

POSITION STATEMENT

In light of the increasing popularity of “silver,” “champagne,” and “charcoal” colors in supposedly purebred Labradors, the Golden Gate Labrador Club provides the following position statement in support of the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc and Labrador Retriever Clubs worldwide.

The Golden Gate Labrador retriever Club wishes to state our position on full registration of “non purebred” Labradors. These dogs are characterized by a dilute coat color and light eyes and carry the dilute (d) gene. They are incorrectly registered with the AKC as black, yellow or chocolate. The dogs are described as silver, champagne or charcoal or blue. Labrador breeders around the world are concerned about the importing of AKC registered Labrador Retrievers carrying the dilute (d) gene.

The dilute (d) gene is alien to the Labrador retriever genetic makeup. At this time more than 35,000 dogs containing the dilute gene are in the American studbook. It is the responsibility of the American Kennel club, as the major registry for purebred dogs in the United States to maintain the purity of the Labrador retriever breed and insure that no alien dilute genes are in the studbook.

Science can show the presence of a dilute gene in the immediate DNA of a dog. Three genetic laboratories including Vetgen, Laboklin, and the Van Haeringen Group have confirmed that dogs can be tested at the cost of \$65.00. The dilute (d) gene can be passed on to further generations. The GGLRC wishes to suggest limited registration or ILP numbers for the dogs carrying the dilute gene. We do not want dogs carrying this gene in the Labrador breeding studbook since they are not purebred Labradors.

NEWS: The LRC Health Committee on May 12, 2014 stated that the OFA has agreed to maintain a database of Labradors who have been permanently identified (microchip or tattoo) and have been tested for the d gene. Dogs having the phenotype will be listed as affected, Dd as carriers of the dilute gen and DD as clear of the dilute gene. The tests can be obtained from Vetgen.

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Changing the AKC’s stand is going to take a concerted effort on the part of individuals interested in maintaining the integrity of the American Labrador. Dogs containing the dilute (d) gene should be given a limited registration or ILP number and not admitted to the studbook. One can go on the web and find many listings for these dog registered by the AKC. It is embarrassing that people in other countries are complaining about the genetic makeup of the American Labrador.

Hopefully we can unite and change the AKC policy on registration and safeguard the purity of our dogs.