



### **THE BREED STANDARD**

There are two types of Labradors, the English Labrador and the American Labrador. Their general appearance is different. The English bred labs are heavier, thicker and blockier. The American bred Lab is tall and lanky. The Labrador Retriever is a solid, muscular dog, slightly longer than tall, with a coat that comes in solid black, yellow, or chocolate. This dog is an excellent swimmer and even has webbed feet that aid him in his swimming. Take this friend to the lake with you and he will swim and play all day long! The Labrador Retriever is a loving, affectionate and patient dog. He is highly intelligent and high-spirited. They have an excellent, reliable, temperament and are superb with children. They crave human attention and need to feel as though they are part of the family. Labs are easily trained. Some may be reserved with strangers unless very well socialized as puppies. These dogs stand 22-24 inches and weigh 60-90 pounds, depending on the type of Labrador.

### **Now, having said that, below is the breed standard for the English Labrador Retriever.**

**Size:** Med – Large Dog

**Other Names:** Yellow lab, Chocolate Lab, Black Lab, not Golden Lab; the yellow Labrador's color goes from almost pure white to fox red. **Country of Origin:** Newfoundland and Canada

The Labrador retriever is a medium-sized, powerfully-built dog, with a short, dense, water-resistant coat. His skull and powerful muzzle are approximately equal in length, with brown or hazel triangular-shaped, medium-sized eyes, a black or liver-colored nose, and triangular-shaped, short, drop ears. His straight, powerful tail is a distinctive feature of his breed usually called an otter tail because it is short and dense and used in swimming; a natural extension of the topline, very thick and muscular at the base, and tapering to the tip.

**Height:** Male: 22 – 25 inches; Female: 21 -24 inches

**Weight:** Male: 80-90 pounds; Female: 55 – 75 pounds

**Color:** Black, chocolate, or yellow

**Coat:** Short and dense but not wiry; oily (waterproof)

**Description:** The Labrador retriever is a type of gun dog that became prized as a sporting and waterfowl hunting dog. The early Labrador originated on the island of Newfoundland, now part of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The breed emerged over time from the St. John's Water Dog. Their interwoven coat is relatively waterproof, and they are excellent swimmers. With training, the Labrador is one of the most dependable, obedient, and multi-talented breeds in the world. He is the most popular breed of assistance dog in the United States, Australia, and many other countries. The steady temperament of Labradors, as well as their ability to learn, make them an ideal breed for hunting, tracking and detection, Search and Rescue, disabled-assistance, carting and therapy work. Approximately 60 – 70% of all guide dogs in the United States are Labradors. Based on their genetic makeup, puppies of all colors can potentially occur in the same litter.

**Temperment:** The Labrador Retriever is exceptionally gentle, intelligent, energetic, well-balanced, and good natured. Labradors are a great family dog, and are considered good companions for people of all ages. They have a high level of patience and tolerance for children. They thrive on human attention affection, and interaction. They are not prone to being territorial, pining, insecure, aggressive, destructive, or hypersensitive. As a rule, they get along well with other animals. They are excellent retrievers, and they instinctively enjoy holding objects, including hands and arms, in their mouths, which they can do with great gentleness. Almost every Lab loves playing in water or swimming. Females may be slightly more independent than males. Labradors significant degree of puppyish energy, often mislabeled as being hyperactive. Generally, Labs are not noisy, but will sometimes bark when there is noise from an unseen source. Because they are often very easygoing and trusting with strangers, Labradors do not make good guard dogs.

**Training:** With training, the Labrador is obedient and dependable. He responds well to praise and positive attention. He can be somewhat boisterous if untrained, and lack of fear can be quite problematic as an uncontrolled adult. Because of his enthusiasm, early leash training is suggested to prevent him from pulling when full grown. Labradors are prone to chewing objects, but can be trained out of this behavior.

**Care & Grooming:** Labrador pups should not be brought home before they are 7 – 10 weeks old. Labradors have a lot of energy, and require regular, daily exercise. They often enjoy retrieving a ball endlessly, and other forms of activity, such as agility, Frisbee, or fly ball, Labradors have a well-known reputation for appetite, and some dogs may be highly indiscriminate, eating digestible and non –food objects alike. They are persuasive and persistent in requesting food. For this reason, the Labrador owner must carefully control the dog's food intake to avoid obesity and its associated health problems.

**Shedding:** Medium; heavy twice annually

**Health:** The Labrador Retriever is a healthy breed. Some inherited disorders that Labs have experienced include hip and elbow dysplasia; luxating patella; eye problems, such as progressive retinal atrophy, cataracts, corneal dystrophy, and retinal dysplasia; hereditary myopathy; and small incidences of autoimmune diseases and deafness. Other disorders that have been reported for Labradors are ear infection and obesity.

**Lifespan:** 12 – 13 years

**Litter Size:** 10 – 12 puppies