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**Gundog**

## Retriever (Labrador)

The Labrador is the most popular of all pedigree breeds and his popularity comes from his versatility as family companion, service dog, guide dog as well as a working gundog.

The breed originates from Newfoundland, which from the 16th century was renowned for the fishing industry with well-established trading routes between England and Canada. Dogs were used there to help fishermen retrieve nets and lost lines and pull carts loaded with fish. The Newfoundland dogs were smaller than they are today and a smaller variety was known as the St John's dog. It is thought that these breeds crossed with hunting dogs taken to Newfoundland by English traders and fishermen formed the basis for the modern Labrador.

Some of the dogs resulting from this breeding were taken back to England where their retrieving skills were recognised by the sporting gentry. One of the early patrons of the breed, the Earl of Malmesbury gave the breed its name. The first breed club was founded in 1916.

Breed Group	Gundog
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Large
How much exercise?	More than 2 hours per day
Length of coat	Short
How much grooming?	Once a week
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Large House
Minimum garden size	Large
Lifespan	Over 10 Years

## Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth)

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

## What Screening is relevant for the Retriever (Labrador)?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders must use the following screening schemes for sires and dams BVA/KC

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme
- Eye testing

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- DNA test - prcd-PRA

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

## Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or
- 3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or
- 4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in

exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or

5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or

6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

## Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

Where the two parent dogs are both yellow it is only genetically possible to produce yellow puppies. Therefore, the Kennel Club will only accept the registration of yellow puppies from this mating.

Where the two parent dogs are both chocolate (liver) it is only genetically possible to produce chocolate (liver) or yellow puppies. Therefore, the Kennel Club will only accept the registration of chocolate (liver) or yellow puppies from this mating.

## Retriever (Labrador) Clubs

Name	Telephone
Cotswold & Wyevern Labrador Retriever Club	01531 634183
East Anglian Labrador Retriever Club	01354 680375
Kent, Surrey & Sussex Labrador Retriever Club	07931 414796
Labrador Club Of Scotland	01506 630053
Labrador Retriever Club	0114 2694089
Labrador Retriever Club Of Northern Ireland	028 90591911
Labrador Retriever Club Of Wales	01443 842585
Midland Counties Labrador Retriever Club	01484 686808
North West Labrador Retriever Club	01244 556915
Northumberland & Durham Labrador Retriever Club	01915 211 185
Three Ridings Labrador Club	01772 335930
West Of England Labrador Retriever Club	01752 895049
Yellow Labrador Club	01895 823227

## Retriever (Labrador) Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
Labrador Lifeline Trust - ADCH	01256 884027
Labrador Lifeline Trust - ADCH	01507 235310
Labrador Lifeline Trust - ADCH	01730 892532
Labrador Rescue	01257 452500
Labrador Rescue	07572 438871
Labrador Rescue Kent	01233 750421

Name	Telephone
Labrador Rescue Kent	01435 882683
Labrador Rescue Kent	01580 720408
Labrador Rescue South East & Central	01424 210846
Labrador Rescue South East & Central	07736 791899
Labrador Rescue South East & Central	01455 821775
Labrador Rescue South East & Central	01379 642622
Labrador Rescue South East & Central	01865 880868
Labrador Rescue South East & Central	01508 494388
Labrador Rescue South East & Central	01234 831854
Labrador Rescue South East & Central	0208 3106101
Labrador Rescue South East & Central	01237 477993
Labrador Rescue Trust - ADCH	07591 951561
Labrador Rescue Trust - ADCH	01793 487346
Labrador Rescue Trust - ADCH	01242 820432
Labrador Rescue Trust - ADCH	02380 391487
Labrador Rescue Trust - ADCH	07791 519084
Labrador Rescue Trust - ADCH	01823 412845
Labrador Rescue Trust - ADCH	01666 575057
Labrador Rescue Trust - ADCH	01626 821344
Labrador Rescue Trust - ADCH	01840 213120
Labrador Retriever Rescue Scotland Scio	07845 010031
Labrador Welfare	0114 266 1756
North West Labrador Retriever Club Rescue	01244 556915
North West Labrador Retriever Club Rescue	01524 64902