

technically meet the breed standard, with liver head and ears, if such a dog is bred, he is very likely to produce mismatch puppies, even when bred to a normally marked dog. So for breeding purposes, this type of dog should be considered a mismatch and be expected to produce large numbers of mismarks. —J.Q.

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, gupca.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

The ACC Charitable Trust

What is a charitable trust, and why is it important? The ACC Charitable Trust (ACCCT) was formed to accept tax-deductible contributions, not taxable to the trust. The trust supports so many valuable projects for the Chesapeake breed, I thought we should showcase it.

The ACCCT was formed in 2000 to accept deductible donations to fund four categories, general, health, rescue, and education. Nine trustees and a treasurer work together to disburse these donations. Annually the ACC uses the membership renewal forms to solicit donations from the membership as well as other Chesapeake enthusiasts and fundraisers.

The ACCCT mission statement:

1. To foster and promote the public's knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general, and the Chesapeake Bay Retriever in particular.

2. To further understanding of the diseases, genetic anomalies, and injuries that affect dogs in general and Chesapeake Bay Retrievers in particular.

To support and promote the study of and research on the history, character, breeding, and genetic and particular health problems of the Chesapeake Bay Retriever.

4. To establish and maintain data bases in support of charitable, educational, research, and rescue efforts.

5. To develop information and

make available to the general public, Chesapeake Bay Retriever breeders, veterinarians and other dog care/training professionals, and exhibitors the treatment, breeding, health characteristics, physical development, and appropriate behavioral training of Chesapeake Bay Retrievers.

6. To educate the public, breeders, and fanciers on responsible dog ownership, including spaying and neutering of pets, and to ensure the humane and effective rescue of any Chesapeake Bay Retriever in need.

How are the trustees allocating the funds? The ACCCT works with the ACC Health Committee on various health projects and research as well as the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

A significant Chesapeake health survey was conducted with excellent response. The ACCCT worked with Dr. Sam Long, and eventually with Dr. Joan Coatco with the University of Missouri, developing a DNA test for degenerative myelopathy (DM) for Chessies. Over 2,500 dogs were tested, allowing breeders to avoid producing this devastating disease.

Research of DM is ongoing and will benefit humans also. Canine DM has been found to be similar to ALS in humans. Many breeds are now routinely testing for DM and the ACCCT remains involved with this research. The trust has supported research on bloat, cancer, and regenerative medicine. Recent grants were given for regenerative medicine and lymphoma. To date ACCCT has donated over \$50,000 for health projects.

The ACCCT is the sole support for ACC rescue. In addition, we work with other CBR rescue groups, as well as individuals who may need financial assistance with a rescued Chessie. Many wonderful and deserving CBRs have been saved and gone on to new homes.

Sweet Pea, the three-legged Chesapeake featured in a past GAZETTE column, is one of them. Another recent case involved a 2-year-old male who was dropped at the door of a rescuer. He was in very poor condition, with both knees so bad he could hardly stand. He had surgery on both knees, and months of rehab by his rescuer. "Hooper" went to a new home with a longtime Chessie owner, where he is much loved and doing great. ACCCT has spent \$67,000 to date on rescued Chesapeake Bay Retrievers.

Education: Dr Chris Zink, an award-winning author and consultant on canine sports medicine for rehabilitation and conditioning, presented a well-received seminar at the national specialty. It was recorded and hopefully will be available to the membership.

All these projects are possible through the generous donations from Chesapeake Bay Retrievers owners and lovers.

—Audrey Austin,

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AmChessieClub.org

Curly-Coated Retrievers

Back to Obedience?

My mature, 9-year-old Curly-Coated Retriever is causing me to really ponder whether or not to try her again in the obedience ring. She has not been entered in obedience for a few years. At the time when she was entered in trials, she appeared to be stressed and/or bored. However, now with the newer classes being offered at trials, why not give it one more try?

I have recently started attending a Versatility class and find it very interesting. Never before have I had the opportunity to attend this particular class given by an obedience club. The instructor is fast-working;

no time wasted here! I have noticed, over the years, that Curlies enjoy variety—not too much repetition and short, quick training sessions seem to be more appealing to them. This might be a chance to have her again step into the obedience ring, and I plan to enter her in the Versatility class in the very near future.

The owner of my mature bitch's sister, a few years ago, found it necessary to enter the B classes in Open obedience, as her bitch did not care for the heeling that came first in Open A. She had become bored with too much heeling, and some of the different orders of exercises offered in the B classes certainly appealed to this bitch much more. She was able to earn her Open title by entering the Open B classes.

While I am on the subject of the variety of classes now offered in many obedience trials, I have really enjoyed being able to take advantage of the Optional Titling classes. I have entered my younger bitch in classes that did not necessarily offer her more difficult exercises but did offer her some different exercises that appeared to be more enjoyable for her. I know that I am always preaching this, but any new activity performed with my dog also gives *me* the opportunity to keep my mind active.

I would just like to add to the above discussion about obedience opportunities that we also have a Curly-Coated Retriever outstanding yearly event in April called Curlyville, for all of us who are interested in learning how to train our Curlies for field events. I recently attended the very worthwhile Curlyville event offered in Beth Page, Tennessee, this past spring. It was, as usual, a wonderful opportunity for Curly owners to take advantage of the excellent few days of field training. Following three days of preparation for the

WC, WCX, and WCQ tests offered, our Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America breed field events took place. Many of the young and inexperienced Curlies did very well in the WC, and quite a few more experienced Curlies qualified in the higher levels. This event has grown tremendously in the past few years. Many thanks go out to all the people who did so much to make it a big success. The grounds are lovely there in Tennessee and the level of instruction outstanding.

—Ann Shinkle,
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Flat-Coated Retrievers

Balance in the Flat-Coated Retriever

A lot has been written about the fact that a Flat Coated Retriever should be longer than tall (with length of body in the rib cage, not the loin) but very little about the Flat-Coat being the same width at the chest, the rib spring, and the hindquarters.

There had been a tendency in the past, which we are beginning to see again, to value the Flat-Coat who has a broader front and rib spring than rear. Decades ago, this led to wide fronts in Flat-Coats that caused the dog to toe in more as he or she matured and aged. At that time, some of us had to sell finished champions as pets to be neutered or spayed because they toed in so badly. However, we don't want the Flat-Coat to be so narrow in front that both legs appear to be "coming out of one hole." The Flat-Coat should simply be no wider at the chest or the rib spring than at the hindquarters.

The Flat-Coat has a chest that is deep rather than wide, but not to an extreme. The Flat-Coat also has a prominent prow, or forechest. The

deep chest and prominent forechest are typically seen on a dog with good layback of shoulder, all called for by the breed standard. In addition, the illustrated standard calls for a Flat-Coat who is the same width at the chest, body, and hindquarters.

We are not looking for a broad rear or a broad dog. We simply do not want the chest and/or body to be broader than the hindquarters.

Throughout the history of the Flat-Coat, we have had a similar lack of balance problem with the movement of the Flat-Coat as viewed from the side. As with the broad front, some have found the over-angulated rear attractive. The well-laid-back shoulder and good front reach are far more difficult to attain. So we learned to breed for the best front reach we could on an otherwise sound and typey working Flat-Coat, and then bred for the rear that would be in balance with that front reach.

It is very difficult to breed for all the physical attributes that we look for in a Flat-Coat, while breeding for the good temperament and working ability as well. That takes us back to the purpose for which the breed was bred originally: a companion hunting retriever. The dog who was working had to be built efficiently to do the job—not just for a test or a trial, but to work for a good part of the day. A dog built for efficiency in body build and movement lasts longer in the field and has a longer working life span. Breeders originally bred for an intelligent, social, tractable, and long-lived dog as well, because they were easier to live with and train.

When I first started breeding, it was common for Flat-Coats to live from 12 to 14 years of age. The original breeders were very practical. They wanted balance even in the head, where they wanted as long, broad, and deep a muzzle as possible to balance the length of the skull—a