

I continue doing this, each time extending the amount of time I expect her to stand still. Once she is reliably standing still, I'll work on her feet positioning by moving the food a little bit to get her to step forward. Experiment with this by moving the bait closer or farther from her, and to her left or to her right.

I have found it easiest to lead-train by using a retractable lead when pup is 9 or 10 weeks old. Pup will still have the instinct to follow, and because the lead offers just a little resistance, he won't fight it and will soon be walking along with you on a lead! If you have an older dog for pup to follow when you go for a walk, even better. After a few times walking on the retractable lead, pup will easily graduate to a regular show lead.

Now you can start putting it all together. When you take your pup for a walk, stop and hand-stack her once in a while, or ask her to bait for a treat. Practicing these things with distractions, in different places and in different sequences, will give your pup confidence to move on a lead, free-bait, and be hand stacked when she gets to her first show. And who knows, with pup showing like a champ, she may even win her first championship points!

—Jodi Quesnell, idiawteggups@isp.com

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America website: gwpc.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

Our Compassionate Therapy-Dog Chesapeakes

When we think of Chesapeakes, we think of tough, hard-driving "huntin' dogs." When our Chessies come in from the field, however, they are ready take on other jobs. They intuitively know how to empathize with a person in need and can make us feel better, no matter the situation. This month we are featuring Chesapeake Bay Retrievers who serve as therapy dogs.

There are many ways that therapy dogs make a difference. Some go to hospitals and nursing homes to comfort

the sick and dying. Pet-assisted therapy programs use dogs to encourage patients to relearn skills lost through accident or disease. Some dogs go to schools and libraries to listen to young readers hone their reading skills. Some relieve the stress for college students during exam time.

American Chesapeake Club president Joanne Silver and Am./Can./PR./World Ch. Silvercreek's I Love Lucy, JH, WC (B&B, TDJ), and Delta certified), made a difference by comforting families and workers from all across the United States affected by 9/11. At the memorial service at Ground Zero, Joanne and Lucy comforted families waiting to receive ashes from the towers. Lucy found a family with two little boys to entertain with tricks and hugs as their family waited. The boys returned from the children's care center with stuffed dogs as their gifts. One boy named his toy Lucy so he could remember his new friend when he returned home. By volunteering where they could, Joanne and Lucy did something to fight back.

Larry Lentz, a Naval Reservist from Mundelein, Illinois, takes his 6-year-old male, Moose (BIS GCh, Mud Creek Moose, RN, CGC, THD), to the Lake Forest Hospital. Moose entertains patients and brings them joy. For their exceptional volunteer efforts in 2012, Larry and Moose expect to receive the first ever Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Moose was the breed's second AKC THD. At the exam, Moose so impressed the tester that she changed her opinion of the breed forever.

Linda Sparrow takes Currituck, CGC, to schools and libraries in Raleigh, North Carolina, where children read to him. At the school, they began working with children with behavioral problems and developmental delays. Currituck and all types of children have a special connection. He knows what each child needs and is there to provide it. One mute child spoke for the first time to Currituck. Therapy dogs can

make miracles happen.

Amy Werneck and Ches-shores on the Severn, CGC, THD, participate in the animal-assisted therapy program at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Lewis plays games to help with the children's therapy to overcome their handicaps. They learn to grasp and throw a ball, take him for walks, groom him, and hide his toys and balls for him to find. These skills help them achieve their therapy goals. He brings a sense of home to the hospital and for the children missing their own pets. Amy gives each child a "baseball card" featuring Lewis as a special gift for their efforts. They live in Severna Park, Maryland, and do most of their volunteering in Baltimore.

My own dear Northcreek's Razzle Dazzler, VCD1, TDX, JH, RA, AX, OAJ, CGC, WC, THD, at 13 years old, once a week goes to the local school in San Diego to listen as children read to her. We watch the remarkable progress the children make in their reading skills as the year progresses. She has been listening intently for the past five years.

Charmaine Hammond, a renowned international transformational speaker, has written several books about her Chesapeake therapy dog, Toby. *Toby the Pet Therapy Dog and His Hospital Friends* and several more Toby books tell his story.

I can say that volunteering with my dogs at the school and hospital has given me more pleasure and satisfaction than anything else I do. I say thank you for allowing me to come into your lives. Try it.

—Audrey Austin,

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American Chesapeake Club website: amchessieclub.org

Curly-Coated Retrievers

Kathi Kostynick is our guest columnist this month and has owned Curly-Coated Retrievers since 1980. During that time she has enjoyed both conformation and obedience activities with her Curlies.

sporting **Handlers Gone Wild**

After watching numerous DVDs of our national specialties, I'm reminded how an unprepared handler can ruin the presentation of their dogs and create unintended disadvantages. An untrained owner-handler with an untrained and ill-groomed dog does our breed no favors. Running at top speed with open jacket flying and right arm flapping, without a clue as to what is going on, presents a poor picture to the judge.

All owner-handlers should attend a well-run conformation class to train themselves and their dogs. Also helpful is to attend shows or view them on TV—with an eye not on the dogs, but on the handling. Knowledge can be gained by watching any breed and by comparing the professional handlers to the amateurs.

Review your dog-showing apparel. Your clothes should complement your dog. To ensure a nice photo of your win, think twice about wearing a black skirt or slacks with your black Curly. Leave the jangling jewelry at home, along with the too-full skirt or other items that might distract your dog or get caught on your dog or in your lead. Button your jacket before entering the ring, and avoid looking like an albatross about to take flight. Give your armband a twist forward so the number will be easier for the judge and gallery to read.

Before entering the ring, note the judge's procedure. Know ahead where to stand and the gaiting pattern. Note that running at top speed is not required. Showing a Curly in breed judging is not like being in a horse race.

Once in the ring, respect the showing space of the other entrants, and don't run up on or stack your dog on top of the dog ahead of you. If your bitch is in heat, tell the judge before the individual exam. Before gaiting, line your dog's rear up with the judge, not your own rear. You should have already trained your dog to be accustomed to other dogs running behind him or her. Do not show a spooky dog.

Leave your "patterned" dogs at home and alter them. ("Patterning," or a lack of correct coat in certain areas such as the rear thighs or in a "V" shape under the neck, is a fault in our breed, and it shows up like neon on videos.) Choose a lead of suitable length to avoid having it flop around as you gait. Keep your right arm still and no higher than 45 degrees up from your side for showing a Curly. If you're unable to do this, stick your hand in your pocket.

My all-time pet peeves include throwing bait on the ground, whereby the next dog will make a dive for your liver. Don't scratch your dog under his tail in an effort to get him to raise it; the overall image is only worsened by that move. Please don't move your dog into position by picking him up under the stomach—or worse, lifting him from underneath with your foot. It looks terrible.

In the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch classes, the handlers of the offspring wear armbands, as do the handlers of the parents, and all dogs are examined. However, quality is judged on the offspring alone. For the awarding of ribbons, only the sires or dams stay in the ring while the offspring exit.

Don't put your dog at a disadvantage. Brush up your handling to achieve a calm and classy presentation and perhaps reap some well-deserved wins. — K.K.

Thanks, Kathi, for your helpful hints for showing our Curlies.

—Ann Shinkle, annshinkle@aol.com

Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America website: ccra.org

Flat-Coated Retrievers

Judging the Flat-Coat—Not a Square Breed

Flat-Coated Retriever breed standards through the years have always described the Flat-Coat as "longer than tall."

"Square" breeds describe the proportions of the dog as the height of the dog at the withers being equal to the body length of the dog. So the

founders of the Flat-Coat as a breed felt that the Flat-Coat should be longer in the body than his height at the withers.

They provided very sound arguments for why this was a more practical shape for the breed: They wanted the length of body to be in the rib cage, so as to provide plenty of space for body organs. They felt that shortening the length of body would result in the shortening of the rib cage, and that when they tried to get the length of body back, they couldn't get back the original length of rib cage.

Many breeds described as "square" have a deep chest combined with a noticeable tuck-up. This body shape has sometimes been associated with a greater incidence of gastric torsion, or bloat, especially in the large and giant breeds.

The prominence of the prow on the Flat-Coat, called for in the breed standard, also adds to the appearance of length of body. The prominent prow usually indicates a well-laid-back shoulder and generous length of upper arm, which contribute to the easy, reaching gait of the Flat-Coat.

We have found that the breeders who founded the breed were very practical in a great many respects. I was chair of the committee that wrote the current breed standard. We didn't want to change the previous breed standard in any respect. Our purpose was simply to describe the dog in greater detail for people in this country who were unfamiliar with the breed. As we studied the history of the breed and other breed standards, we developed even more respect for the breeders responsible for developing the Flat-Coated Retriever.

The necessity for the long, broad, and deep muzzle called for in the standard has been questioned as being a "fancy point" not really practical for a retriever. I recall a Best of Winners dog at a national specialty held here in Denver. It was not unusual for him to retrieve over a hundred ducks and geese in a day for a party of hunters in rough terrain in Montana. A lot of dogs