

BREED COLUMNS

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Dr. Trevor Gerardi-Miller; and handled by Devon Levy.

Melissa reports the following: “He has truly taken us on a ride of a lifetime, shattering and setting breed records and being an ambassador for the breed, sharing his Chessie hugs with one and all. What we love best, though, is his willingness and joy to do whatever the people he loves ask of him, as long as they join him on his journeys! Huge thank you to all 2025 NSS Committee members for putting on a friendly, fun, and completely enjoyable event! ... 2026 brings many exciting opportunities for Cota and the Team—He’ll get some time at home and in the field, and just maybe in the show ring a time or two, here and there.”

In addition to all the results above, we held a Top Twenty recognizing dogs who had achieved in both breed rankings and owner-handled rankings. The dogs were not judged but were honored with huge

rosettes and their story as each one gaited around the ring. It was an opportunity to see dogs from other parts of the country in a non-competitive, relaxed atmosphere.

Two seminars took place: “Breeding With a Vision,” and the Judges’ Education Seminar/Workshop. Six prospective judges attended the Seminar/Workshop, which was given by JEC Angie Cox and Betsy Horn Humer.

There were silent auctions each day to help finance the costs of putting on a national specialty. The dinner that follows the night after Best of Breed judging always has a live auction and additional silent auction. State baskets are the highlight, and this year there was also framed artwork of Chesapeakes that had been donated. The state basket going for the highest bid was an amazing collection of goodies from the state of Virginia. I was told this was a record bid for any state basket since we have started

this tradition.

Many thanks to the ACC chairpersons Lea Plaut, Karen Brown, and Steve Williams, and to those who chaired each event and everyone who worked behind the scenes.

The 2026 National Specialty will be held October 5–10 in Bennet, Colorado.

—Betsy Horn Humer,
tiderunnr2@verizon.net
American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers

A VALUABLE RESOURCE

All lovers of Curly-Coated Retrievers are always looking for resources to research our breed. We are curious about ancestry, health, and titles, among other things. Wouldn’t it be great if this information were all in one place? Fortunately for the Curly world, there is a resource that houses a good amount of this data.

The Breed Archive for Curly-Coated Retrievers

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(<https://curlycoatedretriever.breedarchive.com/home/index>) has been just such a repository. Based in Austria since 2006, the Breed Archive is the caretaker of a wealth of information of Curlies. The information is loaded from a variety of sources, but the majority of the data is input by dogs' actual owners. It is truly an international storehouse with information about Curlies from almost all the countries where Curlies reside.

It is a great place to keep track of your dog's accomplishments. You can easily add any of the hundreds of titles our dogs earn as they earn them. Did your dog earn a title you don't see on the list? No problem! A title from any of the many venues we participate in can be added easily. In addition, if your dog attained an extra special honor (e.g., national specialty winner), you can include that here also. The Archive is a wonderful place to showcase your dog for others in our Curly family.

Are you thinking about



Curly-Coated
Retriever

breeding your Curly? The Archive is one of the best and easiest places to look for a stud dog. It maps out the potential dog's achievements and health clearances. It also can tell you the health clearances of ancestors, siblings, and other offspring—important considerations when picking a possible mate. The Archive is a great

place to start your breeding journey.

Perhaps it is time to add another member to your family. There are usually several litters to choose from at any given time. The Archive can help you make an informed decision as to which puppy might be the best fit for your program and your home.

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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Of course, any database is only as good as its input. Therefore, it is important that everyone in the Curly world supports the Breed Archive by putting their dogs and all the information pertaining to their dogs in this vital resource. The continuing strength of our breed depends on having the most data points for each dog to point us in the right direction to have the soundest, mentally and physically, dogs we can produce.

I urge everyone to browse the Breed Archive. In fact, here is the link to one of my dogs, to give you an example of what the Archive looks like: <https://curlycoatedretriever.breed-archive.com/animal/view/jollycurl-brio-brisbane-royal-9358b342-188e-4794-8fc7-53be9b846273>.

It is great fun to search special dogs in your own Curly's pedigree and see a detailed background. It is also interesting to track down famous dogs from the past and see what they did and how they came to be.

Enjoy!

—Ellen Manes,

jollycurl54@gmail.com

Curly-Coated Retriever
Club of America

Golden Retrievers

CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

What precedes the writing of an AKC standard, the document that puts into words the essence and details that make a breed distinct from others?

There are two primary considerations when a standard is devised:

- the purpose of the breed, and
- the geographic and cultural context underlying that purpose.

Purpose can be defined simply as the job that the original creators or developers of the breed wanted the dog to do. This would include specifics of the stock that it was to herd or guard, the game that it was to find or retrieve, or the culture and lifestyle of the humans it was to amuse.

Context includes the ter-

rain, climate, vegetation, and whether it was a breed that would live in the city or country, in a palace or on a farm, to name a few of the items that build a breed's context.

In the first paragraph of the Golden Retriever standard (the paragraph that gives the general appearance and overall "picture" of each breed), there is a crucial sentence that begins: "Primarily a hunting dog ..." This is the purpose of the Golden. While the breed is an excellent companion, show dog, and star competitor in many events, the breed's purpose has not changed since its development. Its intended purpose was to pick up game that was shot by wealthy sportsmen and women during hunting parties, and to eventually be the favored family hunting dog of local residents in the rural villages that put meat on the table.

The context of the Golden Retriever begins with one man, Dudley Marjoribanks (Lord Tweedmouth), in