Judging the Labrador Retriever

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History and Development

- Originated and developed as all purpose fisherman's dog in Newfoundland from dogs of colonists and fishermen
- 'fog, cod and dogs'
- Imported into England by aristocrats and 'kept pure as possible'

History and Development

- Recognized KC 1903/AKC 1931
- Last import from NL 1932

Stranger

worldatlas
NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR
LOW
HILLS
MTS
Nunavut
Ungava Bay
Torngat Mts.
Mount Caubvick
Hebron
Labrador Peninsula
Labrador Sea
Nain
Labrador
Canadian Shield
Davis Inlet
Quebec
Aillik
Atlantic Ocean
Smallwood Reservoir
Naskaupi River
West Bay
Lake Melville
Churchill Falls
Labrador City
Goose Bay
Churchill River
Ashuanipi Lake
Atikonak Lake
Macatina River
Port Hope Simpson
Fox Harbor
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150 mi
150 km
Natashquan River
Goose Cove
Strait of Belle Isle
Newfoundland
Long Range Mts.
White Bay
Notre Dame Bay
Bonavista Bay
Trinity Bay
Conception Bay
Grand Lake
Gander Bay
Ile d' Anticosti
St. Lawrence
Quebec
St. George's Bay
Corner Brook
Red Indian Lake
St. Alban's
Gulf of St. Lawrence
Cape Ray
Burgeo
St. John's
Mt. Pearl
Cabot Strait
Fortune Bay
Placentia Bay
Saint Pierre & Miquelon
ME
New Brunswick
P.E.I.
NS

History Matters: Form Follows Function

- Waterdog (18,000 plus miles of coastline)
- ‘The Rock’
- Coat
- Versatility
- Temperament
- Weight

Field vs Show

- English Labrador
- American Labrador
- Conformation Labradors same around the world

Sandylands Tweed of Blaircourt

Two Types in 1960's

Essentials in Judging

- Outline
- Coat
- Tail
- Head
- Soundness
- Temperament

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Fischer

Outline

- Height to Length approx 1 to 1
- Withers to elbow / elbow to ground 1 to 1
- Chest approx to elbow
- Top line straight and level
- Good angles
- Short coupled
- Medium Sized
- Tail set off top line
- Good reach of neck
- Underline approx straight

Coat

- Double coated: water & weather resistant
- Top coat short, straight (slight wave down back acceptable), **hard** to touch
- Undercoat soft, dense
- In-coat gives rounded appearance
- Colors: whole color black, yellow, chocolate (small white spot on chest permitted but not desirable)

Fox Red Labrador

- This is a very old and traditional color, although not now seen as frequently
- Note acceptable lighter markings in coat

Light Yellow

- Light yellow
- Even lighter is acceptable
- Note darker yellow on ears, and tip of tail
- Hocks, line down back will also often be darker

Chocolate

- Chocolate can go from dark to light
- Choc when shedding can appear very ‘patchy’
- Should be able to tell texture of outer coat and presence of undercoat

Tail: Distinctive Feature

- “Otter” Tail
- “Wrapped” Tail
- Round, short, thick
- Thick at base
- Tapering to tip
- Extension of top line
- Carried no more than 35 degrees off top line
- Not ‘bushy’

Other Body Considerations

- Powerful rear
- Well turned stifle/hock
- Feet strong, compact
- Rear toes slightly behind point of rump

Other Body Characteristics

- Good spring of ribs/not barrel
- Moderately wide chest
- Strong bone

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G. Huntzinger

Head Essential Characteristic

- Head clean cut
- Skull wide, well developed
- Skull/muzzle 50/50 approximately
- Muzzle tapers slightly
- Moderate stop
- Parallel planes
- Clean ‘dry’ mouth

Expression

- Eyes kind, friendly, intelligent expression
- Medium, set well apart
- Color: brown in black & yellow; brown/hazel in choc
- Eye rims black in black & yellow, brown in choc

Head Features

- Nose well developed
- Jaws strong
- Ears close to head, set far back, not ‘houndy’
- Teeth, scissors, level acceptable, full dentition preferred
- Over, under, misaligned, missing molars/pre-molars serious faults

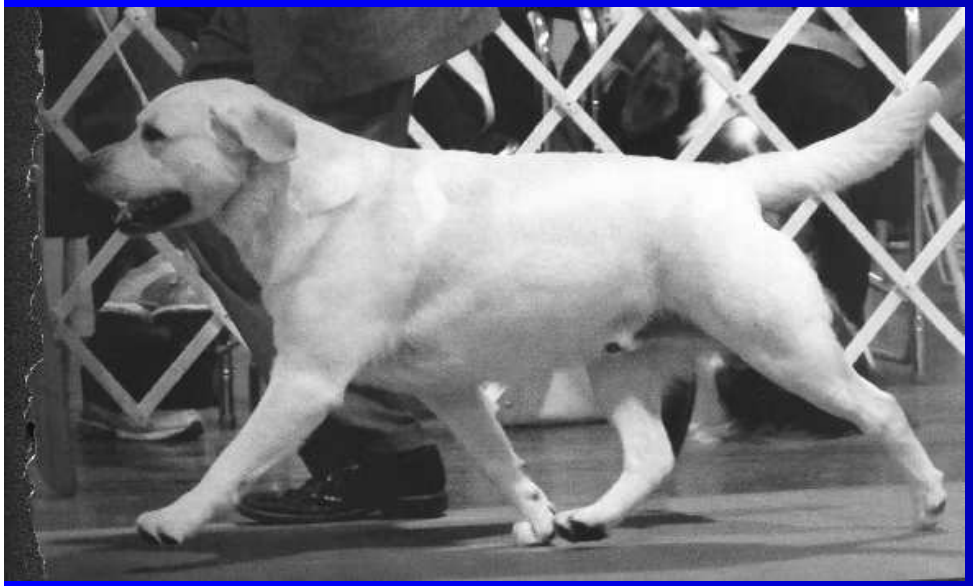
Standard Phrases

- Strong, well muscled body / compact
- Broad chest / powerful hindquarters
- Sturdy constitution
- Athletic / agile
- Medium sized / balanced
- Intelligent / willing, trainable mind

Movement

- Free, effortless, powerful
- Not TRAD
- Not a setter or pointer

Movement



- Capable of working all day with great bursts of speed
- Athletic

Disqualifications

- A thoroughly pink nose or one lacking in any pigment
- Eye rims without pigment
- This does not mean ‘snow noses’ where pigment fades due to weather or age

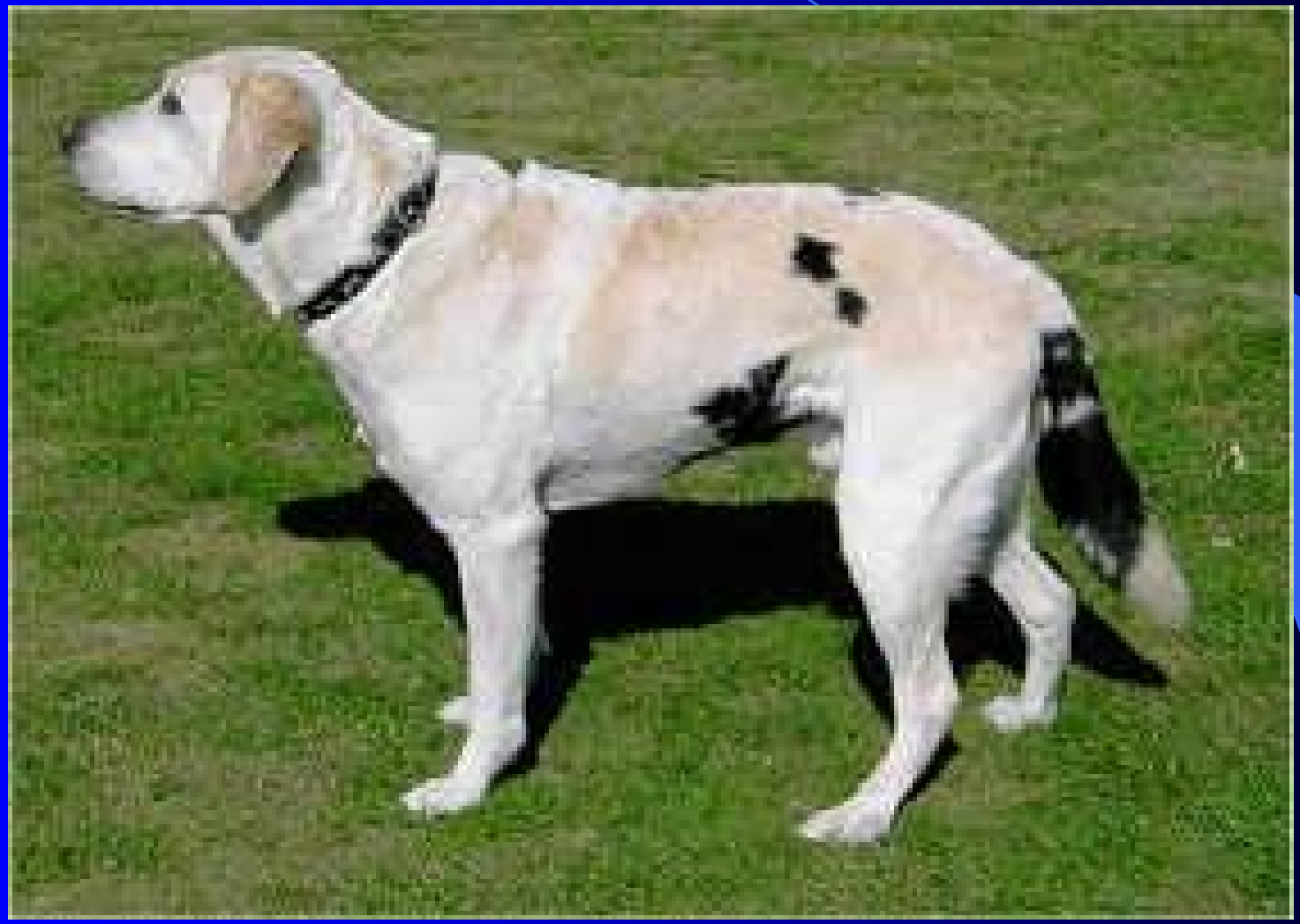
Fading Pigment Common

Disqualifications

- Any deviation from the height prescribed
- Dogs 22.5 – 24.5
- Bitches 21.5 – 23.5
- Plus/minus .5
- Docking or altering carriage of tail
- Any color or combination other than 3 solid colors prescribed

Mismark

Mismark



Temperament

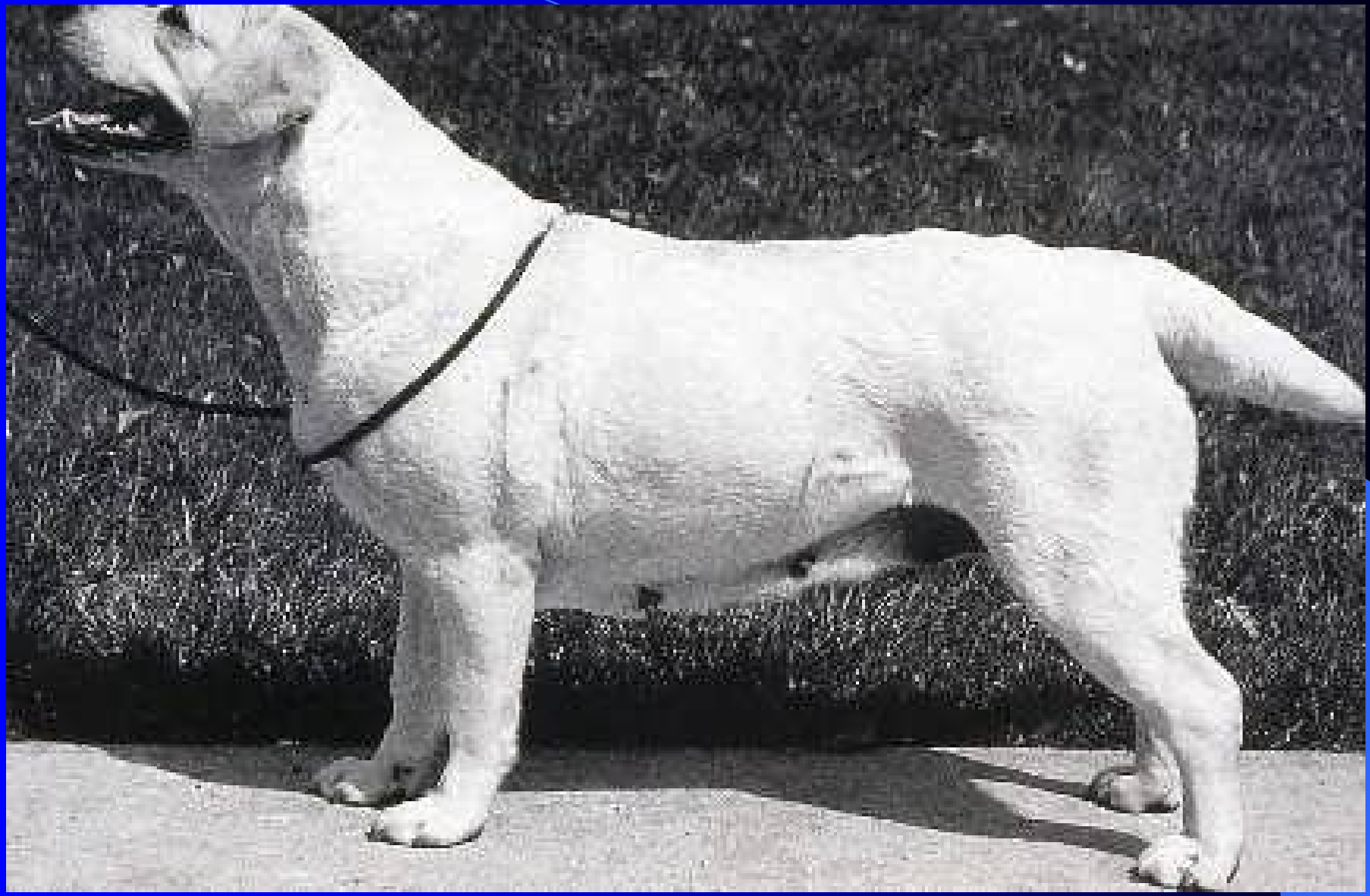
- Most important breed essential
- Kindly, outgoing, tractable
- Intelligent, stable
- Eager to please, non-aggressive
- Do not tolerate temperament faults, severely penalize

Problems in the Breed

- Low on leg
- Too coarse heads/incorrect expressions
- Short upper arms
- Poor shoulder layback
- Low set tails
- Dippy top lines/rounded croups

Weight and Substance

- The Kennel Club: Fit for Function
- Weight/substance
- AKC Standard weights
- Dogs 65 – 80 pounds
- Bitches 55 – 70 pounds



Arched loin / low set tail

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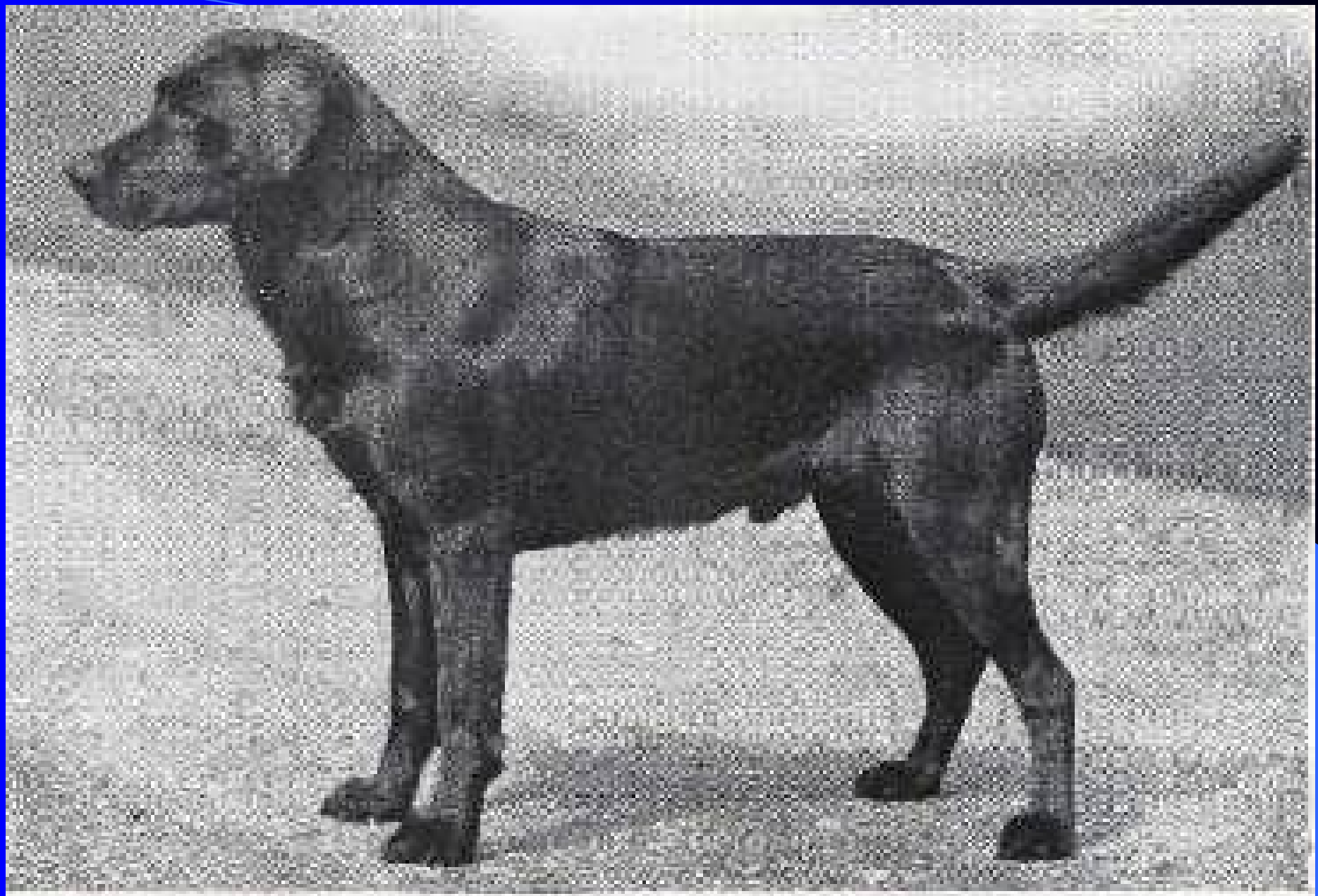
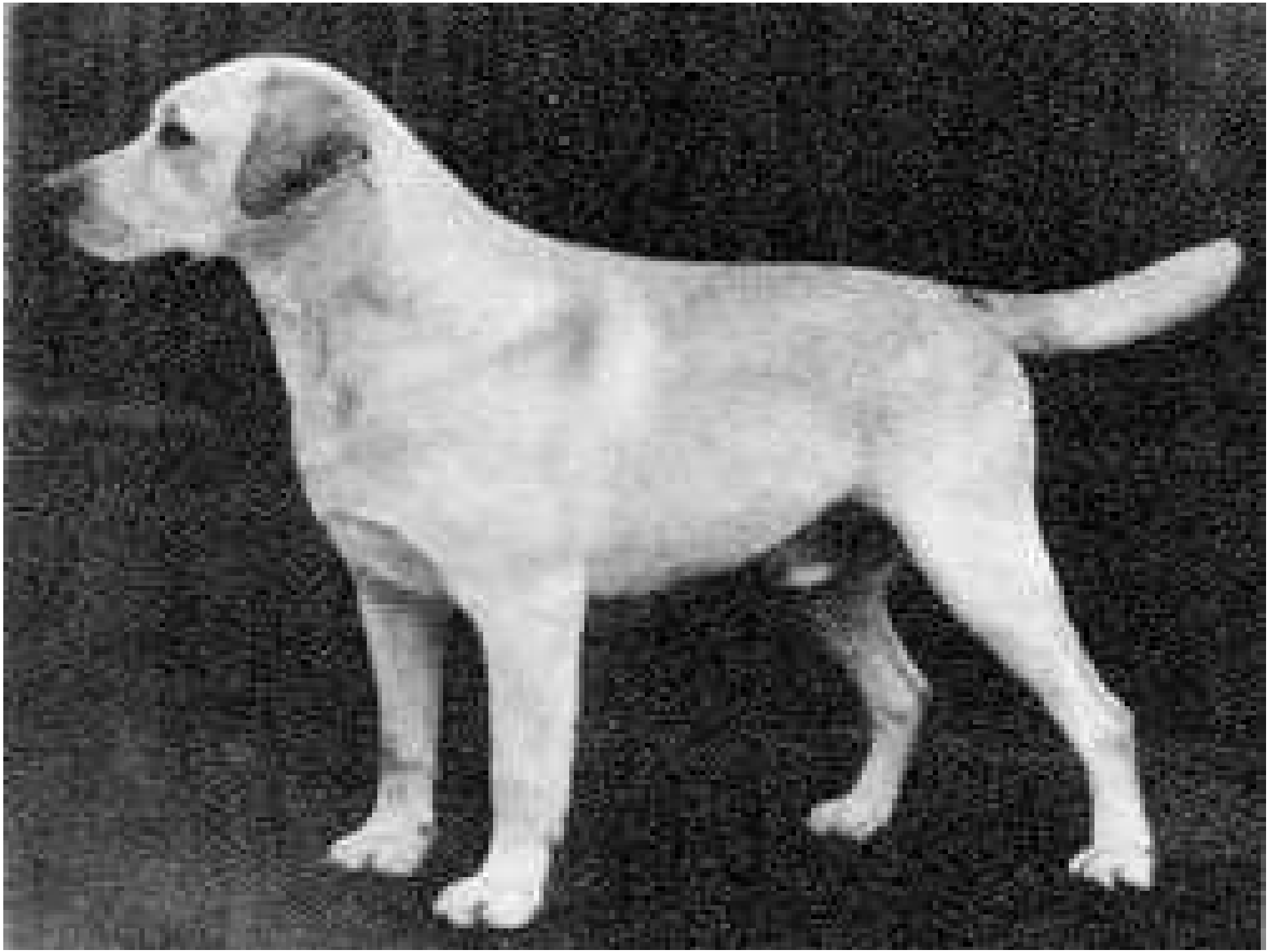
BEST PUPPY
BREED
CARROLL
COUNTY
KENNEL
CLUB

Common Health Problems

- Hip/Elbow Dysplasia
- Retinal Dysplasia
- Progressive Retinal Atrophy
- Cataracts
- Allergies
- Osteochondritis Dissecans



DUAL CHAMPION BRAMSHAW BOB



RETRIEVER COMPARISONS

Lab:	Chesapeake:	Golden:	Flat:
Height: DQ D: 22.5-24.5 (+/- .5) B: 21.5-23.5 (+/- .5)	Height: D: 23 – 26 B: 21 – 24	Height: DQ D: 23-24 (+/- 1) B: 21.5-22.5 (+/- 1)	Height: D: 23 – 24.5 B: 23 – 23.5 NO WEIGHT
Weight: D: 65-80 lbs. B: 55-70 lbs.	Weight: D: 65 – 80 lbs. B: 55 – 70 lbs.	Weight: D: 65 – 75 lbs. B: 55 – 65 lbs.	Curly: Height: D:25 – 27 B. 23 – 25 NO WEIGHT