LABRADOR RETRIEVER

GROUP: Sporting

SIZE:

Males: 22 ½ to 24 ½ inches at the withers; *Females*: 21 ½ to 23 ½ inches.
Weight for *males* should be 65 to 80 pounds; *Females*: 55 to 70 pounds.

COAT:

Fairly short, hard, thick, outer coat; thick, soft, dense, and water resistant undercoat. A slight wave down the back is acceptable. *Serious faults*: Woolly coat; soft, silky coat; sparse, thin coat; absence of undercoat.

COLOR:

Black, yellow, or chocolate; Blacks should be solid black, with a small white spot on the chest acceptable, but not desirable; Yellows may vary in solid shading from red to pale cream with variations in shading on the ears, back, and underside; Chocolates may be any solid shade of chocolate. White hairs from aging or scarring should not be penalized. ***Serious Faults***: Any color or combination of colors other than described here; Blacks with brindle or tan markings; Chocolates with brindle or tan markings.

HEAD:

Proportionate to body size; skull is wide and well developed, but without exaggeration or any sort; skull and muzzle are approximately equal in length and joined by a moderate, well defined stop; free from fleshy cheeks; may be a slight median furrow between the eyes at the forehead, and the occipital bone is not conspicuous. ***Faults*: Wedge-shaped head; long, narrow head; massive cheeky head.**

Muzzle: Powerful, medium and tapering to a point; bridge of muzzle is straight and on a parallel plane with the top line of the skull; viewed from the top or the side, the muzzle is slightly deeper and wider at the stop than at the tip; removal of whiskers is accepted but not preferred. ***Faults*: Snipey muzzle; muzzle to long and narrow or too short and stubby.**

Eyes: Medium size; somewhat triangular in appearance; set well apart and neither protruding nor deeply set; brown color in black and yellow Labradors, brown and hazel in chocolate; close-fitting eyelids; eye rims are black in black and yellow Labradors, brown in chocolates. ***Faults*: Yellow eyes; eyes too dark; eyes too small or too round and prominent; eyes set to close together; eyes protruding or too deeply set; any feature that detracts from the correct Labrador expression. *Disqualification*: Lack of pigmentation in eye rims.**

Ears:Hang moderately close to head; drop, triangular in shape; rather short but in proportion with the skull; slightly above eye level; when pulled forward, the tip of the ear should reach to the inside of the eye; when alert, ears are drawn up and forward with the inner edges close to the cheeks; ear leather is pliable. ***Faults*: Large ears; heavy ear leather.**

Nose: Black on black and yellow dogs, brown on chocolates; slight fading of nose pigment is not a fault; nostrils must be large and open. ***Disqualification*: A nose lacking in pigmentation or a completely pink nose.**

Bite & Teeth: Tight scissors bite preferred; level bite is permissible, but not desirable; should have a complete set of evenly set, strong teeth. ***Serious faults*: Undershot, over shot or misaligned teeth.**

NECK:

Sufficient length to allow the dog to carry retrieved game with ease; powerful, but not throaty; neck is clean and blends smoothly well into well laid back shoulders; should rise strongly from shoulders with a moderate arch. ***Faults*: Neck too short, too thick; ewe neck.**

BODY:

Strong, deep and wide; square or just slightly longer when measured from posternum to point of buttocks than tall when measured from the withers to the ground; loin is short, muscular and deep with little or no tuck-up in a mature dog.

Topline: Level from the withers to the croup when standing or moving, yet the loin should show evidence of flexibility for athletic endeavor.

Chest: Good width and depth tapering between the front legs to allow unrestricted forelimb movement; viewed from the side, the forechest is well developed but not exaggerated *Faults*: **Chest breadth either too wide or too narrow; slab-sided; rotund or barrel chested.**

FRONT & REAR QUARTERS:

Forelegs measured from point of elbow to the ground is approximately equal to one-half the dog's height; straight, medium length, good bone and muscle; strong, slightly sloping pastern; elbows close to the ribs; brisket extends to the elbow.

Hind leg angulation is in balance with the angulation of the forequarters; strong and muscular; croup slopes slightly in profile; stifles well bent; hocks well let down; viewed from the side, the short strong pasterns are perpendicular to the ground, and parallel to each other when viewed form the rear. *Faults*: **Tied-in elbows or bout at the elbows; cow hocks; spread hocks; sickle hocks; over-angulation in hind legs causing sloping topline.**

Feet: Strong and compact with toes well arched; medium sized; well developed pads. *Faults*: **Splayed feet, hare feet, knuckling over; feet turning in or out.**

Tail: Tail should be a natural extension of the topline; fairly short and rounded; thick at base, tapering towards tip; extending no longer than to the hock; tail is covered with the same thick, dense coat as the body, but never feathered; when relaxed, the tail hangs down naturally; when moving or alert, the tail may be carried level with the back or only slightly above level. *Faults*: **Tails curled over back; Tail too short or too long; too thin.** *Disqualifications*: **Docked tail; alteration of natural length or carriage of tail.**

MOVEMENT:

Good reach, with well-balanced movement; free and effortless; no sign of elbows out; viewed from behind, the hind legs should move as nearly as possible in a parallel line with the front legs; when moving, the dog's head moves forward so that the head, backbone, and tail are nearly even; backline remains level with only slight flexing to indicate suppleness. *Serious faults*: **Short, choppy movement or high knee action; paddling caused by weak pasterns; short, stilted rear gait.**

TEMPERAMENT:

Energetic, free-spirited, and gentle; intelligent and adaptable. *Serious Faults*: **Aggressiveness toward humans or other animals; any evidence of shyness in an adult.**

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard

Disqualifications:
Viciousness or extreme shyness.
Aggressiveness toward humans or other dogs.
Nose completely unpigmented or solid pink.
Eye rims without pigment.
Docking or otherwise altering the length or natural carriage of the tail.