

obedience, or other structured activities.

Only by being a strong leader and refusing to allow your GWP to manipulate you with his behavior, will you have a wonderful, well-adjusted, well-behaved, loving companion. GWPs are great pets, hunting partners, and performance dogs, but only if their owners are able to take charge of these strong-willed, German "working dogs."

—*Jodi Quesnell, Spearfish, S.D.*
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Chesapeakes and the Public

For many years the Chesapeake was a fairly obscure breed. Typically, if a Chesapeake owner walked his dog in public, most people would stop and ask, "What kind of dog is that?" Some would assume that the dog was another retriever breed, usually a Labrador. Times have changed, however. The Chesapeake has become a breed that most people recognize at a glance. Now an owner will hear, "That's a Chesapeake, right?"

We can attribute this to many factors, including dog shows, field events, the Internet, television, and periodicals. The breed's new popularity can be attributed to its attractive looks and temperament. Quite some time ago, the breed became the Maryland State Dog. He is also the mascot for the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus (UMBC). The UMBC basketball team is known as the Retrievers. Old artwork is coveted, and new artwork continues to appear. Our breed has appeared in television commercials and in magazine advertisements. Some of the ads are found in non-dog-related publications.

The Chesapeake is well known for his ability to work all day as he retrieves game in icy-cold waters and on land. He is a rugged dog designed to function in adverse conditions. Many devoted hunters would not have any other breed. He is a devoted companion and considered by many as the best family dog. Chesapeakes are both protective and good-natured with children. There

are numerous instances in which they have heroically saved lives. For years, Chesapeake fanciers and the American Chesapeake Club have made a strong effort to hold large-entry supported entries at benched shows. These include the Philadelphia Kennel Club, Detroit Kennel Club, International Kennel Club of Chicago, and the Golden Gate Kennel Club shows. These shows attract many spectators and provide the opportunity for exhibitors to represent their breed by making their dogs available to the community. This is a situation where the public can view well-bred animals from the standpoint of both attractive breed type and personality.

I recently judged the ACC-supported entry at the Detroit Kennel Club show. I enjoyed the judging, was pleased with the entry, and placed the dogs as I believed appropriate that day. I continue to be impressed with the effort that exhibitors take to educate the public about our breed. Many display artwork and pictures of the breed. They introduce individual dogs to spectators visiting the benching area. The dogs display the happy and good-natured temperaments that we all strive for.

The committee that put on the Detroit supported entry also held a Meet the Breed program for interested attendees. They introduced individual dogs and provided excellent commentary. It is important that the American Chesapeake Club continue this tradition. Providing spectators with the opportunity to get to know the Chesapeake Bay Retriever is good for the breed and enjoyable for those who participate.

You may contact me with questions or comments. —*Nathaniel Horn, Columbia, Md.*; kcboy0@yahoo.com ♦



Overcoming Submissive Behavior

I am not an expert on submissive behavior, but since I recently have had some experience with this, I shall

share what has worked for me.

I have owned Curly-Coated Retrievers for many years and never had one who was submissive. My latest pup was very friendly, but when approaching a new person would crouch down in submission. She would do this even when the stranger had a treat in his hand, and I was in a quandary about what to do.

A friend of mine who seems to always have a different approach to dog training gave me some good advice. She explained that my bitch needed to learn where to put her head when meeting new people. Therefore, she said, have her sit, and place your index and middle fingers under her chin at the apex of the mandibular bone (a V is formed there, right under the tip of the chin) and hold her head level. When she is in good position, then—and only then—the person who wished to pat her head should pet her. No treats should be given, as one wants the dog to learn how to greet strangers nicely (in the sitting position) without focusing on treats.

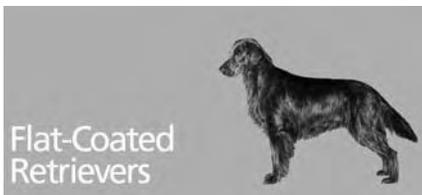
If you happen to own a young Curly who is rather submissive, it's always wise to arrive early when attending a dog event. Walking calmly around the grounds with your dog will get her used to the site, and she will be much less apprehensive when entering the showing or participating in other events.

Please note there is a difference between submissive behavior and the rather reserved attitude of many Curlies, especially during their first year. Many Curlies demonstrate a reserved demeanor when in a new place, and it is up to the new owner to socialize them as much as possible during the first months of ownership. This means taking the pup to new places, exposing the him to new sounds, such as gunfire from a distance, and experiencing new activities such as swimming and jumping over very low jumps of just four to six inches. Many young Curlies appear well adjusted in their homes, but when taken to new places they may be very apprehensive. As I have mentioned before, frequent trips outside the home to new places enable your Curly to develop into a well-adjusted adult.

Yes, owning a new pup takes up a lot

time, but taking time now will determine just how well adjusted your Curly will become as months go by.

—Ann Shinkle, Grand Island, Fla.;
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The Flat-Coated Retriever Head PART TWO

The best guidelines for examining and evaluating the Flat-Coat head are the two outline drawings that appear in our illustrated breed standard.

The Flat-Coat head should be evaluated from the side, as shown in one of the outline drawings, to judge the stop—which should be both minimal and very gradual. The brow over the eye is raised and if viewed from an angle it can appear to be a pronounced stop, which is a serious fault in the breed. Viewing the profile of the head from the side is also the only way to evaluate the relationship of skull to muzzle, and the depth of muzzle throughout its length. If a dog is lippy, be sure that you are evaluating the bone structure of the muzzle with the mouth closed and the lip moved out of the way. The top of the head should appear neither dished-face nor down-faced.

The other outline drawing shows the head, as viewed from above. This is how the top of the head should be studied. Hold the ears out of the way to evaluate the width at the back of the skull, which should be no wider than the width of the skull at the eyes.

There should be no dip or chiseling beneath the eyes, but as much fill as possible, creating as straight a line as possible down each side of the face.

There shouldn't be any bulgy cheeks; the Flat-Coat head has clean lines overall. The muzzle will never be as broad as the skull but should be as broad and as deep as possible, right down to the broad nostril. The scissors bite is preferred, but a level bite is acceptable. The jaws are long and strong with a broad, strong underjaw.

The occiput is not accentuated but

forms a gentle curve where it fits strongly into the neck.

Ears should be relatively small. Most Flat-Coat ears easily reach to the corner of the eye but are not pendulous or houndlike.

They are well feathered. The feathering can be trimmed to the outline of the ear and blended in with plucking or stripping, but the hair on the ear should never be trimmed short. The set of the ear is close to the side of the head.

When alert, the inside corner of the ear at the top is level with the top of the head and never higher. Nor is the ear ever low-set or houndlike.

Eyes are almond shaped, of medium size, and set widely apart. Raised, mobile brows give the Flat-Coat an intelligent and kind expression. Eye color is dark brown or hazel and, even with a liver dog, blends with the coat color. Eyes are not large or round or yellow in color. Eye-rims are tight and self-colored. The lips and the nose are also self-colored. When judging eye color on a young puppy, have the puppy held up facing the sun. This will help you to better judge the depth of the color. Tightness of eyelids can change as the puppy develops, but if the puppy has heavy flews (lips) he or she will probably have loose lower eyelids as well. —Sally J. Terroux, Arvada, Colo.; sjenterroux@aol.com ♦



Baiting

Standing outside a ring at a show recently, I overheard two people discussing what was going on in the ring. Both were obviously attending their first dog show. “Wow,” said the



Flat-Coated Retriever

first. “They must never feed their dogs before showing them so they have to feed them in the ring.” “Yes,” replied the other, “feeding must be an important part of showing because everyone is doing it.”

This got me thinking about baiting and the fact that, yes, it does seem that everyone's doing it and that it's become an integral part of showing. But why *do* people bait dogs? I'm never sure that exhibitors really know why they're doing it, except that “everyone else is doing it.”

Some people seem so focused on feeding the dog that they become oblivious to what the dog actually looks like while they blissfully feed away. Often the dog, in trying to get the food more quickly, has moved its legs into a very unflattering position. Rear legs are overstretched. Front feet turn in or out, yet the handler hardly seems to notice as she stuffs more food in the dog's mouth.

Flinging bait about the ring also seems a part of the exercise. Handlers throw bait around with abandon, and many never bother to pick it up. At a recent show, a handler in the next ring flung liver for his Great Dane directly into the path of the dogs gaiting in my ring! He did this several times, and I was forced to ask the steward in his ring to ask him to cease and desist.