathing should be done only as required. Too frequent bathing can dry a dog's coat and strip it of its natural oils.

Brushing your dog once a week not only makes them look and feel better, it also provides you with time to interact with the dog on a very basic level. Dogs generally like being brushed and having a "little fuss" made over them, so this can be your special time for them.

Responsible Dog Ownership:

You are now a pet owner and as such you have a responsibility not only to your new puppy but to the community as a whole.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR DOG TO BARK INCESSANTLY; to snap at people; or to bite people or other dogs. If your puppy displays any of these behaviours give it a stiff correction. This even applies to the puppy biting or chewing on your fingers or pant leg. **STOP** these behaviours before they become a problem.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR DOG TO CHASE PEOPLE. Again, this can turn into a very dangerous habit such as chasing cars, children on bicycles, etc.. Take the puppy for a walk rather than allowing it to chase children in the backyard.

When you take your dog for a walk in a public area be prepared for them to defecate. Take a plastic bag with you at such times and if your dog does defecate, place the plastic bag over your hand, pick up the feces, turn the bag inside out, tie a knot in it, and then dispose of the bag in the garbage.

Your dog will also have to be licensed in accordance with your community's regulations. Contact your local municipality to purchase your dog licence.

Suggested Books of Reference:

Breed Books:

The Labrador Retriever, Berndt, Robert J. and Richard L. Myers.

The Retriever Owner's Encyclopaedia, Gwen Broadley

The New Labrador Retriever, Janite I. Churchill,

The Labrador Retriever Today, Carole Coode

The Labrador Retriever, Dorothy Howe

This Is the Labrador Retriever, Dorothy Howe

The Labrador Retriever, Lorna Howe and Geoffrey Waring.

The Versatile Labrador Retriever, Nancy Martin.

Legends in Labradors, Nancy Martin

Labrador Retrievers, Diane McCarty

The Book of the Labrador Retriever, Anna Katherine Nicolas.

The Labrador Retriever, M. Satterthwaite

The Complete Labrador Retriever, Helen Warwick

The New Complete Labrador Retriever, 3rd edition., Helen Warwick

The Dual-Purpose Labrador, Mary Roslin Williams

Advanced Labrador Breeding. Mary Roslin Williams.

The Labrador Retriever: The History... The People. Richard A. Wolters

The Official Book of the Labrador Retriever. Bernard Zeissow This is the "official" book sanctioned by the National breed club, the LRC.

Training Books:

How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves. Joan Bailey

Training Retrievers. James Lamb Free

How To Raise a Puppy You Can Live with, Rutherford and Neil

Retriever Puppy Training: The Right Start for Hunting. Clarice Rutherford and Cherylon Loveland.

Retriever Working Certificate Training. Clarice Rutherford, Barbara Brandstad and Sandra Whicker

Training Retrievers for the Marshes and Meadows. James B. Spencer

Retriever Training Tests. James B. Spencer

Water Dog, Richard A. Wolters

Game Dog, Richard A. Wolters

Videos:

Dog Lover's Guide to the Labrador Retriever. By PetVisions Inc.,

Periodicals:

The Labrador Quarterly. 4401 Zephyr Street, Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033-2499.

Retriever Field Trial News. 4213 S. Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207, 414-481-2760.

Other Publications of Interest:

PRA DATA Inc., P.O. Box 1463 Richland, WA 99352, phone 1-509-735-6148, fax 509-735-6134.

Yearly:

Julie Brown's Directories.

Lists of pedigrees. Show oriented. Write to Julie Sturman, 7315 Granite Road, Melrose Park, PA 19126.

She is also online at dogbooks@netaxs.com

Labrador Retriever Champions. Camino Book Co., PO Box 729, Kings Beach, CA 95719, 1-702-831-5553.

Labrador Quarterlys. The Best of the First 10 Years of the Labrador Quarterly.

Web Sites:

There are also many websites! probably some of the best for Labrador owners include:

The Labrador Retriever Club of Canada:
<http://www.labradorretrieverclub.ca/>

Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.:
<http://www.thelabradorclub.com/>

Working Retriever Central:
<http://www.working-retriever.com/>

The Canadian Kennel Club:

<http://www.ckc.ca>

The American Kennel Club:

<http://akc.org>

Ontario Veterinarian College, Evaluation Hip and Elbow:

<http://www.ovc.uguelph.ca/hip-elbow/>

OFA:

<http://www.offa.org/>

PennHIP:

<http://www.pennhip.org>

CERF:

<http://vmdb.org/cerf.html>

Optigen:

<http://optigen.com/>

Vetgen (coat colour carrier DNA tests)

<http://www.vetgen.com>

ARCH:

<http://www.archcertify.org>

EIC (Exercise Induced Collapse)

<http://www.working-retriever.com/library/taylor.html>

Canadian Association of Professional Dog Trainers:

<http://www.cappdt.ca>