

BUYER BEWARE!

TRUE LABRADOR RETRIEVERS ARE BLACK, YELLOW, AND CHOCOLATE ONLY! The Issue of the Silver Labrador

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

"It is the opinion of the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc., the AKC 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."

"Recognized coat colors for purebred Labradors are black, yellow and chocolate. No shadings of coat color are recognized for black or chocolate Labradors in either the Labrador Standard or the current research into genetic coat colors. The shadings recognized in yellow Labrador Retrievers do not depend on the presence of the dilute gene *dd*, but are modifiers acting on the *ee* gene."

Test for the Dilute Gene in the Coat Color of the Labrador Retriever.

Fred Kampo, Jr., President, The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

Thursday February 12, 2015.

"Scientific evidence has shown us that there is no evidence of a dilute gene in the coat color background of the Labrador Retriever. Despite the Parent Club's multiple attempts to request that the American Kennel Club deny full registration to dogs exhibiting a dilute coat color, these dogs still remain in the breeding pool and kennels focusing on dilute coat colors proliferate."

"At this time, our best option to protect the gene pool for the Labrador Retriever is to encourage the use of the DNA test to identify carriers of the dilute gene. I want to urge each of you, especially those with active stud dogs, to have breeding stock tested for the dilute gene and include the information in your advertising. I am also suggesting that we add the test to the requirements for an LRC, Inc. Breeders' Directory listing."

There are currently an estimated 26,000 so-called rare “silver”, “charcoal”, and “champagne” dilute dogs in the United States registered as Labrador Retrievers. That number is rising exponentially as new breeders of these “designer-colored” labradors emerge at an alarming rate. As of March 2015, there were approximately 575 names recorded by the Foundation for the Preservation of the Labrador Retriever (FPLR) with the vast majority having a web site and/or Facebook page openly advertising selling and/or breeding dilutes in the United States. Unfortunately, the problem is spreading across the globe due to dilute Labradors being acquired from the USA with a reported 27 breeders in Canada, and 34 in Europe with the highest concentration in Germany. New names are added weekly at a drastic rate. For example, in August 2014 alone, 53 names were added to the FPLR dilute breeder database. Many of these individuals hide the fact that they breed dilutes by using various identities, different kennel names and maintaining separate websites from their black/yellow/chocolate kennel. A staggering part of these U.S. breeders in the FPLR database are part of the “Improvement Movement”. FMI go to:

<http://notosilverlabs.wordpress.com/2014/01/15/council-for-purebred-labrador-retrievers-a-shady-bunch/>

Testing for the dilute gene, researching pedigrees and screening all puppy buyers and bitch owners who come for stud service is so very important to protect our pure, DD (dilute clear) lines from ending up in dilute pedigrees. When the dilute gene is expressed as a dd in a dog, it results in a dilute affected dog: diluted chocolate (Silver), diluted black (Charcoal) or diluted yellow (Champagne). If the dog is a Dd (carrier) the dilute gene will not be expressed and the coloring will be chocolate, black or yellow. DD means the dog is dilute clear. For more information please visit:

<https://notosilverlabs.wordpress.com/>
<http://www.notosilverlabradors.com/>

To view known pedigrees of dilute labradors or dilute related labradors go to:

http://bellevueholidayrentals.com/labdb/pp_search.php?op=search&offset=0&gens=5&field=Color&pattern=beware&where=anywhere&orderby=name&db=pedigree&submit=Search+Now

Recognized Labrador Retriever Clubs support and endorse the position of the LRC and are committed to protecting and preserving the pure-bred Labrador Retriever.