

SPORTING GROUP

Chesapeakes, which is now shared by me and my siblings. I could not begin to count how many families have adored this breed and carry on the tradition over multiple generations. Over many years of showing in conformation, I have discussed experiences with judges who have had pleasant experience with the breed. The late William Kendrick befriended a Chesapeake when he was a child. Dr. Harry Smith's father owned Chesapeakes and used them as hunting dogs. Both Mr. Kendrick and Dr. Smith always have had a special feeling toward the breed.

What is it about Chesapeakes that appeal to special people? They are a biddable breed and are individualistic, with personality; they are protective and adoring with children, comical with their famous snicker smile, playful with balls and other child toys, and loyal and loving to the owner and the family. They are proven as a fantastic hunting dog, especially in cold waters, with all-day stamina for the duck hunter. They perform well in field events, obedience, tracking, and agility. There are numerous cases of heroic rescue of children by the Chesapeake.

Chesapeakes are a hearty breed, with a typical lifespan of 13 to 14 years. The loss of the family pet is always heart wrenching, subsequent to which many families carry on with a new addition—a Chesapeake puppy. The care

and rearing of the puppy is always a rewarding experience, with the milestones of the first swim, the first retrieve, and the dog-person relationship that develops so quickly.

I recall wrestling as a child with Chesapeakes on the floor, the family soccer-ball-chasing games with the dogs, the swimming events, and talking at them to get them to snicker and smile. Always lovable, they sought attention and petting, would jump up and lick you, and would just always be glad to see you when you came home. —*N.H., 2011*

American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers

This month, Jenny Dickinson shares with us more about obedience training. Jenny says, "First I want to say that the Curly-Coated Retriever's raw talent for learning means that challenges can be resolved." Her column follows.

BACK TO ATTENTION

My charming 3½-year-old intact male Curly is girl crazy! We take classes at several training centers with different groups of obedience dogs, and Billy can barely contain himself around the females—all of whom are spayed. He might leave me briefly during an exercise, sniff the floor as though he were tracking, and

otherwise respond to his own impulse. This became so frustrating that, instead of constantly correcting him, I stopped all the fun Open and Utility exercises and began to focus exclusively on *attention!*

I have the original Janice DeMello attention book, which I learned from 30 years ago with my Rottweilers. I have now gone back to using a pinch collar for the very first time while training Billy. At fist he was a little unnerved with the collar, but with big chunks of meat used to entice him, he bought right into the process (I am a very generous food provider)! I still use generous chunks of beef—not from my mouth or pocket, but from a plate just outside the ring—for a reward after each effort. Billy now takes delight in our daily practice.

We take fewer than three steps forward at this point. I am not going back to tolerating half-baked attention. I do not care how long it takes to get back to a full-length heeling routine. I know that my boy is smart and capable enough to resume his other skills when we get back to this "revision" in our process. I always

go back to foundation work when I am not sure what to do. I do not think that it is ever a waste of time to work on *attention*. Andy Vaughn used to say that heeling is an attention exercise. I think that is right, as if attention falls apart, you have got a mess!

Billy's challenge may be girl craziness, but I have enormous faith in my dog. The Curly



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trait of enjoyment in learning makes me certain of eventual success. —J.D.

Thank you, Jenny, for sharing your valuable training ideas. Sometimes one needs to step back and use a new approach, and you have done just that!

—Ann Shinkle,

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Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

Golden Retrievers

INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN RESCUE

There is growing concern within the dog-owning community over rescued dogs imported from Europe and other foreign countries. Many bring with them a number of highly communicable canine diseases, such as brucellosis, canine influenza, rabies, and heartworm. One young dog imported from South Korea was infected with the Asian-1 strain of canine distemper, a virus hitherto unseen in the U.S. It is suspected that the infected animal was rescued from a Korean dog meat farm, one of many that supply dog meat markets in South Korea and other Asian countries.

Thousands of dogs, purebreds as well as strays, are brutally slaughtered annually to support the dog meat industry, with Golden Retrievers among those victims. One rescue



organization in Florida is working to save as many Goldens as possible from the plight of the Korean dogs.

Since 2015, the Golden Retriever Rescue of Southwest Florida (GRRSWF) has imported 44 Goldens from South Korea. Mark Dahlberg, GRRSWF international rescue coordinator, has personally picked up each of those dogs from three Florida airports. “Prior to 2015, I was unaware of the local South Korean animal

rescue efforts. I did not understand the depth of the animal cruelty crisis or the dedication of those working to eradicate it.”

Mr. Dahlberg discovered those rescue efforts through a chance encounter on social media that ultimately led to almost-daily communication between Dahlberg and the South Korean rescue groups.

Some of the rescued dogs are found in situations similar to dogs here, surrendered by their

owners, strays living on the streets, or barely surviving in rudimentary shelters that border on inhumane. Others are rescued from the dog-meat industry. Rescue volunteers foster as many dogs as possible, some in homes and others in kennels. All the dogs receive veterinary care while waiting for flight arrangements to the United States, and all are issued the necessary health certificates before they leave the country. Flight arrangements can take up to several months and can cost up to \$1,200. GRRSWF relies heavily on donations and sponsors to meet that cost.

Upon arrival here, the dogs are transported to Angel Animal Hospital in North Naples for a complete wellness check. Once cleared, they are placed with families on the rescue waiting list.

“Many communities throughout Southwest Florida have weekly farmers markets,” Dahlberg said, “and the same is true about towns and cities in South Korea. The difference, however, is that dogs and dog meat are available in the overseas venues. The cruelty imparted on these helpless pups is beyond written description.” His hope is that through social media and the ease of international travel, “the next generation of South Koreans realize that this practice no longer has a place in the 21st century.”

GRRSWF rescue president, Alesia Griffith,