



April 2014

For the health and future welfare of our breed, The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. requests that all conformation judges licensed for Labrador Retrievers review the Labrador Retriever Standard with special attention to the sections titled **General Appearance** and **Size, Proportion and Substance**.

General Appearance — *The Labrador Retriever is a strongly built, medium-sized, short-coupled, dog possessing a sound, athletic, well-balanced conformation that enables it to function as a retrieving gun dog; the substance and soundness to hunt waterfowl or upland game for long hours under difficult conditions; the character and quality to win in the show ring; and the temperament to be a family companion.*

Size — *The height at the withers for a dog is 22-1/2 to 24-1/2 inches; for a bitch is 21-1/2 to 23-1/2 inches. Any variance greater than 1/2 inch above or below these heights is a **disqualification**. The minimum height ranges set forth in the paragraph above shall not apply to dogs or bitches under twelve months of age.*

When the Parent Club feels strongly enough to make a characteristic a disqualification it is the responsibility of the judge to apply its use. Judges should always measure if there is any question as to the size of the exhibit. Ignoring an entry because it is “thought” to be too large or small does a disservice to both the breed and the exhibitor.

Proportion — *Short-coupled; length from point of the shoulder to the point of the rump is equal to or slightly longer than the distance from the withers to the ground. Distance from the elbow to the ground should be equal to one half of the height at the withers. The brisket should extend to the elbows, but not perceptibly deeper. The body must be of sufficient length to permit a straight, free and efficient stride, but the dog should never appear low and long or tall and leggy in outline.*

Substance — *Substance and bone proportionate to the overall dog. Light, “weedy” individuals are definitely incorrect; equally objectionable are cloddy lumbering specimens. **LABRADOR RETRIEVERS SHALL BE SHOWN IN WORKING CONDITION, WELL-MUSCLED AND WITHOUT EXCESS FAT.***

The Parent Club’s job is to preserve and to protect the breed. **Judges are responsible for upholding the breed standard.**

THE ILLUSTRATED STANDARD is available for download from our website: www.thelabradorclub.com or read it here: <http://www.thelabradorclub.com/uploads/file/IlloStand2002.pdf>

Please contact the LRC, Inc. Judges Education Chair Marilyn Little okaklabs@frontier.com with any questions regarding the judging of the Labrador Retriever.