

# ***Redlion* Chesapeakes & Labradors**

Dogs for hunting, show & field competition and companions

Jane Pappler

7 Easton Way, Southampton, NJ 08088

609 859-3570 - [nofleas@aol.com](mailto:nofleas@aol.com)

<http://redlionkennel.com>

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## **So You Want to Buy A Puppy!!**

**AKC Registration** - As a pure bred dog, both the parents of this puppy are registered with the American Kennel Club. Please register your dog. Years of study, care, training and expense have been spent to insure that your puppy is sound, as healthy as possible and of good temperament. When I sell a puppy for a pet, it is my understanding that you do not wish to show in conformation or breed him. He/she will therefore be placed on limited registration and is to be spayed or neutered. By registering the pet dog, you and he can still compete in field and hunting tests and in performance events, just not in the breed show ring.

**Limited Registration and Breeding** - If at some future date, you decide you would like to maybe show or breed, please contact me and I will be glad to evaluate the puppy. I can reverse the limited registration to full registration, for a fee, thereby making him eligible to be shown and bred if I feel that he has grown into a quality specimen for the breed. Certainly never breed to the cute dog down the street, or to educate the children, or to the free dog next door to make money. When one breeds, it is to always improve the breed and to keep the required Breed Standard in mind and all the requirements that go along with it. This is not a cheap undertaking. Be very sure you wish to undertake breeding. Raising a litter can be a rewarding experience for all concerned, but as any serious breeder with experience knows, the hours are long; the tasks of breeding, whelping and raising the puppies are not for the squeamish and costs are invariably higher than you had planned. The health certifications and DNA tests you must do on your dog before breeding are very costly and can be up to \$1000 or so. You also have to be in a position to guarantee the quality of the puppies you raise and sell. Should they ever have a problem when with the new owner, you are responsible and they could be owned a refund. You are basically "on call" 24 hours a day as you have to watch over the "about to whelp" bitch or meet feeding schedules of month old puppies. I will do my best to help you find a mate that is of equal quality so that you will be proud of you pups. Per my breeding/show contract, all breeding dogs must have hips x-rayed and certified and eye clearances before any breeding is ever considered along with new DNA tests for other diseases.

**Where to buy your puppy** - You are making an investment, which over the years will amount to \$3000 to \$5000. It will cost the same whether you buy a good dog or a poor specimen - possibly more if you purchase an animal which lacks the hardiness, or health credentials that should be behind a well-bred animal. Always buy from a long established breeder with years of health credentials behind the dogs being used.

**Hobby breeder vs. Commercial breeder** - *Commercial dealers* who handle many breeds of dogs cannot possibly be aware of the detailed characteristics, which distinguish each of them. Not to mention the fact that they could not be aware of the hereditary defects that occur in each breed and those bloodlines where certain problems are more likely to occur.

The *private hobby breeder* specializes in one or two breeds and has taken the time to educate himself as to the problems which could occur in his breed. He has an intimate knowledge of his breed standard including size, temperament, abilities and temperament. This breeder wants to know how his puppies develop as his breeding program is guided by the results of his previous successes and failures. He welcomes feed-back from you along with photos of the dog you buy. He wants to be sure that you and his breed are suited for each other. He will always be there as a source of information for raising and training your puppy.

**Picking a private hobby breeder** - The purpose of dog shows is to select the best specimens of the breed --- to select those dogs that are most worthy of producing good progeny. Every litter, no matter how carefully planned, will contain a few puppies of outstanding quality, but the majority will be average and will make wonderful pets and hunting dogs. You will benefit from the knowledge and dedication of the 'show breeder'. His pet or average pup will probably be of much better quality than the best you will ever see from a commercial dealer; and the selling price of pet puppies is competitive.

**The Buyer Beware** - AKC registration does not mean quality. Any individual with a purebred dog may breed to another purebred dog of the same breed and provide the puppies with AKC registration. The parents may be very poor specimens of their breed, and their puppies poorer still. The difference in price between a puppy bred by a serious breeder and another individual who has no in-depth knowledge of the breed may be very slight. Retrievers are extremely popular breeds and many people are seeking to make a few dollars by having a litter of puppies. He may not have the knowledge or be willing to spend the money to do the right breeding, secure the expensive health tests prior to breeding and properly raise the puppies.

The serious breeder knows the faults and virtues of his dogs. The perfect dog has not yet been born. The challenge is breeding two animals and producing something that is better than either of its parents. This is the goal of the serious breeder and he should want to breed only the best.

**Picking out your Puppy from the Litter** - *Dogs do not pick owners!* They don't think or reason as humans and have no way of doing so. Having been a breeder for almost 30 years I can tell you that the way I evaluate the litter and choose the puppy for the person is the best guarantee that you can get the dog you are looking for.

I pick the puppy for the new owner. I know their personalities which a new owner cannot see in 15 minute visit by looking at them for that short of a period of time. I know the breeding behind them as I have 5-9 generations of my own dogs behind these puppies. I know the faults, abilities and the quality of the parents which are one of the most important things. I see the puppies all day for 7 weeks, and know what they are all about and their individual traits. You would not be able to know that, nor could the dog himself show you that when you walk up to it. The puppy you think or see a quite one might be the worst terror in the litter and it's just that he has ran and wore himself out by the time you see him quietly asleep and tired-out! The biggest is not the best hunter necessarily, nor is the runt of the litter the quietest or best behaved. Most people are not qualified enough on breed structure to be able to find the best dog for show and breeding. Too many families pick the wrong dog and end up with issues because of it. So, I pick the puppy for the new owner, for your safety and happiness and the dog's as well.