



## BREED COLUMNS

### SPORTING GROUP

pion Labrador Retriever since 1982, nor a Golden Retriever since 1973.

There are now 24 Chesapeakes who carry the esteemed title of Dual Champion. McQueen is the sixth dual Chesapeake that Linda has trained and/or owned. Most of her duals have come down from her own established line.

McQueen's breed championship was completed at the Packerland Kennel Club show held in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on April 1, at an American Chesapeake Club supported entry. McQueen was handled by Devon Kipp Levy for most of his points and then on to Winners Dog on March 31 and April 1, earning both majors to complete his bench championship.

I was told "the building rang with shouts and applause" when it happened, with an uproar and cheers from the Chesapeake fanciers, exhibitors, and friends. There has been overwhelming support from Chesapeake owners all over

the country.

—Betsy Horn Humer,  
[tiderunr2@verizon.net](mailto:tiderunr2@verizon.net)  
American Chesapeake Club

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### Curly Coated Retrievers

#### TRIMMING NAILS

When I acquired my first Curly, I learned that nail grooming is an exceptional challenge with our breed. I tried to clip my young bitch's nails and could not do it. I took her to the vet, and the vet said, "We can handle this." However, shortly after taking her back to do so, he said, "You are right. We cannot. So she has to be sedated for the ordeal."

This went on for a few months. Then I started my Curly girl in a basic obedience class. Fortunately, the team next to me in class was a groomer with her dog. I mentioned my challenge, and she observed that my bitch's nails were longer than they should be. She advised me to trim or file one nail per day until the dog accepted the situation in

a more relaxed manner.

The quick is quite close to the end of the nail, and it is easily nicked, which causes bleeding. And Curlies, being sensitive dogs, become quite concerned with it all. Gradually my first Curly did accept this gentle approach to nail grooming. Ever since that time, I have used different nail-care routines for each of my dogs.

With my two current adult Curly girls, one lies on her side on the couch for nail care. I am able to clip each nail, and I give a treat after each foot. My younger girl lies on the grooming table on her side, and I clip just the very tip of each nail. When I've finished each foot, I give a treat and then move on to the next foot. When I've completely finished with all eight feet, everybody gets cookies!

Jenny Dickinson  
comments:

"As Ann describes, many of our Curlies come to their owners with no experience of nail care, and a window of teaching opportunity has

## SPORTING GROUP



Curly-Coated  
Retriever

passed. I work with service dog trainers who anticipate that disabled folks might not be able to have a wrestling match every time they need to shorten their dog's nails. Service dog breeders start trimming nails in the whelping box—not just handling the feet, but letting the pups feel some pressure and hear the sounds of the clippers and the grinding tool while they are being fed yummys

by an assistant. They do this every few days.

“Whatever early developmental procedures our breeders are following—and I hope it is Puppy Culture, or a protocol equally science based—*please* add a nail care protocol to it. We do no harm in adding this extra step, and it prevents a lot of panic and misery for our dogs.”—J.D.

—Ann Shinkle,

[annshinkle@aol.com](mailto:annshinkle@aol.com)

Curly-Coated Retriever  
Club of America

## Golden Retrievers

### THE NOSE KNOWS

A Golden paradox: We humans smell what we see, while our Golden Retrievers see what they smell. Goldens interpret the world around them through their ultra-sensitive sense of smell, be it a downed duck in a heavy marsh, a landmine buried in a roadway, skin cells filled with cancer, or the sadness of an unhappy child. It's that amazing scenting ability that has spawned the term “that famous Golden nose.” The ability to identify specific odors is far greater in Goldens (and other retriever breeds) than in most other breeds of dogs. An estimated 300 hundred million scent receptors inside the nose allow the dog to interpret and identify the infinite variety of smells in the universe.

A human, with a paltry five million receptors, could

COURTESY LYNDY BEAM