

## SPORTING GROUP

study found a hunting dog who could smell in an unbroken airstream for 40 seconds over 30 respiratory cycles.

Can you wiggle your nose without touching it? Well, dogs can wiggle each nostril independently. This helps dogs locate precisely where a particular odor is coming from, which is not a bad thing if you're trying to find well-hidden drugs or explosives.

Strictly speaking, the dog doesn't smell the bomb. It deconstructs the odor into its components, picking out just the culprit chemicals it has been trained to detect. It is like walking into a kitchen and smelling the spaghetti sauce cooking on the stove. The dog's nose tells him *tomatoes, garlic, rosemary, onion, oregano*. When drugs are hidden in the gas tank of a car, it is easy for the dog to know where they are. The odor of the gas carries the smell of the drugs with it.

There is not a better smelling machine than a dog. Not better than an elephant, nor jackals, as well as a rat or mouse—but it would not be easy to train one of these animals for the jobs we ask our dogs to do. Dogs have the attitude. They want to please us.

Among dogs, the best breeds for finding bombs may be German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, and Labrador Retrievers, more for their tireless work ethic than any special olfactory prowess. Shepherds are so called play-

reward dogs. They will work all day for a tennis ball. Labs are food-reward dogs.

—Audrey Austin,

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American Chesapeake Club

<http://www.AmChesapeakeClub.org>

## Curly-Coated Retrievers

We have two guest columnists this month, Doris Hodges and Virginia Wright, who will now share their thoughts regarding how interesting it can be to live with a Curly-Coated Retriever. They quoted from our AKC written standard: “The Curly is wickedly smart and highly trainable and, as such, is cherished as much for his role as a loyal companion at home as he is in the field.” They now give us examples that support this part of our standard.

### CURLY ANTICS

One smart Curly, and one very tired owner: The owner returns home after a grueling day at work, and all she can think of is crawling into her overstuffed chair and resting. The Curly sees her person getting in the chair and runs to the back door. Her owner has taught to ring the bells tied to the door when she wants to go out, so the Curly vigorously rings the bells. Owner sighs and gets out of her



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Curly-Coated Retriever

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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chair and goes to open the door. As she reaches for the door, the Curly whips around and runs for the chair and jumps in. After all, it is her chair all day—why should she share it now?

Then there is the case of the missing potato chips: The owner, knowing his Curly loves potato chips, kept the chips on top of the refrigerator. Imagine the owner's surprise to come home to a kitchen chair dragged over to the refrigerator, and a full bag of chips missing and one very happy Curly. It was difficult for the owner to believe his Curly was that clever, so he purchased another bag of chips, put them on top of the refrigerator, and hid. The Curly did not waste any time dragging the chair over to help reach the top and capture his favorite treat!

Another Curly was quite a problem solver. His owner used to walk him down the block to the park where he could play with other dogs and swim. On the way, he passed a house with a large oak tree in the front yard. One day there was a gray squirrel about twenty feet further down the street from the oak and about twenty feet from the sidewalk. They were parallel to the oak; squirrel taunted the Curly and the Curly ran straight at him. The squirrel ran straight to the oak and escaped up the tree. Score: squirrel 1; Curly 0. The next day, the same situation, but this time the Curly barked at the squirrel, who started running toward

the oak. The Curly ran directly to the oak and turned toward the squirrel, running at him, and seized him. Score: Squirrel 1; Curly 1. Game over!

You think that a baby gate across stairs would stop a Curly? Most would try to circumvent the barrier by jumping over it, if possible. One clever Curly just lifts the gate up off its hinges, lays it aside, and is on her way.

In the nothing is safe department: One Curly owner thought opening containers holding kibble and climbing up to get things, supposedly well-hidden, was just a demonstration of the dog's good scenting ability. Then his talents evolved to opening cans. One day, after opening the refrigerator (which was tied shut) and finding it empty, he resorted to getting food off the shelf, chewed open a can of tuna fish, and washed it all down with a can of Sprite after popping off the top. A fully tummy makes a happy Curly. His mom spent a long time cleaning up this mess! —D.H. & V.W.

Both Doris and Virginia say that Curly owners should expect the unexpected and enjoy their amusing companionship. Many thanks to both of you for sharing these unusual but clever Curly antics with us.

—Ann Shinkle,  
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Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America  
<http://ccrea.org>

## Golden Retrievers SUPPORT THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER FOUNDATION

Smile! Support a Golden Retriever!

The Golden Retriever Foundation (GRF) is a major component of the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA). Comprised of a vast network of groups dedicated to the welfare and future of the Golden Retriever, the GRF supports Golden rescue, rehabilitation, re-homing, education, health studies, and cancer research, and has formed collaborations with AKC Canine Health Fund and the Morris Animal Foundation cancer research projects.

Like all philanthropic efforts, the GRF relies heavily on donations from individuals and organizations. To that end, the GRF has partnered with the Amazon Smile program. In 2013, Amazon introduced an affiliate program on their website where the company will donate 0.5 percent of all eligible purchases to a favorite charity. There are no strings attached, and almost all purchases are eligible.

All donation amounts generated by the Smile program are remitted to the Amazon Smile Foundation, a 501c(3) private foundation, created by Amazon, which in turn donates those amounts to the charitable organization selected by the customer.

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