

Congratulations on your new

# ***Labrador Retriever!***

## **History**

The Labrador Retriever first made his appearance at English maritime towns that were engaged in the fishing industry with Newfoundland. Early in the 19th-century, some of the first Labradors (or lesser Newfoundland or St. John's dogs as they were called) were imported into England by Lord Malmsbury. He was greatly attached to the dogs, and he and other sportsmen purchased several dogs from fishermen who brought them over from Newfoundland.

From this early beginning the dog was developed into the Labrador of today, one that excels as the gun dog, is a loyal companion and has the conformation and quality to hold its own with all breeds in dog shows.

Because the Labrador was a dual-purpose dog, not one from which the working and show types are entirely different (as is the case with so many other sporting dogs), the breed soon attracted the attention of sportsmen in this country. Today, the Labrador is the most popular breed in the United States.

## **General Appearance**

The Labrador Retriever is a strongly built, medium-size, short couple dog possessing a sound, athletic, well balanced conformation that enables it to function as a retrieving gun dog. It has the substance and soundness to hunt waterfowl or upland game for long hours under difficult conditions and the temperament to be a family companion.

The most distinguishing characteristics of the Labrador Retriever are its short, dense, weather-resistant coat; an "otter" tail; a clean cut head with broad back skull and moderate stop; powerful legs; and its "kind", friendly eyes that express character, intelligence and good temperament.

## **Your Dog Needs**

1. Proper diet at regular intervals
2. Regular checkups and inoculations by your veterinarian
3. Clean, roomy housing
4. Daily exercise
5. Frequent grooming
6. Companionship and love

Regular veterinary care, yearly vaccinations and proper feeding are vital to maintaining your dog's good health. With proper nutrition, routine veterinary care, and regular exercise and grooming, your Labrador Retriever should live from 10 to 13 years.

Basic obedience training is an essential part of responsible dog ownership. It will make your dog a better companion and will help establish a stronger bond between the two of you. Your Labrador wants nothing more from life than to please you. Therefore, it is your responsibility to train this faithful companion to do as you wish. Classes ranging from "puppy kindergarten" to advanced obedience training and competition are available in most areas. Of course we would love to see you in our Canine College classes. After obtaining basic obedience you could continue into Agility or Hunting classes. We love to see how the puppies are doing.

Before you consider using your Labrador as a stud dog or brood bitch, remember: No dog with genetic problems should be bred. He or she should be certified free of hereditary problems by a Board-Certified Veterinarian Ophthalmologist; hip dysplasia by an x-ray submitted to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals or to PennHIP; and elbow dysplasia by an x-ray submitted to OFA. If one parent of the puppy is a carrier for the prcd mutation of PRA, an additional blood test, by Optigen Labs will be required prior to upgrading from limited to full registration, as the seller utilizes such information to improve their breeding program for genetic soundness.