



The Curly-Coated Retriever

A retriever for all reasons

Origin and Purpose

The Curly-Coated Retriever is one of the oldest retriever breeds. The breed originated in England where it was perhaps the first breed of dog known as a “retriever.” The Curly first appeared as a show dog in Birmingham, England in 1860.

Recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1924, the breed is still relatively unknown in the United States but retains popularity in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

The Curly-Coated Retriever is a hardy and devoted hunting companion and gun dog. The breed has strong marking ability (the ability to note and remember where a bird has fallen) and is persistent in the pursuit of game. The Curly is an intelligent and steady worker, hunting all day at a sensible pace and will persevere, not giving up even on difficult retrieves.



A water-loving breed, a Curly will learn quickly from experience how to handle water conditions and currents as well as variations in wind, cover and terrain. The Curly is a natural retriever for both waterfowl and upland game birds and was developed to do these tasks with a minimum of training.

Appearance

The Curly-Coated Retriever is distinguished by its coat which is ideally a thick mass of small tight crisp curls that are resilient, water-resistant and provide protection against weather, water, and cover. This tightly curled coat covers the body and extends up the entire neck to the top of the head, down the thighs and over the entire tail. Elsewhere the coat is short, smooth and straight, including the forehead, face, front of the forelegs and the feet. The coat can be black or liver. Although they do shed, the coat is easy to care for, requiring only

occasional bathing and a minimal trimming to the ears and tail to keep the dog looking neat.

The Curly-Coated Retriever is a medium to large breed, with the ideal height at the withers for male dogs being 25 to 27 inches and the ideal height for female dogs being 23 to 25 inches. This breed is slightly longer in the body than tall. Bone and substance are neither spindly nor massive and should be in proportion to the dog's height.



Temperament

Curlies have a medium to high energy level, reflecting their hunting origins and their continued use as hunting dogs. The breed has a fairly long puppyhood with all of its immaturity, but once mature, the Curly is happy to either go for a jog or lay around watching TV. Early obedience training, geared toward puppies, is recommended as Curlies are highly intelligent and bore easily—without training they will teach themselves their own games, to the possible woe of their owner!

The CCRCA also recommends that all puppies be microchipped or tattooed for identification. The microchip or tattoo can be registered with **AKC Reunite** for lifetime “Lost & Found” services. This includes a free dog tag with recovery information and the AKC CAR 24/7 phone number. For more information, call 1-800-252-7894 or see

www.akccar.org



Curlies can be more reserved with strangers than the more popular retriever breeds although most Curlies instinctively love children. The Curly-Coated Retriever is a relatively healthy breed; the main disease affecting the breed is cancer, as is the case with most other purebred and mixed breed dogs. Hip dysplasia and certain congenital eye problems do occur, so puppies should be purchased from parents who have both their hips, hearts and eyes cleared. Some breeders are also testing for other congenital and heritable defects. The CCRCA also supports canine cancer research through the Canine Health Foundation, see www.akcchf.org/ for more information.

Health

Before deciding to use your Curly as a stud dog or brood bitch, consult with your breeder. Curlies need to be tested for genetic disease prior to breeding. Curlies should be screened for conditions common to many large breeds including hereditary eye disease, hip dysplasia and congenital heart disease as well as breed specific conditions including Glycogen Storage Disease (GSDIIIa), Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC) and CORD1 Progressive Retinal Atrophy (Cord1 PRA). Should you decide to spay or neuter your Curly, consult with your breeder about the appropriate time. "Due to recent studies funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, it may be prudent for the long-term health of the animal to delay spay/neuter until a dog reaches maturity as determined in conjunction with your veterinarian," Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC's Chief Veterinarian Officer recently reported.

Curlies can suffer from epilepsy and different forms of cancer. There are currently no tests available to evaluate for the potential for Curlies to pass these diseases on to their offspring. More information about Curly-Coated retriever health can be found at:

www.ccrca.org/health.html

Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

The Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America was chartered in 1979 and achieved licensed status with the American Kennel Club in 1994. The club currently holds a National Specialty each year, rotating between different parts of the country. The annual Specialty includes a conformation show, obedience trial, field events, and

educational seminars. The CCRCA also sponsors AKC Hunt Tests.

The Curly Commentator

A newsletter, *The Curly Commentator*, is published by the club on a bi-monthly basis. The Commentator provides information on the breed and club activities, health clearances, training, articles on dogs in general and Curlies in particular and notices on upcoming litters.

Further Information

The CCRCA's Corresponding Secretary can provide further information on the club as well as an application for membership in the CCRCA. To contact the club's Corresponding Secretary, email:

csecretary@ccrca.org

Membership applications and additional club information are also available online at

www.ccrca.org.



Regional Curly Clubs

There is currently one regional Curly club. This club gets together for fun matches, field training days, sponsored entries and other curly-related activities.

Northern California Curly-Coated Retriever Club:

www.ncccrc.com

For More Information

For additional information about Curly-Coated Retrievers, visit:

www.ccrca.org

