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hand. There will be no decoys. Once this level is passed, WD (Working Dog) may be added at the end of the dog's name.

Working Dog Excellent

The Working Dog Excellent stake tests trained abilities as well as natural talent. The first test is a land double, with marks shot between a 45- and 90-degree angle apart. The dead "memory bird" is thrown 75 yards, and the flyer about 50 yards. This is to test the dog's memory, ability to mark, and willingness to persevere in the area to hunt the bird.

The water double begins with a dead memory bird about 60 yards, and the second bird thrown about 40 yards from the line in swimming water. There will be two to three decoys off to the side. Dogs must be steady under reasonable control. They must deliver to hand. These marks shall show the dog's marking ability, perseverance, and confidence in the water without handling.

Having passed this test, the title WDX (Working Dog Excellent) may be added to the dog's name.

Working Dog Qualified

The Working Dog Qualified Stake is a more demanding test showcasing a competent working retriever with both natural and trained attributes. It begins with a land double, a dead memory bird at about 100 to 130 yards, and a live-shot flyer at about 90 yards. They should

be thrown no less than 30 degrees apart, as this is not a switching test. Next a land blind with a dead bird placed downwind 80 yards, with minor obstacles to encourage handling. The third test will be a water blind planted out of sight 50 yards in preferably swimming water. The line should be five to 10 yards from the shoreline, with water entry to discourage bank-running or water cheating. The final test will be a combination triple with one land bird and two ducks in the water. The first dead bird will be thrown on land about 80 yards in medium cover. The second dead duck will be thrown in swimming water, about 40 yards. The third mark will be thrown at about 20 yards. The birds may be retrieved in any order. As the blinds are handling tests, the dog must respond to the handler's commands. With passing of this test, WDQ (Working dog Qualified) may be added to the dog's name.

Dogs who have passed in field trials and/or hunt tests can be credited as passing these working titles.

An owner or breeder can use these titles to evaluate the future of their Chesapeake Bay Retrievers.

—Audrey Austin,
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 American Chesapeake Club,
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Curly-Coated Retrievers

MY CURLY VENTURE

It all began with Star. She arrived in Miami in 1977, and before then I had never met a Curly-Coated Retriever; I had only read a description of the breed in one very interesting dog book. I had also found one litter in the U.S. and spoken to one of the three or four Curly breeders in the country at that time.

She was not what I expected at all—she was much smaller than I anticipated, and more active than I had read about. She kept me up at night a great deal, but we managed to get through that phase.

Star developed into a very nice Curly, although she was much smaller at adulthood than I thought she would be. She weighed only 47 pounds when she was suddenly killed in an auto accident at 17 months of age.

A while later, after things settled a bit, my quest for another Curly puppy began. It was a real challenge then, believe me! This was still in the late 1970s. We took a trip up to New Jersey, and I sat down with the telephone book and called many training facilities and kennels in the state.

I finally found a facility that had boarded two Curlies owned by Mary Alice Hembree. She had a very nice male called Mack, and she invited us to visit her at her home there in New Jersey.

Mack's sister had recently had a litter in Michigan, and after we arrived back in Miami, Charm came to live with us. Charm was much more of a fit with the description of a Curly-Coated Retriever that I had read previously. She was much easier to raise as a pup and also performed well in some of the activities for dogs that were offered at the time.

Charm also introduced me to the challenge of "coat patterning" that sometimes occurs in our breed. I certainly learned quite a bit about that issue. At about 2 or 3 years of age, she completely lost her coat and was bald except for a bit on her ears and head. Believe me, that was a challenge at that time, as we did not have the knowledgeable veterinary dermatologists then as we do now. She did manage to eventually acquire more of a soft coat and never went bald again, but she did have the loss of coat that is part of the patterning issue.

Since then, I have had another Curly with dreadful coat patterning, in the 1980s, and she had so little coat on her tail that the tip became infected and she almost had to have it amputated.

Of course, I learned quite a bit about coat patterning after having two bitches who displayed this, and I would be glad to have any of you who have questions regarding this coat issue to call me anytime. I shall say that I do believe this type of coat problem is not as

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common now as it was quite a few years ago. Breeders seem to be very aware of it and use common sense when breeding their litters.

After Charm, many wonderful Curly girls have come into our home, and as I sit and type this out, I am just about to leave for the Curly-Coated Retriever national specialty in Sacramento. I look forward to it all and shall enjoy seeing all those wonderful Curlies.

—Ann Shinkle,

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Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America,

<http://www.cerca.org>

Flat-Coated Retrievers

CONTROLLING YOUR EVER-FRIENDLY FLAT-COAT

Flat-Coats are social, friendly, and full of joy all their lives, and we love them for that. However, the very enthusiasm we love them for can cause problems, both for them and for us. We want our dogs to be affectionate with ourselves and with others, but jumping up and other body contact can be dangerous, especially when an adult or a child is caught off-balance or is on a stairway, on snow or ice, or carrying a shotgun on a hunt.

When a Flat-Coat makes physical contact—whether jumping up, leaning, or bumping with the nose, shoulder, or rump—he feels approved of. Therefore, correcting these

behaviors is difficult, when the dog already feels rewarded. *Preventing* these behaviors is far more successful. Flat-Coats have to be trained to wait to be petted or touched instead of being allowed to make physical contact themselves.

With a litter of puppies, we keep moving and call to them to follow until we put their food down or throw toys. If we stood still, they would all be jumping up. While they are very young, we get down on their level to pet them and be affectionate. When we separate one puppy from the others, we teach the puppy to sit and wait (if he's to be strictly a pet, obedience, or hunting dog) or stand and wait (for the future show dog—four feet on the ground, head up) for a biscuit or a treat.

The puppy doesn't need to be treated for every sit or stand, but he should know that he will not get anything he wants until he does what you want. If this is done by adults in the new family and then with children (we have worked with children as young as 1½ years), the puppy will learn that children are not fellow puppies to be jumped on and playfully bit but rather are small people who are in charge of what the puppy wants.

The puppy should also sit or stand for treats from visitors. The first step in teaching a puppy to wait to be petted is to wait for a treat or a biscuit. Have visitors to your home and

people you meet on a walk have your puppy sit or stand and wait for a biscuit or a treat and eventually quiet petting. If your puppy moves toward the visitor during petting, pick up the puppy or take him away on lead before he succeeds in touching the visitor. Then stop and have him sit for you to pet. The more frequently the puppy has to wait for a treat or for petting, the more controllable he will be. If you have a visitor who insists on overstimulating your puppy, take your puppy away and put him in his crate with a biscuit and a toy.

When the puppy or adult dog is heeling on a lead, physical contact with the owner can be discouraged by making tight circles to the left or about-turns to the left. Teaching your Flat-Coat to “down-stay” with all kinds of distractions, which teaches self control, and to walk on a loose lead, as well as “heel,” are critical to controlling physical contact.

—Sally Terroux,

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Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America,

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Golden Retrievers

A BASIC HISTORY LESSON

“Primarily a hunting dog ...” This, the beginning of the second sentence in the Golden Retriever's AKC standard, reflects

the origins of the breed and the vision of its Scottish champion, Sir Dudley Marjoriebanks (later known as Lord Tweedmouth).

Most Golden owners know of the legendary Marjoriebanks, an ardent waterfowl enthusiast and dog breeder who dreamed of a canine hunting partner suited to the rough terrain and cold, rugged waters of the English sea-coast. Those lofty aspirations, in 1868, launched the historic breeding journey of a superb hunting dog with a waterproof golden coat.

Fast-forward to the 21st-century Golden Retriever. The Golden's unique combination of beauty, biddability, and athleticism easily propelled the breed into the top 10 of AKC-registered breeds. And as its popularity surged, the breed morphed into the “do-it-all retriever”—with prowess in the field diminishing proportionately.

Enter the AKC Hunting Test program. Originally devised by hunting enthusiasts who were determined to provide a venue for the hunting retriever, the noncompetitive testing program served an important need in the world of sporting dogs. As retriever field trials had grown more competitive and more expensive, many Golden-owning trial hopefuls found they could no longer afford the time and money required to maintain a competitive field trial dog. Hunt tests bridged that gap.