

the breed standard, with liver head and ears, if such a dog is bred, he is very likely to produce mismark puppies, even when bred to a normally marked dog. So for breeding purposes, this type of dog should be considered a mismark and be expected to produce large numbers of mismarks. —Jodi Quesnell; [idaiviregups@gmail.com](mailto:idaiviregups@gmail.com); German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America website: [gwpc.ca](http://gwpc.ca)

## Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

### Disqualifications

Many breeds have only one or two disqualifications mentioned in the standard, while some breeds don't have any. A number of others, however, list quite a few "DQs." The Chesapeake is among those breeds. The breed's disqualifications are as follows:

- *Specimens lacking in breed characteristics.* Note that *characteristics* is plural, meaning the dog in question has to be lacking at least two type features. Rose ears, a sloping topline, and cat feet are just three examples of features of incorrect type. If a dog is in poor, unhealthy condition or is of poor quality but does not lack breed characteristics, it is more appropriate for the judge to withhold a ribbon for lack of merit rather than to disqualify the dog. In cases where there is minor deviation, the severity of the fault must be considered and weighed against the competition.

- *Teeth undershot or overshot.*

Undershot is an incorrect bite where the lower jaw extends out past the upper jaw; overshot is having the upper teeth projecting beyond the lower jaw in an extended way. A scissors bite is preferred in the breed, and even bites are acceptable.

- *Dewclaws on the hind legs.* When a Chesapeake is born with dewclaws, the breeder is expected to remove hind-leg dewclaws soon after birth. They can be removed later, but this is more of an ordeal. Judges must disqualify a dog who competes in the ring with a dew-claw on the hind leg. They are not to disqualify if a bump remains from the

removal, however.

- *Coat curly or with a tendency to curl all over the body.* Basically, the dog's coat should not resemble that of a Curly Coated Retriever. Avoid a coat with excessive ringlets throughout. On the other hand, a short, thick coat that has a kinky appearance and consists of short waves is a quality coat and should not be mistaken for a curly coat. The length of wave varies, but it should never be greater than one-and-a-half inches.

- *Feathering on the tail or legs over one and three-quarters inch long.* The hair on the tail may not be measured or stretched out by hand. This is a judgment call that should be determined strictly by appearance.

- *Black colored.* "Black colored" could be solid or spotted. In any case a black dog will have a black nose. Do not be confused by extremely dark hairs in the coat; typically these hairs are actually extremely dark brown. In this case it does not disqualify.

- *White on any part of the body except breast, belly, toes, or back of feet.* Therefore any white above the breast as it is anatomically structured is a disqualification—that is, any white on the neck area. Also any white on the head, beyond the toes, above the back of the foot anatomically, or in the form of spots on the body (with the exception of those body parts specified as allowable) and tail all must be disqualified. Always determine this disqualification in terms of spots. Strays hairs that are white or white from scarring or age should not be considered a fault or disqualification.

As always, comments can be e-mailed to me at [kcb01@yahoo.com](mailto:kcb01@yahoo.com). — Nat Horn; [kcb01@yahoo.com](mailto:kcb01@yahoo.com); American Chesapeake Club website: [amchesieclub.org](http://amchesieclub.org)

## Curly-Coated Retrievers

### Puppy Musings

My Curly bitch recently whelped a litter, and the new owners communicate very often with one another on our own litter website. I

highly recommend creation of such a site for anyone producing a litter, as the exchange of information has been very worthwhile. As the breeder of the litter, I never had thought of doing this, but one of the new puppy owners did, and it has worked out beautifully. Following are some of the ideas that have been shared on the site, and I am happy to pass them along.

We had observed that the pups often tear apart soft stuffed toys and remove the stuffing, which causes a mess. For some pups, Kathi Kostynick suggested that a better idea may be to give them the "road kill"—type toys. These are long, flat, unstuffed toys in animal shapes and are super for Curlies. She believes that they like having these "prey" hang from their mouths as real game does. I know that my pup certainly loves this type of toy.

Kathi also shared with us her method of making "flossies," which are similar to the road-kill toys but are not in animal shapes. To make a flossie, buy a half-yard of fleece and cut it into six long strips. Then knot three pieces together at the end, and braid to halfway. Then she knots again, braids, and knots the other end.

Another reminder for puppy owners came from me, as I recalled what had happened at an obedience trial a few years ago. The trial was held in a very crowded building, and there was not enough room on the first floor for crates, dogs, and their owners. Many handlers and dogs had to take their equipment and dogs upstairs, and I was amazed at the number of dogs who had to be carried up the stairs because they had never been introduced to using stairs when a pup. Be sure to teach your pup to use stairs while he's young.

We who own retrievers should think ahead when having our pup retrieve an object. Do not remove the item from his mouth right away when he returns to you. This could lead to his running away with his prize in the future. Instead, when pup returns, gently stroke his neck or chest for a moment, and then remove the retrieved item.

Sometimes give it right back to him, sometimes keep it—and always give lots of praise.

In the future, I hope to have more ideas to share. —Ann Shinkle; [annshinkle@aol.com](mailto:annshinkle@aol.com); Curly Coated Retriever Club of America website: [ccra.org](http://ccra.org)

## Flat-Coated Retrievers

### Rehoming the Adult Flat-Coat PART ONE

The Flat-Coat is a friendly but very loyal dog. All dogs are creatures of habit, and every change of homes causes the dog to feel more anxious and insecure. Therefore changes should be accomplished with careful thought and planning. Be sure that the dog going to a new owner is an appropriate choice for the new home.

It is very helpful to have preliminary visits and work sessions between the dog and the prospective owner or family, including any pets, but the preliminary visits should not include any separations from the former owner or foster family. Once the dog changes homes, there should be no visits with the former owner, as these only upset and confuse the dog.

The Flat-Coat adjusts more easily if the change is done early in the day, since all dogs feel more insecure at night. Everything should be ready for the new dog in the home—food and water dishes, familiar food, a crate of size and type the dog is used to, and appropriate toys. The former owner or foster family should send to the new home a piece of bedding and/or toys with familiar scents to be kept with the dog for at least two weeks.

If the dog is being picked up by the new owner, there should be a pleasant visit, with the dog sitting for treats or biscuits for the new owner. The dog's play and training can then be demonstrated, and the lead handed over to the new owner, who then practices the play and training. From that point on there should be no attention from the owner or family giving up the dog, and the dog should be taken out to the car by

the new owner with cheerfulness and treats. Long goodbyes are not understood by the dog and only cause confusion. It is better if the new owner can keep the dog's undivided attention with the training and the treats. Most dogs settle down quickly once they are in a car that is moving, but it is easier if one of the new owners can ride in the back seat holding the dog's lead and attention while someone else drives.

If the dog is being delivered to the new home by the original owner, follow the same instruction, but when it is time for the new owner to take the dog away with training and treats, he or she should go out of sight and keep the dog busy while the former owner leaves, quickly and quietly. Under no circumstances should the dog ever be allowed to see or hear the former owner leave.

If the dog is being picked up at the airport, try to have the dog arrive so that you get home while it is still daylight. Give the dog a short training session when taking the dog out of the crate (in a closed room, in case the dog gets past you) with plenty of treats, and more training, treats and play when you first arrive home. Don't underestimate the importance of treats, training, and play to help the new dog feel secure.

To be continued. —Sally Terroux; [sjterroux@aol.com](mailto:sjterroux@aol.com); Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America website: [fersainc.org](http://fersainc.org)

## Golden Retrievers

### A Basic History Lesson

“Primarily a hunting dog ...” This, the beginning of the second sentence in the Golden Retriever's AKC standard, reflects the origins of the breed and the vision of its Scottish champion, Sir Dudley Marjoriebanks (later known as Lord Tweedmouth).

Most Golden owners know of the legendary Marjoriebanks, an ardent waterfowl enthusiast and dog breeder who dreamed of a canine hunting partner suited to the rough terrain and cold, rugged waters of the English sea-coast. Those lofty aspirations, in 1868, launched the historic breeding journey

of a superb hunting dog with a water-proof golden coat.

Fast-forward to the 21st-century Golden Retriever. The Golden's unique combination of beauty, biddability, and athleticism easily propelled the breed into the top 10 of AKC-registered breeds. And as its popularity surged, the breed morphed into the “do-it-all retriever”—with prowess in the field diminishing proportionately.

Enter the AKC Hunting Test program. Originally devised by hunting enthusiasts who were determined to provide a venue for the hunting retriever, the non-competitive testing program served an important need in the world of sporting dogs. As retriever field trials had grown more competitive and more expensive, many Golden owner/trial-hopefuls found they could no longer afford the time and money required to maintain a competitive field trial dog.

Hunt tests bridged that gap, offering wannabe trialers, as well as hunters, a chance to prove the working abilities of their dogs. The tests also encouraged conformation and obedience competitors, and even pet owners, to demonstrate the original purpose of their dogs.

Conversely, the testing process also inspired some test participants to venture into the intimidating world of field trials. Thrilled by the sight of their own or someone else's Golden flying through the tests with speed and style and working head-to-head with Labrador owners, some Golden owners wanted more—bigger challenges and more-competitive dogs. Having witnessed Goldens with superior intensity and drive working with true passion for the game, they promised themselves a dog like that one “next time.”

As the hunt-test program continues to grow, it can only benefit the Golden Retriever and bring him back to his roots as a superior hunting companion who can, indeed, do it all. —Nona Kilgore Bauer; [nona@nonabauer.com](mailto:nona@nonabauer.com); Golden Retriever Club of America website: [grca.org](http://grca.org)