

## **The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA) BREEDER REFERRAL DIRECTORY**

As provided in the NSDTRC (USA) bylaws, one of the purposes of the club is to encourage and promote quality in the responsible breeding of purebred Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. To that end, the club developed a Code of Ethics by which each member agrees to abide, and for which several criteria are listed to better define the club's philosophy of encouraging and promoting quality in responsible breeding. Whether listed with Breeder Referral or not each member that chooses to breed has agreed to the following:

- If I breed, I will strive to improve the Toller breed according to the NSDTRC (USA) Breed Standard. I will conscientiously plan each breeding, choosing only parents of appropriate temperament, appearance and other desirable qualities.
- I will become aware of genetic defects that can be harmful to the breed. When breeding, I will endeavor to select animals that will reduce the incidence of genetic problems while enhancing the positive attributes and abilities of the breed. I will be open with all persons interested in the welfare of the Toller and will discuss possible physical or temperament defects in my own stock.
- I will act responsibly in regards to all puppies produced by my breeding for the lifetime of the puppies.
- I will never knowingly sell to, or place a Toller with unethical persons or those who would not provide proper and humane care to the dog. I will refuse to sell any Toller to any pet shop or to any wholesale dealer in dogs.

### **For those members wishing to be listed with Breeder Referral as a breeder or stud dog owner, the following criteria must be met:**

- Listing in the Breeder Referral Directory will be from January 1st to December 31st. A new application must be filled out each year and sent to the Breeder Referral Committee
- The breeder/stud dog owner must have been a member in good standing with the NSDTRC (USA) for at least one year and have current dues paid.
- A member suspended or expelled from The American Kennel Club for any reason will automatically lose the privilege of being listed in the Breeder Referral Directory.
- All breeding stock must be eligible for AKC registration and must be clear of Limited Registrations prior to being listed.
- All Brood Bitches must be registered with the American Kennel Club.
- All litters whelped in the U.S. must be registered with the American Kennel Club within six (6) months of birth.
- Anyone found making false representations on the Breeder List Application is subject to removal and may face disciplinary action.
- Follow AKC requirements for record keeping, identification of animals, and registration procedures.

### **To further advance responsible breeding practices, the NSDTRC (USA) strongly recommends that breeders and stud dog owners adhere to the following:**

- Health Clearances - All currently used breeding stock within the kennel and stud dogs have the health clearances listed below:
  - a) Certified clear of Hip Dysplasia by any of the various organizations recognized in providing hip clearance certification.
  - b) OptiGen tested for PRA before first breeding in order to reduce the incidence of PRA as recommended by Optigen LLC. [See Table on Page 2]
    - Any dog that is the offspring of an A to A breeding or an A to C breeding may substitute DNA parentage verification and Optigen results of the parents in lieu of an Optigen test.
  - c) Bitches - Eyes cleared, before each breeding, by a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist for signs of heritable eye defects other than PRA and registered with CERF or have equivalent documentation from a board-certified ophthalmologist. Bitches should continue to have eyes checked every 18 months up to the age of nine (9) years.
  - d) Studs - Eyes cleared before first service by a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist for signs of major heritable eye defects other than PRA and registered with CERF or have

equivalent documentation from a board-certified ophthalmologist. Thereafter, eyes should be checked at least every 18 months up to the age of nine (9) years.

- Use breeding stock that is structurally sound and of appropriate temperament.
- All breeding stock is in good health including free of communicable disease.
- Consideration given to other disorders that may have a genetic component including, but not limited to, autoimmune diseases, Addison's disease, epilepsy, hypothyroidism, cardiac diseases/anomalies, skin disorders (allergies), and orthopedic disorders such as "short toes."
- Additional health clearances to be considered:
  - Certified clear of elbow dysplasia
  - Certified clear of cardiac disease
  - Certified clear of thyroid disease
- Willingness to provide documentation of health clearances and genetic test results with the breeder or stud dog owner, whichever the case may be.

**The NSDTRC (USA) further recommends to breeders that:**

- No puppies will be placed in new homes before seven (7) weeks of age or prior to the minimum age mandated by applicable state/federal law if greater than seven weeks
- No puppies will be offered for sale to pet stores, mail order houses, catalog sales, live auction, contest sponsors or raffles.
- Properly completed papers accompany a dog when shipped or delivered to someone else and should include the following:
  - If no Litter Registration papers are available, a Bill of Sale will be provided with the dog, which will include, at minimum, the following information: Name of buyer and seller (breeder), puppy's date of birth, sex, color, the names and registration numbers of the sire & dam, and the date sold or delivered;
  - For an Individually Registered Dog: it's registered name, registration number, date sold or delivered and a properly completed form for the Transfer of Registration;
  - For a dog not yet Individually Registered: Litter Registration number, date of birth, sex, color, sire & dam registered numbers and names, breeder, date sold or delivered and a properly completed form for Individual Registration;
- All dogs sold have in their possession a Veterinarian's Health Certificate when shipped or if state law requires it. This should include names and dates of all shots and worming.
- If a puppy is examined by a Veterinarian within 72 hours of purchase and is found to have medically documented physical ailments, an offer to make restitution (such as, full refund, assume veterinary expenses, offer another pup, etc.) should be made.
- Should the owner of one of the pups be unable to keep the dog for any reason, the breeder should either take the dog back, work with the owners to find a good home, or in extreme cases pay to have the dog euthanized.

**Optigen LLC Significance for Breeding**

Possible results using the OptiGen <i>prcd</i> test for ACDs & Tollers			
Pattern	Risk Group	Significance For Breeding	Risk of <i>prcd</i> Disease
A	Homozygous Normal	Can be bred to any dog, with 99.5% confidence of producing no affected pups	Not expected to develop <i>prcd</i> , risk is less than 0.0025%
B	Heterozygous Carrier	Probably a carrier of <i>prcd</i> (99.0% confidence)and should be bred only to Pattern A	Not expected to develop <i>prcd</i> , risk is less than 0.5%
C	Homozygous Affected	Probably homozygous for <i>prcd</i> (99.5% confidence)and should be bred only to Pattern A	Probably will develop <i>prcd</i> , with only 0.5% chance of not being affected.

Probability risks are based on estimated frequency of recombination between the *prcd* markers and the disease gene.