

THE LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB, INC

Position Statements

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On “Silver” Labradors

THE THREE COAT COLORS FOR TRUE LABRADOR RETRIEVERS ARE BLACK, YELLOW, AND CHOCOLATE ONLY! THE LABRADOR RETRIEVER BREED STANDARD ONLY ALLOWS BLACK, YELLOW AND CHOCOLATE AND ANY OTHER COAT COLOR IS A DISQUALIFYING FAULT.

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

It is the opinion of the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc., the American Kennel Club 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.

<https://thelabradorclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/The-Issue-of-the-Silver-Labrador-Fran-Smith.pdf>

The Labradoodle

The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. is opposed to cross-breeding of dogs and is particularly opposed to the deliberate crossing of Labrador Retriever and any other breed. These crossbreds are a deliberate attempt to mislead the public with the idea that there is an advantage to these designer dogs. The crossbred dogs are prone to all the genetic diseases of both breeds and offer none of the advantages that owning a purebred dog has to offer. A Labradoodle is nothing more than an expensive mongrel.

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Pointing Labradors

The clear and unarguable fact is that the Labrador is a retriever, not a pointing dog. There may be a residual instinct to point in certain Labradors. That does not make that Labrador a pointing breed. It was bred for use as a retriever of game and in this country particularly, as a waterfowl retriever. There are any number of sporting breeds that excel at pointing upland game as well as flushing such game. The Labrador is not one of those breeds and should not be bred or sold to the public as a pointing breed.

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Labradoodles and Pointing Labradors position statements may be seen in their full context under “Designer Dogs” at:

<https://thelabradorclub.com/breeders-rescue-groups/>