



# Read about the Breed

Labrador Retriever

Sporting Group



**A Hallmark of the Lab is its Uniquely Tapered "Otter" Tail**

### Breed History:

- The Lab is a relatively new breed (19th Century) derived from Newfoundland dogs that aided fisherman with retrieving their nets.
- English nobles imported early Labs to England and honed their superior gun dog skills.
- AKC registered in 1917 and rapidly established itself as a field dog, service dog, and a valued companion in the U.S.



### Keys to the Breed:

- High Energy Indoors
- Special Exercise Needs
- Special Grooming Needs
- Good Watchdog
- Good with Kids

### Breed Characteristics:

- **Appearance** — Labs have a short, dense outer coat that covers a soft undercoat, providing the ability to weather extreme conditions. Coat colors are black, yellow, and chocolate.
- **Grooming** — The coat is naturally dirt and water repellent, and benefits from regular brushing with a bristle brush or hound glove. Baths should be infrequent, as they can dry the coat and skin. Teeth should be kept clean and nails trimmed.
- **Exercise** — Daily, vigorous walks are needed for these active dogs. Labs also enjoy a game of fetch on land or in the water.
- **Temperament** — Kindly, outgoing, eager to please, and non-aggressive toward people and other animals. The Lab's gentleness, intelligence, and adaptability make it an excellent companion.

### Vital Stats:

- **Size** — Dogs (males) stand 23-25 inches, bitches (females) 22-24 inches
- **Weight** — Dogs average 65-80 lbs, bitches 55-70 lbs
- **Life span** — About 10-12 years on average
- **Common Health Issues** — Hip dysplasia, osteochondritis dissecans, hypothyroidism, progressive retinal atrophy, cataracts, and epilepsy
- **Breed Club** — Labrador Retriever Club of America

Go to [www.northwestpets.com](http://www.northwestpets.com) for more breed profiles!

### AKC Standard Says:

*The Lab "is a strongly built... dog possessing a sound, athletic, well-balanced conformation."*