

SPORTING GROUP

nal encouragement to earn a rally title. Obedience competition, with positive reinforcement, can keep your Chesapeake mentally and physically stimulated.

The sport of agility is such fun. Running, jumping, tunneling, weaving, and climbing an A-frame, a teeter-totter, and a dog walk will bring fun to a new level. Agility training keeps that Chessie challenged and engaged, while the owner gets lots of exercise as well.

A natural sport for a Chessie is the search-and-rescue game of tracking a stranger's scent to find articles the tracklayer dropped. In the field, plowing through cover, or following the scent through a park or college campus, the Chesapeake's nose goes to the ground as he finds that particular scent to earn tracking titles.

The fairly new sport of Nose Work is copied from detection-dog work. Finding hidden scents on cars, in rooms, in containers, and out in the open taps into the natural scenting abilities of a Chessie.

Another game made for Chesapeakes is dock diving. Give your dog a chance to leap off a dock for a retrieve and measure how far he can go. He will astound you with his physical ability and his love of water. Encouraging his prey drive, he can chase a lure around a course, or climb bales of hay to find hidden rats.

This intelligent breed welcomes anything

you ask of him. It will be answered with bright eyes, a wagging tail, and a "let's go!" attitude. A tired Chesapeake is a happy Chesapeake—and a very happy owner.

—Audrey Austin,
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Curly-Coated Retrievers

THEN AND NOW

I recently attended our yearly Curly-Coated Retriever field training event in Tennessee. This gave me the opportunity to observe many Curlies of all ages. I was aware, again, of how much our breed has improved over the past 25 or more years—not only in field ability, but also in overall type and conformation.

While there watching the Curlies perform, I started chatting with Mary Meek about how much our breed has improved. Mary is a long-time, well-respected breeder of Curlies, and I certainly appreciated her input regarding this subject.

We both agreed that there has been a lot of improvement in both conformation and attitude in our breed. Coats have improved a great deal, and our liver Curlies have excellent depth of color. Tight, crisp curls seem to be in abundance, and temperament has greatly improved. We see more bone and substance

now. I can recall how, many years ago, there were some refined and timid Curlies in the ring. When I visited England in the 1980s and saw how quite a few of the Curly-Coated Retrievers there had more substance, it was a learning experience for me. However, now, over the past few years, there has been a blending of many English, European, and U.S. lines, and I feel that this has been of great benefit.

We still need to pay close attention to some of the sloping croups and improper tail-set and carriage that might be on the increase in our breed, however. Quite a few years ago, two different well-known overseas breeders visited our national specialty shows at different times. Both of these ladies stressed to us then that we need to pay more attention to those rears. A Curly tail curved over the back or up in the air is not correct.

We also need to pay close attention to the fronts in our breed. In the future, I would appreciate Mary sharing her observations regarding the front assembly. And, thanks, Mary for sharing your ideas with me in this column.

On the whole, as stated previously, our breed is doing very well. We are doing a terrific job of training our versatile Curlies in many of the activities now offered by the AKC. There are many more performing in field activities—

both hunt tests as well as actually working with their owners to put food on the table. Every single time that you attend a function during which Curlies are entered, one can learn more about the form and function of our Curlies. When possible, attend our national specialties. Our 2017 national was just held July 6–16 in Madison, Ohio. Even if you do not presently own a Curly, at the national you will certainly learn more about our very versatile breed there, where more Curlies will be on display.

—Ann Shinkle
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 Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

Golden Retrievers

HEMANGIOSARCOMA BREAKTHROUGH

The following information was recently published in the *Golden Retriever News*, the official publication of the Golden Retriever Club of America. It is of such significant importance that we are sharing it in this column for those who do not have access to the *News*.

A breakthrough trial at the University of Minnesota (UMN) that tested a new UMN-developed drug resulted in improved survival rates for dogs diagnosed with a cancer called hemangiosarcoma (HSA), a common aggressive and incurable sarcoma. It begins as a