

THE LAB

THE HURON RIVER LABRADOR
RETRIEVER CLUB, INC.

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REPORT

OCTOBER 2002



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Maurice "Spike" Mortier
(517) 548-5429 or pmortier@ismmi.net
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LITTER ADS: Pauline Mortier
NOTICES: Beverly Schnell
COMING EVENTS: Volunteer needed
MEMBERSHIP: Cindy Skiba
SUNSHINE: Helen Bronson

HRLRC MEETING DATES

October 4---General
Membership
October 15---Board Meeting
November 1---General
Membership
November 19---Board Meeting
December 7---Christmas Party

MEMBERSHIP DUES

PAID

Ruth Acterhoff-Aust
Jeanine Asch
Stella Blair & Dolores Richards
Karen Brines
Helen Bronson
Kim Bryson
Terry Bryson
Nancy Chargo
Annie & Ron Cogo
Cathy Culpert
Jeff & Theresa DePorter
Mary T. Evans
Angela Ewald
Kristi Fruchey
William Gardner
Carrie Gati

Carol Johnson
Mary & Steve MacLean
Nancy Manning & Mark Foster
MEMBERSHIP DUES PAID

(cont'd)

Diane Masserant
Mike & Judy Merians
Laura Michaels
Maurice & Pauline Mortier
Sheila Norgren
Freida Paison
Matthew Pius
Mike & Deborah Rathsburg
Laura & Al Reich
Barbara Reisig
Heath Roy
Michael Sapienz
George & Beverly Schnell
Tom & Gail Shearer
Cindy Skiba
Pamela Smith, DVM
Ed & Marsha Standler
Jan Stolarevsky
Nancy Todd
Judy Trevino
Michelle VeuCasovic
Lorry Wagner
Patricia & Wayne Wayne
Cheryl Wellnitz
Jeffrey York, Sr.
Madge Ziessow

WEBSITE PAID FOR 2002

Ruth Acterhoff-Aust
Helen Bronson
Kim Bryson
Terry Bryson
Nancy Chargo
Annie & Ron Cogo
Cathy Culpert
Carrie Gati
Kristi Fruchey
Mary MacLean
Diane Masserant
Mike & Judy Merians
Pauline & Maurice Mortier
Sheila Norgren
Barbara Reisig
Heath Roy
George & Beverly Schnell
Tom & Gail Shearer
Cindy Skiba



"I actually know more commands than I respond to."

HRLRC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

Members Present: Mike & Judy Merians, Beverly & George Schnell, Frieda Paison, Dolores Richards, Stella Blair, Mark Arthur Foster, Bill Gardner, Annie Cogo, Pauline Mortier, Michelle VeuCasovic, Cindy Skiba, Karen Brines, Sheila Norgren, Nancy Chargo, Cheryl Wellnitz, Patricia Wayne, Helen Bronson, Mike Rathsburg, Gary Cooper, Mary MacLean, Angela Ewald. **Visitor:** Pam Nichols.

Meeting was opened by President Beverly Schnell at 7:47 pm. No minutes from the last meeting were available.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read.

Fall 2002 Specialty: Mike Rathsburg will deliver the conformation trailer early on Thursday September 26. Mary MacLean will do ring decorations. Trophy money for the Fall Specialty is NOW DUE if you have not already submitted to Nancy Chargo.

Spring 2003 Specialty: Judges' contracts have been sent and returned.

The Board Meeting of September 14 will be at Cheryl Wellnitz's at 1 pm.

The July Fun Match 2002 will not be in the red \$320 since the purchase of tables and tent/canopy will be listed as a general expense for the club. This

insures that the Match will have a profit of \$400.

New Business: An end of the year financial statement for the club may be requested by members from the Treasurer after February 1, 2003.

A motion was made by Mike Rathsburg and passed to donate 2 HRLRC sweatshirts to the LRC, Inc. raffle. Discussion ensued on placing an ad for the HRLRC in the National catalog. The ad was declined.

The Northern Ohio LRC Newsletter has a full page ad for the Iroquois LRC Fall Specialty, which happens to be the same date as our HRLRC Fall Specialty. No mention is made in the listing of Coming Events in the NOLRC Newsletter of the Huron River Specialty. A number of HRLRC members have consistently supported the NOLRC specialty in August with entries and attendance. A letter to the NOLRC will be sent by our Corresponding Secretary regarding this omission.

The Newsletter Editor is still waiting for a volunteer to do the Coming Events.

Corresponding Secretary: The AKC has a new ruling about the listing of trophies in premium lists and catalogs. The trophy listing must be very specific and may not simply say "a breed related item".

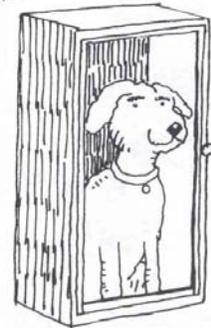
Thank you from Sheila Norgren to all members who have contributed to our Fall 2002 Specialty Raffle.

Discussion ensued concerning having a supported entry and possibly a Sweepstakes with Genesee County KC shows in May and also with Oakland County KC in January. Nancy Chargo will discuss this with GCKC & Michelle VeuCasovic will contact Oakland KC. This may help to make these all breed shows a major in Labradors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pauline Mortier
Substituting for Jeanine Asch

IN CASE OF
SPARE FOOD
PLEASE BREAK GLASS



WIN PHOTOS!

Now that we are online, anyone wishing to publish their win photos in the newsletter may submit them via regular mail (to be returned) or scan them to the Editor.



No one is above suspicion!

THE WIND MORGAN PROGRAM

OFA will not be adopting the Wind Morgan Program. Several breeders who are interested in seeing the program continue are looking into possibilities for creating an independent Wind Morgan registry. For more information contact: George Packard (EMAIL: georgepackard@conknet.com)



THE JOB INTERVIEW

A local business was looking for office help. They put a sign in the window, stating the following: "HELP WANTED. Must be able to type, must be good with computer and must be bilingual. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer."

A short time afterwards, a dog (probably a Labrador) trotted up to the window, saw the sign and went inside. He looked at the receptionist and wagged his tail, then walked over to the sign, looked at it and whined.

Getting the idea, the receptionist got the office manager. The office manager looked at the dog and was surprised, to say the least. However, the dog looked determined, so he led him into the office. Inside, the dog jumped up on the chair and stared at the manager.

The manager said, "I can't hire you. The sign says you have to be able to type." The dog jumped down, went to the typewriter and proceeded to type out a perfect letter. He took out the page and trotted over to the manager and gave it to him, then jumped back on the chair.

The manager was stunned, but then told the dog "the sign says you have to be good with a computer." The dog jumped down again and went to the computer. The dog proceeded to enter and execute a perfect program, that worked flawlessly the first time.

By this time the manager was totally dumb-founded! He looked at the dog and said, "I realize that you are a very intelligent dog and have some interesting abilities. However, I still can't give you the job."

The dog jumped down and went to a copy of the sign and put his paw on the sentences that told about being an Equal Opportunity Employer. The manager said "yes, but the sign also says that you have to be bilingual."

The dog looked at the manager calmly and said, "Meow!"

WHELPIN' WAGGIN'

Disclaimer Clause: This list is for litters of our members that are in good standing with our Club and the American Kennel Club and has been made available for your assistance in finding a new puppy. BUT: The Huron River Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. makes no warranties, expressed or implied as to the condition of any dogs being offered for sale, standards or practices of any breeder, the quality of their animals or the accuracy of any of the information contained within the HRLRC, Inc. Newsletter Listing, or within the HRLRC, Inc. website or any links from the website. HRLRC, Inc. does not endorse, recommend, or guarantee any kennel, breeder or dog listed.

Reminder: Send \$5 litter ad fee per month/per ad to Pauline Mortier, 4611 Brophy, Howell, MI 48843. Please indicate in memo section of check the month that you are paying for. These litter ad fees go towards our Rescue Account. Please call (517) 548-5429 or email pmortier@ism.net to renew or update your ad. Deadline is the 15th of the month. NEW POLICY: No litter ad will be published without receipt of the fee. Also beginning JULY 1, 2001 for ACTIVE MEMBERS fee remains the same--\$5 per month/per ad. For NON-ACTIVE MEMBERS fee will be \$100 per month/per ad. Read the minutes in the March 2001 newsletter for detailed explanation of ACTIVE MEMBERS & NON-ACTIVE MEMBERS.

**Ch Moraine's Malcom At Zinfndel
LIMELITES MISTER MISTER**

Limelites Hearts Afire

X

**Hunt Club Lubberline Captain
LIMELITES CAPATAINS AFFAIR**

Limelites Mad About You

**Whelped: 9/14/02 5 yellow males;
2 yellow females**

**Bill Gardner South Lyon, MI
(248) 437-8016**

**Older dog available: 6 months old
black female Labrador. Contact Cindy
Skiba after 7 pm Mon-Thurs at (989)
662-9868 or all day Fri - Sun.**

**Older dog available: 10 months old
black female, obedience, shots, crate
trained, housebroken. Contact Helen
Bronson at (810) 659-8517**

**Ch Beechcroft's Edgewood Tomarc
BONAVENTURE'S CHOCOLATIER WC
Wenwood Banner Ruby Begonia
X**

**Ch Honbury Enigma
BLUE GRASS LADY PUDDLES NOEL**

Miss Cocoa Magic Noel Paison

Due: October 1 All Chocolates

Frieda Paison Dearborn, MI

(313) 277-1338 email:

flpaison@msn.com

WINS'N'GRINS

LOR-AL'S DIRECT DEPOSIT---

**Laura & Al Reich---Jersey Skylands
LRC Specialty---WINNERS DOG---4
POINT MAJOR!!!**

LOR-AL'S DIRECT FROM

**TANTARA---Laura Reich---Jersey
Skylands LRC Specialty---1ST Am Bred
Dog**

LUBBERLINE ENDEAVOR

**BINNACLE---Jeanine Asch---Livonia
KC Sat. 1st 6-9 month puppy bitch;
Sun. 1st 6-9 month puppy bitch,
WINNERS BITCH, BEST OF
WINNERS, BEST OF BREED & BEST
PUPPY!!!; MAPBTC UKC Sat. 1st
Puppy, Reserve Best Female at both
shows!; Sun. 1st Puppy, Best Female at
both shows!!!**

SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY

**MAGICAL, CD, CGC---Jeanine
Asch---Livonia KC Sat. Novice A, 2nd
qualifying leg, 3rd place in class; Sun.
Novice A, 3rd qualifying leg, 2nd place in
class, NEW CD!!!**

U-CH SHR WAYNES CANDY

**VICTORIAN ANGEL WC, JH---Patty
Wayne---MAPBTC UKC Sun.
CHAMPION OF CHAMPION CLASS;
BEST OF BREED, RESERVE
CHAMPION OF CHAMPION!!!**

U-CH OAKHAVEN'S WAYNES

**AUTUMN MYST---Patty Wayne---
MAPBTC UKC Sun. CHAMPION OF
CHAMPION; BEST OF BREED!!!
Sat. RESERVE CHAMPION OF
CHAMPION!!!**

WINS'N'GRINS

(cont'd)

INFINITY'S MATINEE---Michelle
VeuCasovic---St. Clair KC RESERVE
WINNERS BITCH!!!



BITE INHIBITON

Rather than “No bite,” I strongly, strongly urge you to teach your puppy bite inhibition instead. Bite inhibition is a “soft mouth.” It teaches the pup how to use his mouth gently. Does this mean that the pup will forever be mouthing you? No, not at all. Actually regardless of the method used, puppies generally grow out of mouthing behavior after a few months.

So why should you teach bite inhibition? Because dogs have one defense: their teeth. Every dog can bite. If frightened enough or in pain or threatened, your dog WILL bite. That doesn't in any way make him a “bad” dog. It makes him a dog. It's your responsibility, therefore, to teach your dog that human skin is incredibly fragile. If you teach your dog bite inhibition that training will carry over even if he is later in a position where he feels forced to bite.

Ian Dunbar developed a standard scale to judge the severity of dog bites, based on damage inflicted. The scale is:

- Level One: Bark, lunge, no teeth on skin.
- Level Two: teeth touched, no puncture.
- Level Three: 1-4 holes from a single bite. All holes less than half the length of a single canine tooth.
- Level Four: Single bite, deep puncture (up to one and a half

times the depth of a single canine tooth), wound goes black within 24 hours.

- Level Five: Multiple bite attack or multiple attack incidents.
- Level Six: Missing large portions of flesh.

Ian Dunbar tells a story of a bite incident he had to assess. A Golden Retriever therapy dog was leaving a nursing home and his tail was accidentally shut in a car door. The owner went to help, and the dog delivered four Level Four bites before she could react.

Technically, the woman received a Level Five bite from a long-time therapy dog. Dr. Dunbar wasn't the least bit surprised by the bites. I mean, the dog got his tail shut in a car door! Of course he bit! What shocked Dr. Dunbar was that a dog with not bite inhibition was being used as a therapy dog.

“But he's never bitten before.” Of course not. And barring an accident like that, he probably never would have. But an accident is just that. An accident. Unpredicted. What if it had happened in the nursing home?

So how do you teach bite inhibition?

Again from dr. Dunbar, there are four states of bite inhibition. The first two stages involve decreasing the force in the bites. The second two stages involve decreasing the frequency of the bites. The training MUST be done in that order. If you decrease the frequency first, the dog won't learn to soften his bite. The stages are:

FIRST

No painful bites. 90% of puppies will stop if you give a high-pitched squeal or yelp. If they stop, praise and reinforce by continuing the game. The other 10% and puppies who are tired or over-stimulated will escalate their behavior instead of stopping. This requires you to confine the puppy or end the game. Remove all attention. It does NOT require any added aversive--yelling, popping the nose or under the

chin, shoving your hand down his throat, or spraying with water.

If you end the game, you need to be able to get away from the puppy with as little fuss or attention as possible. Even negative attention is attention. It's often helpful to have the puppy tethered, so you can simply move back out of his reach. Or, have him in a confined area and simply stand up and move past a boundary. Because the getting up and moving is tough to do at the instant the undesired behavior occurs, consider using a hand signal that will always mean “You're a jerk. Fun's over.” Use it consistently when poor behavior occurs and you're going to withdraw attention.

I am well aware that puppy teeth hurt, and that this step can be overwhelming. Do it when you can, and at other times redirect, redirect, redirect. Puppy mouthing is a 100% natural dog behavior. It's not dominant. It's not meanness. It's a puppy being a puppy. When it's too much, either redirect or end the game. Aversives are confusing, unfair and unnecessary.

SECOND

Eliminate all pressure. You want to gradually shape the dog to “gum you to death.” Service dog trainers do this routinely, because service dogs often have to use their mouths to manipulate human limbs. Basically, you do this gradually. Set a limit of how hard the dog can bite. If he bites harder, yelp. Gradually set your limit for softer and softer bites. Remember to do this gradually. A big jump in criteria is confusing and frustrating to the dog.

THIRD

When I say stop, you stop. Teach cues for “Take It,” or “Leave It,” and “Drop It.” You need to be able to both start and stop the game on your terms.

FOURTH

You may never touch a human with your muzzle unless invited. Basically, this is just taking stage three to complete stimulus control.

None of these stages require anything more aversive than time outs or withdrawal of attention. When teaching these behaviors, put your

hands in your dog's mouth all the time. Get him used to your being there. Make sure you can open his mouth and examine his teeth--the vet is going to do that, and you should prepare your dog. Play mouth games. Teach your dog never to touch an object in your hand unless invited. Make sure he knows when he IS invited. He is never to bite both the toy and your hand at the same time.

Most dogs will eventually grow out of the mouthy stage on their own, whether you teach them bite inhibition or not. Some breeds, like retrievers, persist longer because they have been bred for centuries to be mouthy. In those breeds--like my own Curly Coated Retriever--I find a compromise that satisfies both my need to remain unmolested and their need to use their mouths. Namely, I encourage them to carry a favorite toy whenever greeting another person or during any other period they are likely to mouth. Non-aversive, and it works for all of us!

Melissa Alexander
mcalex@connectexpress.com
<http://www.clickersolutions.com>



EXERCISE INDUCED COLLAPSE IN LABRADOR RETRIEVERS

Hello,

I am a veterinary genetics researcher at the University of Minnesota working on the condition termed Exercise-Induce Collapse (EIC) in Labrador Retrievers. Symptoms of EIC are typically first observed between the ages of 7 months and 2 years when they begin more intense training. At this age affected Labs will collapse after about 10 minutes of intense exercise. They almost always recover from an episode and while they usually cannot continue hunting, they can still be good pets. Our preliminary analyses indicate that EIC does run in families and is becoming increasingly common.

We are collaborating with the University of Saskatchewan on EIC research funded by the Morris Animal Foundation. Our goals are to better understand the clinical, biochemical and genetic aspects of EIC in Labs. We need the cooperation of Labrador breeders, owners and trainers to ensure the success of this study. Currently at Minnesota we are in the sample recruitment phase of the genetic study with the aim of beginning the molecular genetic analysis by the end of summer. We already have blood samples and pedigrees collected from over 100 dogs. However, we need DNA samples (isolated from blood) from many more affected and related unaffected dogs, along with pedigrees and a completed questionnaire on the affected dogs.

As representatives of the local and national breed clubs, we sincerely hope that you can mention this important study to your members and encourage them to participate. All participation in the study is kept strictly confidential. If you would be interested, please email me or call me and I can send you more information on the study and answer any questions you might have.

Thank you for your time.
Monica Roberts, Research Assistant
Department of Veterinary
PathoBiology
University of Minnesota
295 AS/VM, 1988 Fitch Ave., St. Paul,
MN 55108
phone: (612) 624-5322
FAX: (612) 625-0204
Email: robe0332@umn.edu



Betcha can't eat just one!

PHOTO BY LAURA REICH

And something for all you former equine competitors turned Labrador enthusiasts!



The Journey: Growing As A Caretaker of the Breed

Part 1---Looking Forward, Looking Backward

By Denise Hamel

I always find Pat Trotter's columns in the AKC Gazette thought-provoking, so it really set me to thinking when she talked in a recent column about the deep concern of longtime experts in many breeds about the lack of people coming up through the ranks with the necessary knowledge and expertise to take their turn at being the senior guardians of their breeds. In the same column, she lamented that most great lines of dogs are in the hands of aging breeders, and that the loss of lines which breed true for their consistent characteristics is a serious challenge for breeders across the board. Since the Labrador community has lost many of its great voices over the last couple of decades---Helen Warwick, Joan Read, George Bragaw, Mary Roslin Williams, and Gwen Broadley, to name a few---it started me wondering about what steps we can take to grow as a breeders and exhibitors of Labradors. We all start as rank novices and pet people, and most of us go on to become fairly knowledgeable dog people and capable breeder/exhibitors, but few ever graduate into the ranks of breed experts. For what it's worth, then, here are a few thoughts on growing our expertise---from a fellow traveler, not an expert!

Growing Means Looking Forward and Having Goals

There's an old saying which bears repeating: "If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there." In other words, you must have concrete goals in order to develop a plan for reaching them, and this is particularly true in the sport of dogs. Daydreaming about what you'd like to accomplish is an important part of the process, but the next step involves serious commitment to making the dreams a reality. There are no right or wrong answers when trying to decide what you'd like to accomplish. The only absolute necessity is the ability to be completely honest with yourself.

To begin with, each person needs to decide for himself where his desires fit into the spectrum of dog activities. Are you a knowledgeable pet person, who wants to love one or two Labradors as cherished companions, and possibly to train them for a little show, field, and/or obedience work, because you're so proud of them? This is a worthy goal. You can do all of these things with your special pets, and need not venture any further.

Are you a seasoned competitor, who has decided that the thrill of winning in the ring, or training for levels of achievement in every area of competition, is what turns you on? You're not necessarily interested in breeding; you really just want to get your hands on a good dog or bitch, and see how far you can take him or her. This, too, is an excellent goal. Too often, we bring subtle pressure to bear on dedicated dog people to become breeders, but that shouldn't be the case. A person who prefers training and competition to the breeding process should be encouraged to follow his dreams, and to buy the next dog for competition when the time comes. These talented trainers and exhibitors are often a godsend to breeders who would love to showcase dogs they've bred, but whose own time is limited.

Do you want to breed on a limited basis, and are you content with showing, running HRTs, and other competition in your region alone? Do you pride yourself on producing thoughtfully bred, well socialized puppies who will go on to be wonderful pets? Would you like to upgrade the dogs in your breeding program, but have no desire to compete at the stiffest levels of competition? This is a fine objective, and upgrading one's breeding stock is an admirable one. In this instance, the only difficulty is remaining objective enough to realize that others who have committed themselves to work toward a higher level of achievement are likely to reap greater rewards.

Do you dream of specialty wins, or champion master hunters, or the next dual champion? These are, of course, more rarified goals, requiring time, dedication, patience, and skill, whether in buying or breeding. Are you prepared to wait until the right dog comes along, studying and learning all the while, so that you'll recognize the animal with that special waulity when you see it? If you plan to breed those animals yourself, do you devote time, hard work and study to gaining the knowledge necessary for accomplishing that goal? Do you have a real passion for studying---animals and their offspring, pedigrees, breeding theory---anything which helps your deeper understanding? The higher the goals, the more intense the passion and commitment needs to be.

Or conversely, did you start out with a Labrador as a well-loved pet, and are you now beginning to think you might really enjoy competing with another breed more? There's absolutely no shame in admitting this---we're being totally honest with ourselves, remember? Maybe you've decided that you'd like to be involved with two breeds, maybe one is for "fun", and the other is the one you've devoted yourself to enough to become a breeder. As they say, "which language do you dream in"?

Take time to take stock. Be honest with yourself about your heart's desires before you take action. Much of the rest of these columns will be devoted to growing as a breeder, but if you've decided that your journey doesn't lie in that direction, then you're well on your way to discovering the right path for you.

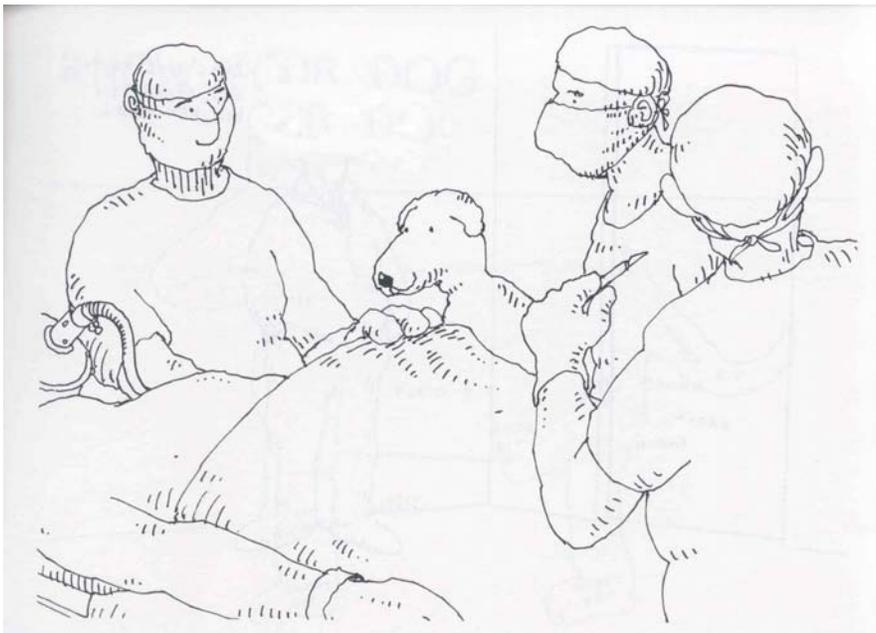
Growing Means Looking Backward

As guardians of the Labrador breed, we're indebted to those who've gone before us. For breeders, this is particularly true, because not one of us---from the most skilled master breeder to the poorest backyard breeder---could practice the art of breeding without the dogs we're using in our breeding programs, and those dogs initially were purchased from others. In fact, each generation of dogs represents a testament to the minds and eyes of the breeders who produced them; the genetic potential that we work with today is part of the great, invisible tapestry of the Labrador breed, handed down from generation to generation. With that in mind, we need to remember that our growth as breeders depends on our looking backward to our history for inspiration, information, and study.

Whether we are breeders, exhibitors, trainers, or simply devoted Labrador owners, we serve our breed poorly if we don't bother to familiarize ourselves with the breeders of the past and their contributions to the development of the modern Labrador, or if we fail to study the dogs of earlier eras through lack of interest or laziness. A good starting point is reading one of the many breed books which covers breed history; as others have said, we should do the *knowing* before the *showing*! If we want to be involved in the breed at any other level than as a pet owner, we need to be sure we're not ignorant when it comes to the great developers of the Labrador in England, and that we also know the names and kennels of the elder statesmen of the breed in America, and elsewhere in the world. To be a longstanding participant in the breed without having a rudimentary knowledge of its progenitors is an embarrassment.

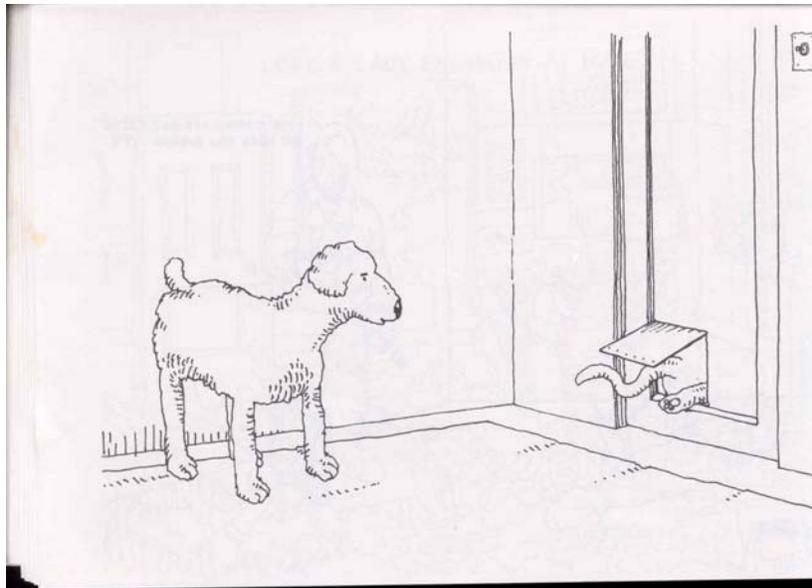
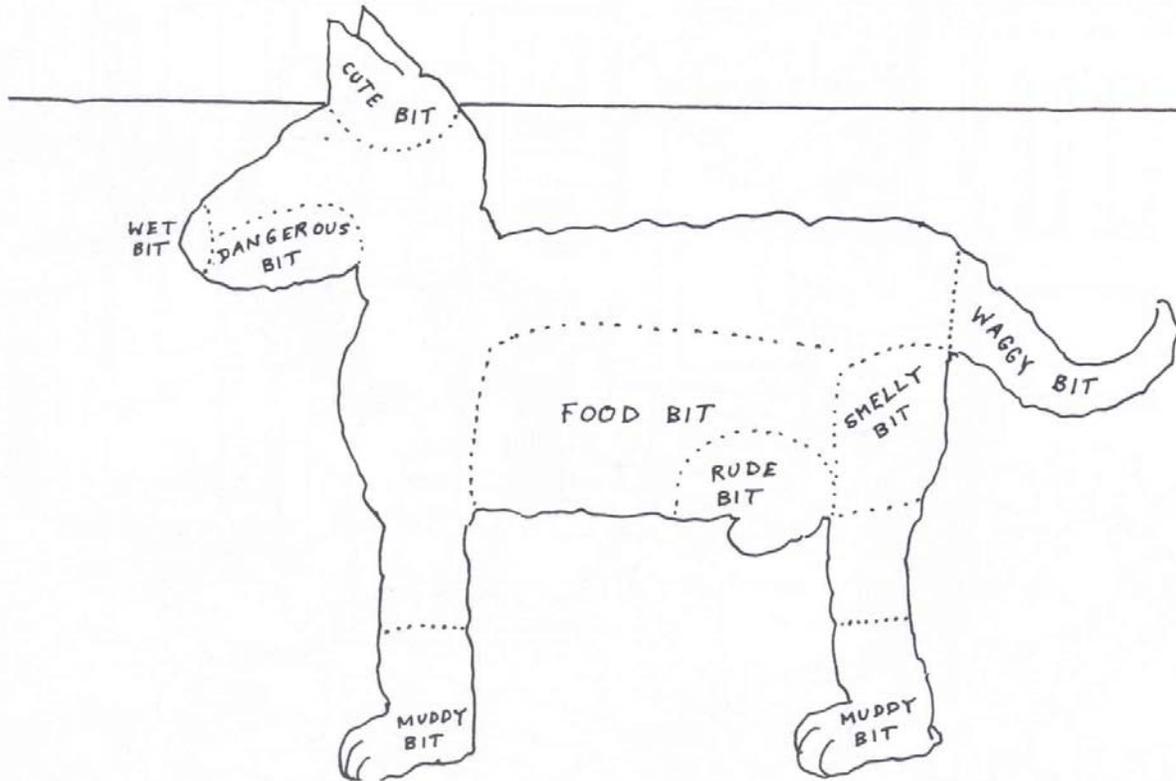
For the breeder of Labradors, history fulfills an essential role. We come into the breed with empty visual memory banks, and filling those memory banks with information about dogs who are no longer around requires persistence and study, a kind of visual archeology. The reminiscences of senior breeders are of great help in filling in the blanks, as are descriptions and pictures in old texts. Such in-depth, eye witness material is the reason that books such as Richard Edwards' The Show Labrador in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is such an outstanding reference for breeders. Knowledge of the dogs which appear in our pedigrees, or those of the dogs we're considering using, is essential. Structuring breedings to linebreed on animals based upon uninformed assumptions about their strengths, or something so shallow as the glamour of their kennel names, instead of concrete knowledge about them, is a recipe for disaster. By appreciating the work of the master breeders who have gone before us, and carefully studying the dogs which they produced, knowledge of breed history nurtures our own growth of understanding.

Next time: Part 2---Anatomy of a Breeder.



‘And by the way, did anyone remember to feed the dog?’

KNOW YOUR DOG



Bloody favouritism I call it

