

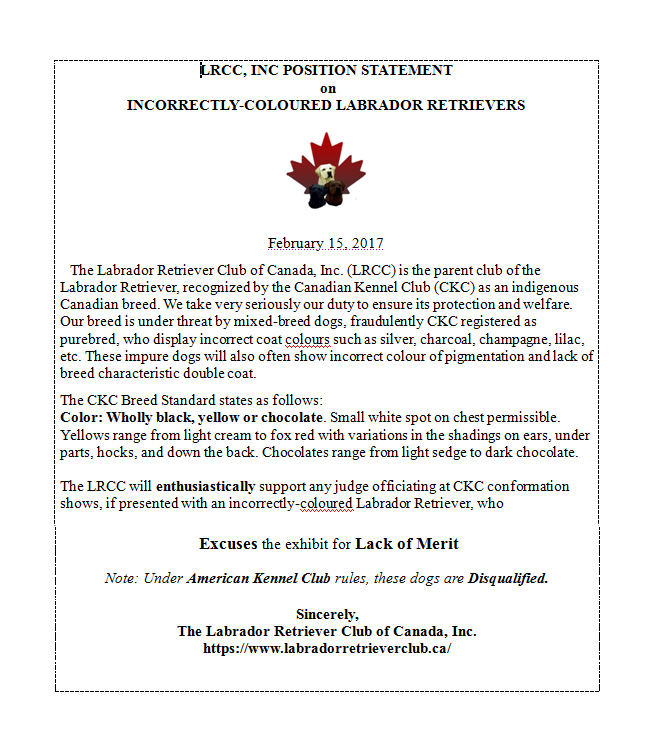
Origin and Purpose

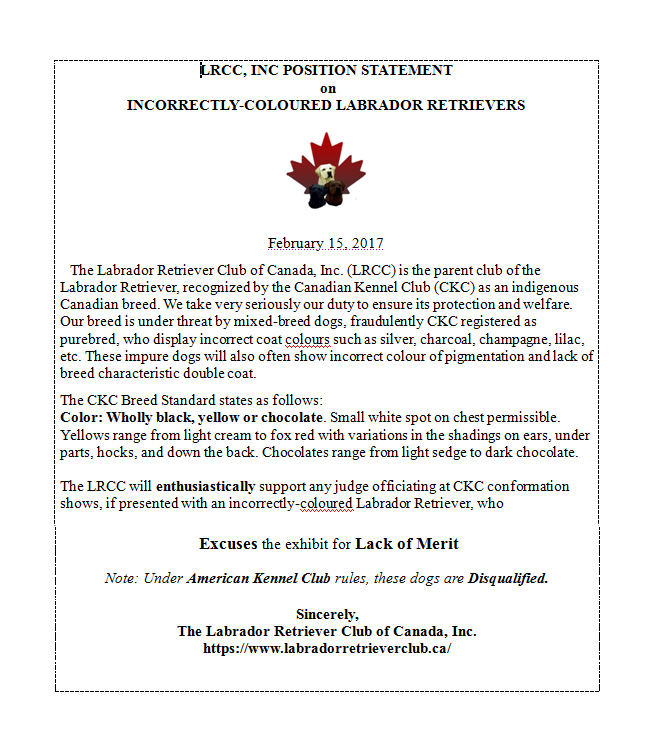
The Labrador Retriever originated and developed on the island of  
Newfoundland as an all purpose waterdog and functional retriever. The  
breed was preserved in England after anti-dog legislation almost  
decimated the breed in its homeland. The breed is noted for its love of  
retrieving and water, for its excellent nose, soft mouth, intelligence and  
biddable temperament. Extraordinary versatility allows Labradors to  
excel as hunting, service, and therapy dogs; in search and rescues; in drug  
and bomb detection; as family companions, and in performance and  
field events.

**General Appearance**Medium sized, strongly built, compact, short-coupled, powerful, athletic;  
broad in skull; broad and deep through chest and ribs; broad and  
powerful over loins and hindquarters. A water resistant double coat,  
otter tail, and sound temperament are essential breed characteristics.  
 **Proportion and Size  
Proportions:**Distance from withers to elbow approximately equal to  
distance from elbow to ground; length from point of shoulder to point  
of rump very slightly longer than height at withers. A well -balanced  
dog is the ideal.  
 **Size:**Ideal height at withers: Dogs 22 ½ - 24 ½ inches (57 - 62 cm);  
Bitches 21 ½ - 23 ½ inches (54 -60 cm). Weight commensurate with  
height and with the breed’s function as a medium sized, powerful,  
active retriever. Approximate weights: Dogs 60-80 lbs (27.27-36.36  
kilos); Bitches 55-75 lbs (25-34.09 kilos).

**Coat and Colour  
Coat Distinctive Feature:**Outer coat short, straight, although a slight  
wave down the back is also correct; dense without feathering, giving  
fairly hard feel to the touch; soft, dense weather-resistant undercoat.  
 **Color:**Wholly black, yellow or chocolate. Small white spot on chest  
permissible. Yellows range from light cream to fox red with variations in  
the shadings on ears, under parts, hocks, and down the back. Chocolates  
range from light sedge to dark chocolate.  
 **Pigmentation:**Black in blacks and yellows; brown or liver in chocolates.  
Pigmentation fading to a lighter shade in yellows not to be penalized.  
 **Head and Skull:**A kindly, gentle expression is characteristic of the  
breed. Skull broad with defined stop; clean-cut without fleshy cheeks.  
Muzzle of medium length, powerful, not snipey. Muzzle and skull on  
parallel planes and of approximately equal lengths. Nose wide; nostrils  
well developed. **Eyes:**Medium size, expressing intelligence and good  
temper; almond or diamond shape, not round; color dark brown or  
hazel. **Ears:**Medium sized; hanging close to head and set rather far  
back. **Mouth:**Jaws and teeth strong; scissor bite.  
 **Neck**Clean, strong, medium length, good reach; set into well-placed  
shoulders.

**Neck**Clean, strong, medium length, good reach; set into well-placed  
shoulders.  
 **Forequarters:**Shoulders long and sloping. Forelegs well boned and  
straight from elbow to ground when viewed from either front or side.  
Legs of medium length, not short. **Pasterns:**Strong, short, sloping  
slightly from the perpendicular. **Feet:**Compact, round, medium sized;  
well arched toes; well developed pads.  
 **Body**Chest of good width and depth; well-sprung ribs. Brisket extends to the  
elbows. Straight, level topline. Loins wide, short-coupled and strong.  
 **Hindquarters**Well developed, great power, not sloping to tail; well turned stifle. Hocks  
well let down; cowhocks highly undesirable.  
 **Tail Distinctive Feature:**Very thick towards base, straight, gradually  
tapering towards tip, medium length, free from feathering, but clothed  
thickly all round with thick, dense coat, giving ‘‘rounded’’ appearance  
described as ‘‘otter’’ tail. Tail may be carried ‘happily’ but not at more  
than a 35-degree angle with the back. Tail an extension of the topline and  
balances the dog.  
 **Gait Gait/Movement:**Free, effortless, powerful, covering adequate ground  
with good reach and drive; straight and true in front and rear. Tending to  
converge at higher speeds.  
 **Faults**Any departure from the foregoing ideal should be considered a fault. The  
seriousness with which the fault should be regarded must be in  
proportion to its degree and its effect upon the dog’s function as a  
working retriever.







Do you want to learn more about Labrador Retrievers??   
  
You have come to the right place

The Illustrated Breed Standard approved and produced by the Labrador Retriever Club of Canada Inc is available at a minimal cost from the [LRCC Inc Request for the Labrador Breed Standard](mailto:huntcj@telus.net) or by calling (403) 255-4814.   
  
**Cheques to be made payable to the Labrador Retriever Club of Canada Inc and mailed to  
  
38 - Hays Drive S. W.,   
Calgary, AB,   
T2V 3C3**



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*"Silvers are not a breed standard recognised color for the Labrador Retriever"*