

NOVA SCOTIA DUCK TOLLING RETRIEVER

ORIGIN : Canada.

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UTILIZATION : The Tolling dog runs, jumps and plays along the shoreline in full view of a flock of ducks, occasionally disappearing from sight and then quickly reappearing, aided by the hidden hunter, who throws small sticks or a ball for the dog. The dog's playful actions arouse the curiosity of the ducks swimming offshore and they are lured within gunshot range. The Toller is subsequently sent out to retrieve the dead or wounded birds.

CLASSIFICATION F.C.I. : Group 8 Retrievers-Flushing Dogs-
Water Dogs.
Section 1 Retrievers.
With working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY : The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever was developed in Nova Scotia in the early 19th century to toll (or lure) and retrieve waterfowl.

GENERAL APPEARANCE : The Toller is a medium-sized, powerful, compact, balanced, well-muscled dog; medium to heavy in bone, with a high degree of agility, alertness and determination. Many Tollers have a slightly sad expression until they go to work, when their aspect changes to intense concentration and excitement. At work, the dog has a speedy, rushing action, with the head carried out almost level with the back and heavily-feathered tail in constant motion.

BEHAVIOUR /TEMPERAMENT : The Toller is highly intelligent, easy to train and has great endurance. A strong and able swimmer, he is a natural and tenacious retriever on land and from water setting himself for springy action the moment the slightest indication is given that retrieving is required. His strong retrieving desire and playfulness are qualities essential to his tolling ability.

HEAD : Clean-cut and slightly wedge-shaped.

CRANIAL REGION :

Skull : The broad skull is only slightly rounded, the occiput not prominent and the cheeks flat. A good measurement for an average male would be 5½ ins. (14 cm) between the ears, tapering to 1½ ins. (3.8 cm) at the bridge of the nose. Length of head is approximately 9 ins. (23 cm) from nose to occiput, but the head must be in proportion to body size.

Stop : Moderate.

FACIAL REGION :

Nose : Tapers from bridge to tip, with nostrils well open. Colour should blend with that of the coat or be black.

Muzzle : Tapers in a clean line from stop to nose, with the lower jaw strong but not prominent. The underline of the muzzle runs almost in a straight line from the corner of the lip to the corner of the jaw-bone, with depth at the stop being greater than at the nose. Hair on the muzzle is short and fine.

Lips : Fit fairly tightly, forming a gentle curve in profile, with no heaviness in flews.

Jaws / Teeth : Strong enough to carry a sizeable bird, and softness in mouth is essential. The correct bite is tight scissors; full dentition is required.

Eyes : Set well apart, almond-shaped, medium sized. Colour amber to brown. Expression is friendly, alert and intelligent. Flesh around the eyes should be the same colour as the lips.

Weight : Should be in proportion to the height and bone of the dog - Guidelines : 45-51 lbs. (20-23 kg) for adult males; bitches 37-43 lbs. (17-20 kg).

FAULTS : Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

- Dish- or down-faced.
- Abrupt stop.
- Bright pink nose.
- Nose, eye rims and eyes not of prescribed colour.
- Overshot bite.
- Large, round eyes.
- Roached, sway back.
- Slack loins.
- Tail carried below level of back when dog gaiting. Tail too short, kinked or curled touching the back.
- Down on pastern.
- Splayed or paper feet.
- Open coat (not tight enough, loose).
- Lack of substance in adult dog.
- Dogs more than 1 inch (2,5 cm) over or under the ideal height.

ELIMINATING FAULTS :

- In adult classes any shyness.
- Butterfly nose.
- Overshot of more than 1/8 inch (3 mm).
- Undershot bite, wry mouth.
- Lack of webbing.
- White on shoulders, around ears, on back of neck, across back or flanks.
- Silvery coat, grey in coat, black areas in coat.
- Any colour other than red or orange shades.

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

N.B. : Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.