

“d” Labrador News™

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the Silver Labrador Retriever

Silver World

Silver Group

According to a recent email release and information from the new group's website, the purpose of the new group is to "...help fight for the acceptance of the silver, charcoal and champagne coat colors."

and
"...show the world, just how much support these beautiful coat colors have..."

The Group offers a public venue for Silver Labrador pet owners and breeders alike, who would like to have their names listed along with other like-minded individuals.

To join the group, its organizer requires your contact information including Names, Kennel (if applicable), and State. As a benefit, members of the group are eligible to enter seasonal photo contests with photos of their dogs.

Those who have additional questions are encouraged to contact the group's organizer.

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:

Silver Mountain Labradors, UT
Silver Springs Labradors, GA
Stardust Labradors, CA



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← "Cash's Million Dollar Baby" (Milli) resides at Silver Springs Labradors, in Georgia.

Titling Your Silver Labrador

What's that you say,....you've heard that you can't show or compete in AKC events because of the color of your dog? Don't believe it for a second, it is not true in the least bit! The AKC is an organization that was established, in part, to "promote the exhibition and advancement of Purebred dogs." If your Silver Labrador has an AKC registration, you have all the opportunities to compete with your Labrador as any other Labrador owner in the AKC's events. Indeed there are Silver Labs that have earned AKC titles in multiple AKC events. There are several Dilutes with Obedience, Agility, Hunt Test, and Tracking titles and several more that are in active competition to earn these and other titles across the country...there are likely even Dilutes that have won in the conformation ring...but that is a topic all its own for another article. For a complete list of events and titles your Silver Labrador can compete in and earn visit:

www.thelabradorclub.com/subpages/show_contents.php?page=AKC+Title+Lists

Have you heard that Silver Labradors are not welcome at AKC events? This is an interesting assertion some have made....and unfortunately not without merit in a few instances. As an AKC registered dog, your Labrador is allowed at AKC events. If the event host club, or a participant of

the event, takes issue with your uniquely colored Lab they will be quick to find themselves on the wrong side of the AKC fence. This was demonstrated recently at an AKC Hunt Test in the Upper Midwest. A Silver Labrador was entered in the event and when it came to the line to compete a participant took issue with the color of the Lab and caused trouble for the dog's owners (themselves new to retriever sports). The issue was appropriately reported to the event organizing committee and they appropriately clarified that as a purebred AKC registered dog the Lab could compete. Additionally, the committee suggested that the Silver

Silver Labradors can earn AKC titles in: Field events, Obedience, Agility, Tracking, and arguably in Conformation.

owners could file a formal complaint to the AKC of unsportsmanlike conduct on the individual who complained about the color and made trouble for them. They of course did not and went on to compete in the Hunt Test. Though not a pleasing situation for anyone to find them-

selves, this occurrence proves once again that the rules are on your side. Usually though, at most events where Silvers Labs have competed, there have been little more than whispers behind one's back, or joking around in good fun...all disappearing when the Silver outperforms the other Labs that day and earns its title!

No doubt you've heard that a Silver cannot....

Silver Titles Continued P.2

Training Tip

Titles and Clubs

Putting a title on your dog can be an enjoyable process for you and needless to say, extremely fulfilling for you Lab. Though there are several Silvers that have earned titles, this is one area that is in need of more participation from breeders; proving the breeding stock.

Getting started is considered the hardest part, but is actually quite simple. The key is to locate and join clubs that are focused on the type of activity you would like to try, Hunt Tests, Obedience, Dock Diving, Tracking, etc. Joining your local club will help you meet others with similar training goals and often, more experience, which is helpful for us beginners! Not only will you have the chance to learn, but you will be able to teach others about the magnificent Silver Labrador! Search for your local AKC clubs here:

www.akc.org/clubs/search/

Silver Titles Continued....

...compete in the conformation ring, right? And that being Dilute, the dog is outside the Labrador standard....isn't it? On the surface, apparently "yes," due to the shade of the coat color. But looking in more depth at that reasoning (shade) one finds a loophole. The dilute colors are registered just the same as their fully colored counterparts, Black, Yellow, or Chocolate. Taking a look at the description in the Breed standard for Chocolate,

Chocolate--Chocolates can vary in shade from light to dark chocolate.

we see that "light" shades are acceptable. Therefore, as likely the lightest shade of chocolate possible, Silver is actually within the standard. So it stands to reason that a Silver could show in the AKC conformation ring...whether a Judge will allow it has yet to be seen as not many Silver breeders claim to be breeding for the Labrador Standard with the intent to "show" but that too is a subject for an article of it's own.

A Treasure Trove of Information

Recently, on the popular online discussion forum "Retriever Training Forum" (RTF), the topic of Silver Labs was discussed. Certainly this was not the first such discussion

on the topic, nor will it be the last. However, what makes this online discussion different from so many of the online diatribes against Silver Labs, and truly worth your time to read, is the multitude of topics covered

and answers obtained. A few Silver Lab owners did participate in the discussion and boldly so. By the end of the 254th post (yeah, it is big) the people who were vehemently against the Silver Lab were silenced, if not convinced that the trait is indeed inherent to the Labrador Breed!

It's easy to blame Weim crossbreeding, but it's not supported by the facts or the pedigrees.

In part, the topics covered included the introduction which was a challenge for Silver Lab owners to volunteer their dogs for DNA testing to determine breed, the original poster following the assumption that Silver Labs are crossbred. The non-scientific nature of these breed ID tests coming to light. After the first 10-12 pages the discussion begins to really pick

Personally I think history is being "rewritten by the victors" to include a Weim, to ensure that the whole thing has a permanent bad reputation. The fact is that if it had been a big-name show breeder promoting them, by now "silver" would be an accepted colour. But since they were first promoted by some nobody who was breeding just to sell pups, it's a scandal instead -- so let's pile on the dirt, valid or not!

As LVL stated the St John's dog, which carried this dilution gene, is a part of the Labrador history ...Also, the post in which it was pointed out that labs - esp choc labs - were bred with other breeds (chessies being one) in the early part of the century could back up introduction of this gene into the Labrador gene pool.

up, covering related breeds that also carry the dilution gene such as the Chesapeake Bay Retriever and the possibility of showing Silver Labs. Comments from a renowned retriever training author Amy Dahl and lifetime breeder Ky Moffitt deliver convincing evidence of the validity of the dilution in Labradors. The early history of the Culo line is discussed from a knowledgeable and educated non-silver perspective including personal experiences.

That is why I advocate this color, charcoal too. Silver does not hinder the breed from its hunting foundation, and I think it helps in certain cases.

Though like all online threads you have to take much of the comments with a grain of salt because of the poster's ignorance, there are diamonds in the rough, and pearls of great wisdom, indeed a treasure trove of information. It will be time well spent for Silver breeders to go to RTF and read the discussion in it's entirety.

That some of the "silvers" are houndy looking is also not due to a Weim -- it comes from a particular (mostly English show-bred) bitch of the 1970s. Dudley Culo (whom I've seen in person) was descended from her, and was her spitting image from nose to tail, including her poor head and ears. Since most of the current "silvers" are heavily linebred on Dudley Culo and his sisters, it should surprise no one that this poor type became exaggerated and set into the current "silver" lines.

Presently, and likely always, these lighter Chocolates will be marketed as "Silver", just as some Yellows, are, and will always be marketed as "Fox Red". Both are correct colors in the breed (Chocolate and Yellow), both are modified by another gene (D and C, respectively).

www.retrievertraining.net/forums/showthread.php?t=39324