

“d” Labrador News™

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the Silver Labrador Retriever

Health Care

A Fascinating Stew!

Poor and blown Coats? Allergies? Loose stools? Weight problems? As Silver Lab breeders, it is apparent that many have experienced one, if not all of these issues at some point. Often expensive medications are prescribed and often the result is less than satisfactory. An alternative, recently discussed on the Silver Lab Forum resembling an old-fashioned Chicken Stew, has been showing to address these issues seen in some Silvers. As a wet food, the stew is fed at a level that initially seems too much, 2 cups for every 20 pounds of the dogs body weight, but it is just right. It is recommended to mix the stew with the kibble you are already feeding as well.

4 pounds of chicken thighs with skin

1 teaspoon of dried garlic

1 cup chopped zucchini

1 cup chopped yellow squash

1 cup of shredded or chopped carrots

1 cup green peas

1 cup of chopped celery

1 Tablespoon of fresh Rosemary

2 pounds of brown rice (or 1 pound of brown rice and one pound of Pearl Barley)

6 cups of rolled oats added at the end of cooking

Combine all ingredients in a large stockpot and add enough water to cover plus about three inches. Bring to a boil and simmer for at least two hours. Add oats to thicken, let cool and remove the bones. Watch for a firm stool without smell and a beautiful thick shiny coat. More info about this remedy and other can be accessed at www.silverlabforum.com/phpBB3.

If you know of a fellow Silver Labrador Breeder that did not receive this Newsletter, feel free to share yours with them, or have them request one by emailing: admin@silverlabforum.com

Breeders who contributed to this edition:

Kiwi Labradors, NZ
Silver Moon Labs, NC
Silver Mountain Labradors, UT
Silver Springs Labradors, GA
Silvertone Labradors, FL
Stardust Labradors, CA
Texaz Silvers, TX



In this issue

Silver Labrador Club? **P.1,3**

Health Care—Stew **P.1**

Training Tip—Tracking **P.2**

Breeder Spotlight **P.2,3**

Genetics—The Yellow Dilute **P.2**

“Silver Sky's Rebel Without A Cause” resides at Silver Moon Labs, owned by Lori Osborn. www.silvermoonlabs.net

Silver Labrador Club?

In the last issue of the “d” Labrador News, the recent contradictory position taken by the Labrador Retriever Club (LRC) regarding the Silver Labrador was addressed. The final assertion made in the article suggested that we as Silver Labrador breeders need to take the initiative to decide our own future, rather than remaining subject to the-powers-that-be, who do not appreciate us as breeders because of the color(s) of our Labs. So, what do we do? In

light of the LRC's recent, and forcefully stated opposition, it should be clear the status quo of doing nothing will suffice no longer. It has recently been learned that even the AKC is now beginning to “track” some of the Silver lines...for a purpose not presently disclosed. In recent months, two possible courses of action have been suggested and in several arenas, debated to varying degrees. In question form, they are:

1- Do we as breeders push for LRC acceptance of Silver and Charcoal as a “new” colors/varieties, or perhaps recognized and accepted variations of Chocolate and Black?

2- Alternatively, do we move to separate ourselves from the LRC and develop our own breed club...the “Silver (or Dilute) Labrador Club”?

Considering the first suggested course of action, to obtain full acceptance by the LRC, the LRC must, as a voting body, accept an alteration of the breed standard. Not an easy task especially considering the present direction of the LRC regarding the Silver Lab. To have the

ability to significantly influence LRC decisions, we as Labrador breeders would, by necessity, need to be members if the LRC. So, what does it take to join the LRC? Looking at their website,

http://www.thelabradorclub.com/subpages/show_contents.php?page=Membership, breeders seeking LRC membership must complete a seemingly simple one-page application form, pay \$15, and then be accepted by the club's Board of Directors. However, there are a couple items on the form that would presently preclude most, if not all, Silver Lab breeders. First, the LRC wants to know what dogs the breeder owns and any titles the dog has earned. In that very few Silvers are titled, this would likely be a sticking point with many applications. Second, the applicant must agree to follow the LRC Constitution and Bylaws, which in part state: “The goal of the Club shall be to encourage and promote quality in the breeding and performance of pure-bred Labrador Retrievers...” and “Any member may prefer charges **Continued P.3**

...do we move to separate ourselves from the LRC and develop our own breed club...?

This Month's Training Tip

Training Your Dog for AKC Tracking

~Steps to Getting Started~

- Play hide-the-glove with your dog at home with an old leather glove. Start out making it easy for the dog by hiding the glove and helping your dog find it. Begin by hiding it in front of furniture, making it a quick find for your dog. As soon as the dog finds the glove, reward with lots of praise and/or a food reward. Gradually increase the intensity of hiding the glove.

- When it becomes really easy for the dog to find the glove, make it harder. Hide it out of sight but not where the dog can't get to the glove (even try hiding it up at a higher level—arm of the chair, back of couch). This is when the dog begins to really use their nose.

- You may increase the dog's training at this time by playing hide the glove outside. You may even want to attach the leash and/or harness and go with the dog to find the glove.

- Use words at home when you play hide-the-glove that you would use training to track, such as; "let's track", "find it", "sniff", "where's the glove?", "track"!

- As with all training, don't over do it and remember to always end on a positive note and a lot of praise.



Breeder Spotlight

Coppertone Labradors / Silvertone Labradors



Silvertone Hot Reddin' Woody

I felt truly honored when asked to meet and interview Mrs. Stading for this Breeder Spotlight and jumped right on the opportunity. Call her what you will, a Maverick, a rebel, an individualist - Nancy is at the top of her game in regards to breeding Labrador Retrievers. Born in 1936 "The Ribbonlady", as many know her, has accomplished more for the Dilute coat than any other.

Nancy and her husband, Wayne, began breeding labs shortly after being wed. Wayne

had been a Lab lover most of his life and owned Blacks in the past. In the early 70's, as they thought about opportunities for the future, Wayne and Nancy discussed several options. Nancy was not too fond of Yellow, so, the search was on for the perfect Chocolate. They found at the time, that this was not an easy task. The first litter they looked at had an orange colored pup with a long nose and ears. "Not pretty at all", Nancy recalls, and they decided on a Black female instead. Also at that time, they sold their farm and made the move to South Florida. That is where history was in the making. Nancy had extensive experience breeding paint horses from quarter horses and was up to the challenge of breeding the ultimate Chocolate. In the summer of 1978, the Stading's purchased two Chocolates, "Brentwoods Honky Tonk" and "Sister Sweet Molly Brown". They soon

entered the show ring with "Brentwoods Honky Tonk" and put an AKC champion title on him....and there was no looking back. They worked to import and title more and more. This was the beginning of Coppertone Labs.

Their story continued; one day in 2001 Nancy received a message from a member of the LRC letting her know that Labradors were being registered as "Silver" and that they needed to unite against this new color. This served only to intrigue Nancy and, in fact, one year later she leased "Culo Alex" to breed into her Champion Chocolates for test breeding. She liked the outcome and brought in more and more to attempt to breed the color to perfection. It obviously worked, as Silvertone has many, many, titled Silver factored dogs.

Today, the story continues. Stading's Silvertones and Coppertones are located in Citra Florida on 9 acres. Nancy does not refer to it as a kennel, rather a Labrador breeding farm. They have a couple of ponds for the Labs to enjoy as well as horses and cattle. "Of course", Nancy says, "the horses and cattle think they are Labradors also." Nancy and Wayne have a great team and will continue to promote Silver Labs with the ultimate goal: to be registered AKC Silver with supporting conformation classes. Nancy has also compiled a Pedigree database of her own with thousands of entries. She takes great pride in knowing the history on all Labradors.

I personally would like to thank Nancy letting me in and getting to know you on a personal level, for all of your hard work with the dilute coats. Look at your pedigrees. Most likely you will see a Silvertone or a Coppertone in it. Thank you Nancy Stading.

Rod McNeal

Texas Silvers Kennel, Dublin, Texas

***See the Q & A on Page 3**

Genetics

The Yellow Dilute

As Silver Lab breeders, we have all owned, or at least seen, Silver and/or Charcoal Labs. Now meet the Yellow dilute, aka "Champagne" Lab. The Yellow dilute is the Yellow equivalent of the Chocolate/Silver and Black/Charcoal Labs. When the first publicly advertised Yellow dilute showed up a few years back, we "Silver Springs" had no idea what they were or how to get one. We thought it was all about a new color, but that not the case. Like their Yellow counterpart, dilute Yellows can range in shade from Fox Red to White. It is about the genetic makeup, the "dd", and that is it (The "dd" is the genetic makeup that dilutes Black, Chocolate, and Yellow to Charcoal, Silver, and Champagne, respectively). Most people would not know one if they saw one due to acceptable wide variation of Yellow Lab shades and that the dilution gene only lightens any one of the afore mentioned shades. However, there are a couple things to look for to help distinguish them. Nose and eye rim skin color are the best indicators and some say the coat has a brighter shine. Also, if you suspect you may have one you can send a DNA sample to one of the several genetic labs offering coat color tests and see if it comes back "dd". Lastly, if you ever get a Yellow out of breeding two Silvers, then without a doubt you have yourself a Yellow dilute. Most Yellow dilutes have likely been unknowingly pet homed, or are thought to be only Silver-Factored Yellow. But recently, there seems to be more and more Silver-Factored Yellows and Yellow dilutes popping up; no doubt largely due to improvement breeding where CH bloodlines that are Yellow, or happen to carry Yellow, have been bred into the Silvers. A little website surfing and it doesn't take too long to find a few breeders now advertising these Yellows. One of the reasons the Yellow dilute will likely grow in popularity



with Silver breeders is that we can breed a Yellow dilute to a Yellow CH line and not have an all Black litter like many have done by breeding a Yellow to a Silver in effort to improve. An interesting thing about them is if one of these Yellow dilutes has near-Black skin pigment, you could put it in the show ring, which is at present, an impossibility with the dilute Black or Chocolate, as they are much more noticeable. The only person that would know any difference would be you. Imagine if you could get a CH title on a dilute Yellow! That would be such an asset to the Silver Lab movement and help to get the LRC to except the dilutes as the colors they are instead of just Black, Chocolate, and Yellow. We hope this had shed a little light on the Yellow dilute.

What would you say is your best accomplishment as breeding goes?

Breeding and winning at the shows with Chocolates when they said it could not be done.

What would you say are your future goals in the Silver coat color?

To breed top quality and show them & and share them with the breeders that are interested.

What would you like to see in the future for the entire Silver breeding world?

To be registered as AKC Silver, and have conformation classes accepting them. The color is here to stay so, everyone get out there and show off your beautiful Silver Labrador!

What would you like to say in regards to what a typical day is like in the world of Nancy?

This is a never ending adventure, if there is nothing going on, I can create something, or the young Labrador dogs will make, or do something for attention. They are my life 24/7.

Could you tell me about some exciting times you have had at dog shows?

In about 1980 we won best of breed, best of opposite, best female, all with Chocolates winning over the Yellows and Blacks. They said it could not be done. They threatened to flatten all our tires.

Could you tell me how you got started breeding and how you made the transition into Silvers?

The Yellow and Black breeders told me that no one could breed a top quality Chocolate at that time. After breeding paint horses from quarter horses, I said "why not" and did so and the same with the Silvers, we are nearly there.

Could you talk a little about your kennel?

First and foremost we are not a Kennel we are a Labrador Breeding Farm. We have 9 acres two ponds, 2 horses and 3 cattle. They all think they are Labradors.

Employees, We have myself and hubby Wayne, Casey who will take over the breeding Labradors when I am ready for retirement, (she is a Vet tech and trainer also, and Joe, he is the live on property security and caretaker of the animals and general handyman.

We normally have about 20 breeders, but this changes all the time due to adding new bloodlines as they pass all the certifications, and are selected for the breeding program.

What is most important to you in regards to breeding?

All I can say is do the certifications for the breed and try to improve with each litter.

Are there any special treatments that you would like to share with others.

Just to have 24/7 care and a great Vet on call at all times. We will be happy to answer any questions just give us a call.

Is there a special or favorite time or event that has taken place that really sticks out in your mind?

Yes, when we showed our half Silvers and made them champions!

List three words you feel best describe a dilute Labrador.

This would be: shiny, silver, gray.

In your opinion, what physical characteristic defines the dilute Labrador the most?

This would be the shiny silver gray coat. This is a hard one to answer, the genes mostly come from the hunting bloodlines, so, there are two types, the working hunting lab and the Stockier more boxy type from the crosses with the Imports. Both types are correct, I myself prefer the Stockier type.

In your opinion, which behavioral characteristic defines the dilute Labrador the most?

Color has little to do with the type, or personality, a Labrador is a Labrador, it must be a loving hard working devoted companion willing to please at what is asked of them to do.

What is the largest false impression a dilute Labrador gives?

That it is a mixed breed. At this, the Labrador has a lot of other breeds bred into it. <http://www.silvertonelabs.com/truth.html>

...against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed." Considering that the LRC now considers the Silver Lab to be genetically impure, any Silver breeder that did somehow gain admission to the LRC would be an easy target for expulsion due to "misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed". Last, and likely the biggest obstacle associated with the application, the applicant is required to obtain two letters of recommendation from two LRC members in good standing...who, if they did knowingly support the membership of a Silver Lab breeder, would themselves be vulnerable to the "misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed" clause. An apparent uphill battle and perhaps an unattainable endeavor.

The other suggested course of action (develop our own breed club) is no easy path either, but may presently be the one with the brighter future. Looking back upon the history of our breed, there was a time about 80 years ago when the Yellow Lab was the popular color to hate. At that time, the newly formed "Labrador Club" (United Kingdom) started to get picky about the few Yellows, and suggested that they were actually Golden Retrievers, not Labs (Sound familiar?). Therefore, the Yellow Lab enthusiasts came together and started the "Yellow Labrador Club" in an attempt to gain breed status for their dogs. The Labrador Club quickly realized that they needed to include Yellow breeders and not push them away to avoid a split in the breed and, more importantly, to avoid issues of litters that had both Blacks and Yellows being shown under 2 separate "breeds". The end result was acceptance of the Yellow Lab as a Purebred Lab. Interestingly, though not a "breed club", that club still exists today and they have an annual show for Yellow Labs only <http://www.yellowlabclub.co.uk/index.htm>. Would the same result be had today if we move to form our own breed club, as some Silver Lab breeders are presently advocating? What if the LRC just said "good riddance" and we were left on our own as a new breed club, what are the possible ramifications? We, as devoted Silver Labrador breeders, would be in control of the "proper" breeding of the Silver Labradors. The new breed's studbook could remain open to the breeding in of the LRC Labradors. In essence, though the LRC could ultimately ban the breeding of Silvers into their lines, we could encourage the breeding of LRC Labs into the Silver lines without their having any real ability to curtail it. In time, the new breed could push for AKC recognition and club sanctioning, whereupon, Silver Labs could at least be shown, albeit against themselves. However, the Silver Labrador breed would remain genetically identical to the LRC Breed, ultimately making breed separation irrelevant. Additionally, the problem of the Black/Yellow debate remains, what of the litters that contain all the colors? Do we then register some as one breed and others as a different breed?

A possible middle ground might be to push the LRC to recognize Silver Labs as "purebred" and allow their registration as "Silver" or "Charcoal", but then give Silvers their own "variety" classification, which basically would mean they could be shown as Labrador Retrievers, but not against the BYC Labs. A compromise worthy further consideration, if the parties are willing.

So what can you do in all this?

First and foremost, get involved with and work with others who are interested, and invested, in the future of the Silver Lab. Staying autonomous or remaining in the shadows is what the Silver-haters are counting on...apathy on our part. Keep the conversations moving toward taking action and be ready to act. Next, actively breed in the well-known and top titled lines of the BYC Labs. By doing this, the LRC cannot exclude the Silvers without excluding their own personal lines...and they are not about to do that. Lastly, title your Silvers. If Silvers are to obtain recognition by the LRC, titling (proving) our Labs in multiple venues will be essential.

In reprise, if we as breeders do not stand up for our own dogs, who will?