

Proposal: Mandatory DNA Profiling, Microchip Identification, and Dilute Genotype Reporting for Labrador Retrievers

- ☐ The Labrador Retriever has been the number one most widely registered breed within the American Kennel Club for the last 30 years. It is our duty, as the stewards of our breed standard, to preserve the highest pedigree accuracy and genetic accountability.
- ☐ The Labrador Retriever breed standard recognizes **three colors only: black, yellow, and chocolate**, and preservation of these colors is fundamental to maintaining the breed as historically defined by our standard
- ☐ The long-term **purity and integrity of the Labrador Retriever breed** depend upon accurate parentage verification, transparent genetic information, and responsible breeding practices
- ☐ The AKC currently maintains a DNA profiling program but does not require universal DNA verification for all breeding stock
- ☐ The absence of mandatory permanent identification creates the potential for discrepancies between DNA samples and the actual identity of breeding animals
- ☐ Microchip identification provides a reliable and permanent method of linking a specific dog to its DNA profile and dilute status.
- ☐ Advances in canine genetic testing now allow for accurate identification of the dilute (MLPH) locus, classifying dogs as **DD (non-dilute), Dd (carrier), or dd (dilute)**; and
- ☐ The presence of the dilute gene introduces coat colors outside the three recognized colors of **black, yellow, and chocolate**, making transparency essential to maintaining clarity and consistency within the breed
- ☐ The inclusion of verified genetic information in registration records and pedigrees enhances breeder decision-making, supports breed preservation, and further safeguards the three recognized colors of the **Labrador Retriever as defined by the breed standard**
- ☐ The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. as the parent club, has an established responsibility to preserve and protect the breed

Therefore, we propose that the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. petitions the AKC to require the following:

☒ Mandatory DNA Profiling

All Labrador Retrievers used for breeding and producing AKC-registered litters shall be required to have an AKC-recognized DNA and Dilute profile on file prior to every litter registration.

☒ Mandatory Microchip Identification

All sires and dams must be permanently identified via ISO-compliant microchip. Sire and Dam identification must be recorded with the AKC and linked directly to the dog's DNA profile.

☒ Mandatory Dilute Locus Testing

All breeding stock shall be tested for the dilute gene, with results imbedded within their permanent AKC#:

o DD (non-dilute)

o Dd (carrier)

o dd (dilute)

Example format:

o AKC #: SR12345678-DD

o AKC #: SR12345679-Dd

o AKC #: SR12345679-dd

Registration Record Integration

Each puppy produced from such breeding's shall have:

o DNA parentage verification

o Dilute parental genotype status recorded

o A standardized notation appended to its AKC registration record

Pedigree Inclusion Requirement

All DNA verification status, microchip verification, and dilute genotype results shall be:

o Included on official AKC pedigrees (digital and printed)

o Carried forward and displayed across subsequent generations where available

Implementation Timeline

The AKC shall establish a phased implementation plan:

- o Initial voluntary compliance with incentives
- o Full enforcement for all Labrador Retriever litters within a defined period

Proposed implementation

Phase 1 (Year 1): Voluntary Compliance with Incentives

- ☐ *Reduced* DNA profile, +Dilute locus test fees for sires and dams of compliant litters
- ☐ Public designation on AKC papers and pedigrees (e.g., “DNA Verified Litter”)
- ☐ Higher status on AKC Market Place ads with “DNA verified litters”
- ☐ Give DNA profile, +Dilute locus test cost reduction incentives *for puppies of “DNA verified litters”*
- ☐ Make it a requirement for all Labrador breeders recognized within the “Breeder of Merit” program

Phase 2 (Year 2–3): Mandatory DNA/Dilute testing for sires and dams of all registered litters

- ☐ All litter applications must meet DNA, microchip, and dilute testing requirements for registration

Conclusion

The Labrador Retriever breed standard recognizes only three colors- **black, yellow, and chocolate**. Maintaining these standard colors, along with verified parentage and accurate

genetic records, is crucial to preserving the breed's integrity and maintaining the breed standard.

While we cannot put the genie back in the bottle, current registration practices without a DNA profile, microchip verification, and dilute genotype transparency create risk of errors, inconsistencies, and unverified dilute carriers within the stud book.

We propose that the AKC implement these requirements to:

- ☑ Ensure 100% verified parentage for all Labrador Retriever litters
- ☑ Link DNA and dilute genotype to each dog via permanent microchip identification
- ☑ Record the dilute genotype (DD, Dd, dd) in all registration records and pedigrees going forward