

**Health:** Tollers are plagued with few of the genetic problems. Tollers who are part of the breeding pool should be certified by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) to be free of Hip Dysplasia at the age of two. This does not guarantee that the puppies will be 100% free of the problem, but it does go a very long way in insuring that breeders are doing everything they can to keep it limited. Tollers should be checked by a veterinary ophthalmologist for signs eye problems before they are bred and every 12-18 months thereafter until age of. All dogs in the breeding pool should be tested by OptiGen for their PRA Pattern and results registered with the Club's Eye Registry.



**PERSONALITY:** Though the smallest of retrievers, it is by no means a laid back couch potato - this breed is blessed with a great deal of energy. Tollers have a "spark of unique individualism". The owner may often find the dog feels doing things "their way" the best way.

Control is needed (as with all dogs); but with firmness NOT HARSHNESS. You must let your Toller know from the very beginning you are the leader of the pack and worthy of its respect and loyalty. Harshness only meets stubbornness.

**TEMPERAMENT:** Most puppies tend to be very active and new owners will have to learn to channel this into productive outlets. It is highly recommended that all puppies be socialized at a young age by attending puppy classes. Here they learn to deal with new situations, other dogs and other people.

As adults this breed can be wonderful family companions. However as young dogs they can sometimes be over zealous with play in homes with very young children.

Tollers are very intelligent and will work well with a happy, gentle hand most times. Adult Tollers can be somewhat leery of strangers at first, especially if the owner is wary. However, there should be no sign of aggressiveness in a general situation with people or with other animals.

**TRAINING:** Many Toller owners report that the dog is happiest when working. A basic obedience class will help the communication between owner and Toller. It is a fact that many Tollers have their own time-table for learning. They are ardent observers of life and as young dogs are easily distracted. While they learn quickly, they also bore quickly. Training must be kept short and light, fun and challenging.



*Today's Toller is multi-faceted. You get the ideal dog ... a retriever, a hunter, a loyal watchdog, a competitions dog and a wonderful loving pet all rolled into one!*

For a list of Breeders, send a Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope to SUE VAN SLOUN, P.O. BOX 116, WESTPORT PT., MA 02791.

**For Additional Information ~ Visit our Website**  
[www.nsdtrc-usa.org](http://www.nsdtrc-usa.org)

**The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Breed Standard Video is available!**  
Write to NSDTRC(USA) Merchandising for details  
Kelly Barry - 8124 West Davis St, Niles, IL 60714

**THE TOLLER BOOK:**  
**Alpine Publications - 800/777-7257**

**THE NOVA SCOTIA DUCK TOLLING RETRIEVER CLUB (USA)** was founded in 1984. The Club's primary purpose is to encourage and promote the selective breeding of purebred Tollers, emphasizing hunting ability, temperament, conformation and intelligence. A secondary objective was to create a club wherein members could have an outlet for information gathered regarding events, health and other issues of the breed.



The following is a brief introduction to the United States Club and our wonderful breed: **The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever (referred to as the "Toller")**. This brochure includes general information that will attempt to answer a few of the most common questions about Tollers. We hope this information will help you decide whether or not Tollers would make a good addition to your family.



The membership of the Club has grown from a handful to over 450 members throughout the US.

plus Canada, England, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and New Zealand. Members are involved in all phases of competition: hunting retriever trials, conformation shows as well as companion events: obedience trials, tracing, agility and flyball. A good number of Tollers can be found in pet therapy programs. Search and rescue is a new venue opening to the breed.



A General Membership Meeting is held annually in different regions throughout the United States. General Membership is open to anyone over 18 years of age (**you do not have to be a Toller owner to be a members!**). A newsletter, with articles pertaining to topics of interest to the membership (health, book reviews, area events, club policies, achievements, etc.) is produced and mailed quarterly. Most of the articles come from the members themselves. It is only through the growth and commitment of our membership that this club can truly help this great breed of dog. **We would be pleased to have you be a part of it too!**

**In September of 2000, the Toller registry was fully incorporated into the AKC's Foundation Stock Service (FSS). As of Sept. 2001, Duck Tollers were added to AKC's Miscellaneous Class allowing them to compete in AKC Obedience, tracking and agility competition. As of June, 2002 Tollers became eligible to compete in AKC Hunting Retriever Tests.**

### General Toller Information

**ORIGIN & PURPOSE:** The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever was developed in Nova Scotia in the early 19th Century to toll (or lure) and retrieve waterfowl. 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. He is aided by the hunter, who is out of sight and throwing 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 - this is called "tolling"; luring the ducks rafting in the center of the lake into shooting range. The Toller is subsequently sent out to retrieve the dead or wounded birds.



**ENVIRONMENT:** We have Tollers living in ALL WEATHER Conditions: very southern, humid atmosphere; the desert areas; heavy winter areas, all over the U.S. and all do well. Tollers live in cities and out in the country. Tollers and owners learn to adapt!

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** The Toller is a medium-sized, powerful, compact, balanced dog - the smallest of the retrievers. The Toller's attitude and bearing suggest strength with a high degree of agility. He is alert, determined, and quick, with a keen desire to work and please. Many Tollers have a slightly sad expression until they go to work - then their appearance changes to intense concentration and excitement.

Ideal height (at the withers) for males over 18 months 18-21 in (ideal is 19"); females over 18 months 17-20 in (ideal is 18"). Weight should be in proportion to the height and bone of the dog.



**COAT & COLOR:** The Toller was bred to retrieve from icy waters and must have a water-repellant double coat of medium length and softness with softer dense undercoat. The coat may have a slight wave on the back, but is otherwise straight. Featherings are soft at the throat, behind the ears and at the back of the thighs. Forelegs are moderately feathered.

Color is various shades of red with lighter featherings and underside of tail. Usually at least one of the following white markings - feet, chest, blaze and tip of tail. The pigment of the nose, lips and eye rims are flesh colored, blending with the coat color or black.

