



# BREED COLUMNS

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specific job other than being a “pet or companion.” There is nothing wrong with that, but some Chesapeakes do end up in a “pet home.” It might be in a housing development, where children can readily go into each other’s homes without a formal “entry” such as knocking on the door and being admitted, rather simply walking into a friend’s house. The resident dog who knows the children will happily greet them. Is a Chesapeake a breed that will accept a person or child who simply shows up and walks into their friend’s home or yard without being “invited in” by that homeowner? There are Chesapeakes who would accept this behavior, but a traditional reaction would be to bark at the intruder. After all, that is considered to be their job.

I feel that the temperament of our breed is being modified—another word that could be used is “homogenized”—meaning that in reference to other more popular breeds,

Chesapeakes are becoming more standardized and conforming and behaving like the more popular retriever breeds mentioned earlier. It is not necessarily the protectiveness that is being reduced or eliminated, but also both physical and mental drive and the energy level.

As breeders, we work very hard to socialize, train, and produce dogs who are readily accepting of the jobs we ask them to do, whether in a show ring, an agility trial, a hunt test or even a Fast CAT event. They are around other dogs and expected not to interact with them in a negative fashion. The concept of Meet the Breeds and AKC family pet programs encourage dogs to be friendly to both canines and humans.

What do you think? Is the basic protective temperament of our breed changing?

—Betsy Horn Humer,  
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## Curly-Coated Retrievers

Longtime Curly fancier and breeder Sue Davis and her young Curly bitch Veeda are the definition of versatility! This month Sue details their many accomplishments.

### THE VERSATILE CURLY

In 2020 I had the opportunity to retire early during Covid. I took advantage of retirement because I wanted to spend more time with my Curly-Coated Retrievers. I had an incredibly stressful and time-consuming job, which did not leave me a lot of time to spend with my dogs except for a few weekends a month. I promised myself that when I retired, I would pursue new and fun activities with my dogs.

In 2021 I imported Veeda from Sweden. She was the daughter of a dog I had bred and exported to Sweden years earlier.

Veeda is a very energetic and spirited young girl. We began by enrolling in puppy basic obedience classes and

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*Curly-Coated Retriever cigarette card, early 20th century*

earning her Canine Good Citizen title. We then started out competing in activities with which I already had experience.

I finished her AKC championship and grand championship. Then we worked on rally. We also competed in coursing ability and Fast CAT. Curlies are naturals at chasing little white plastic bags!

I became interested in Barn Hunt, and I was able to take lessons with Veeda. She loved finding rats, but the tunnels were a real challenge. We used balls and treats to get her to go through the longer

tunnels. She came to love going through tunnels, even though she is a bigger and taller dog.

We had challenges along the way, but Veeda has earned her Barn Hunt Master title, and we are now working toward her RATCH.

Because Veeda has a great nose, I decided to try nose work with her. I knew absolutely nothing about nose work, but I was fortunate enough to find a fairly local place to take lessons with an amazing instructor. Every Thursday we went to a class, and Veeda learned to distinguish the different odors.

Our biggest challenge has been distractions. Veeda loves stuffed toys, and getting her to ignore them has been difficult. We are working hard on that, and she is almost finished with her advanced nose work titles.

I love nose work because we work as a team. Nose work does not require me to run or make sharp turns, so I will be able to train and compete with her for years to come.

Veeda really enjoys dock diving. She is a natural swimmer, and I have to say this is probably her favorite thing to do. We are working with an instructor to increase the length of her jumps, which has been a real learning experience for me. Throwing a bumper correctly is harder than one might think! Timing and height and length of throw are very important. I am learning as much as she is!

We still compete in conformation, and we enter in the Owner-Handled Series. Veeda has also earned titles in Fit Dog, Retriever Dog,

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CGCA, Farm Dog, and Trick Dog. In the future, I hope to work with her in field work and tracking.

The sky is the limit with the versatile Curly-Coated Retriever!—S.D.

Thank you, Sue and Veeda, for showing us an ideal partnership!

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[Curly-Coated Retriever  
Club of America](#)



## Golden Retrievers

### PAWS FOR PURPLE HEARTS

First, a brief step back in time. Back to 1995, when Dr. Bonita Bergin founded the concept of the first service dog. She then built upon that concept and founded the first service dog program, Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that trains assistance dogs for the disabled, using primarily Golden Retrievers.

Today, Dr. Bergin's focus

is still on canine assistance, with a program still utilizing Goldens and Labrador Retrievers: Paws for Purple Hearts (PPH).

The concept behind PPH is simple, "Warriors (veterans) train other Warriors."

Using what is known as Warrior Canine Training Therapeutic Intervention, the program teaches Warriors with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder), TBI (traumatic brain injury), or MST (military sexual trauma) to train service dogs for Warriors who have mobil-

ity impairments or other disabilities that a service dog can help mitigate.

PPH is the first program of its kind to offer Canine Assisted Warrior Therapy to veterans and active-duty military personnel. Launched in 2006 as a research program at the Bergin College of Canine Studies, together with the Menlo Park Veterans Administration Medical Center, PPH has since evolved and is now a separate organization with its own non-profit status.

Through the PPH