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The breed of the month is...

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## Labrador Retriever



### Breed History

The Labrador Retriever is one of the most common breeds of dogs owned in America and can trace its lineage back to 16<sup>th</sup> century Newfoundland. They were the fishermen's working dog, helping to carry ropes to the boats and retrieving fishing nets in the water. The Labrador's predecessor, the St. John's Water Dog, had tuxedo markings of a white chest, feet, chin and muzzle. This trait will occasionally be expressed in modern day Labradors with a white spot on the chest (which is known as a medallion) or stray white hairs on the feet and muzzle.



Valued for its loyal and brave personality, the Labrador Retriever is the quintessential dog. Friends with everyone, the Labrador makes a great family dog. Labradors love being outdoors and need plenty of exercise. They are excellent at the job they were bred to do; retrieving. If your family is not active hunters, then Labradors will retrieve sticks and balls to fulfill that natural instinct.

### Major Health Concerns

Labrador Retrievers are more prone to certain health concerns such as...

- ✓ [Hip Dysplasia](#)
- ✓ [Elbow dysplasia](#)
- ✓ [Exercise Induced Collapse](#)
- ✓ [Hypothyroidism](#)



- ✓ [Laryngeal Paralysis](#)
- ✓ [Ear Infections](#)
- ✓ [Foreign Body Ingestion](#)

To learn more about each of these health concerns click on each of the items listed above.

### **Preventative Care Recommendations**

Because Labradors are prone to ear infections, an owner should begin cleaning and handling the ears when they are puppies. This way when the ears are painful with an infection, they will be more tolerant.

Keep Labrador Retrievers at a lean body weight. Obesity can make joint problems such as hip dysplasia and respiratory problems such as laryngeal paralysis worse. If you have questions or concerns about what type of food to be feeding Labrador Retriever or how much to be feeding, please contact a veterinarian.

Labradors shed a lot! Regular brushing is helpful.

Labradors are happiest when they get to retrieve and have lots of exercise every day.



If you are interested in the breed standards for the Labrador Retriever go to the AKC breed index page [http://www.akc.org/breeds/labrador\\_retriever/index.cfm](http://www.akc.org/breeds/labrador_retriever/index.cfm) or the breed standards page [http://www.akc.org/breeds/labrador\\_retriever/breed\\_standard.cfm](http://www.akc.org/breeds/labrador_retriever/breed_standard.cfm)