



Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada is considered the place of origin of the purebred dog officially known as the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever - or more affectionately known as the "Toller."

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever (Toller) was developed in the early 19th century to toll, or lure, and retrieve waterfowl. The playful action of the Toller retrieving a stick or ball along the shoreline arouses the curiosity of the ducks offshore. They are lured within gunshot range, and the dog is sent out to retrieve the dead or wounded birds.

There is no authentic record of the development of the Toller, but present day thinking is that the basic stock was the red decoy dog, probably brought to Nova Scotia with the early settlers from Europe. Crosses with other breeds: possibly spaniel and setter-type dogs; retriever-type dogs; and farm collie, produced today's Toller. Originally known as the Little River Duck Dog after the district of Yarmouth County, or as a Yarmouth Toller.

The Toller has bred true for generations and was granted official breed status by the Canadian Kennel Club in 1945, when 15 were registered.

Today's Toller in the USA

Growth ~ from initial pockets in the NE, SE, Mid-West ...
Tollers can now be found throughout the United States.

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA) was formed in October 1984 to promote the interest of the Toller and to safeguard its future in the United States. The Club holds the belief that as a sporting breed dog, the Toller should demonstrate the basic instincts and traits necessary to adequately execute the tasks for which they were bred, and encourages all Tollers to prove them by passing an approved field test.