



tolling them toward a hunter. And when the playing is over, the Toller then retrieves the downed birds.

This description of a Toller makes them perfect candidates for the retriever trials. But it's the playful nature of a Toller that also makes Tollers a perfect fit for Agility Trials. Tollers are very versatile and can excel at anything they are taught to do. They are smart _ they learn new concepts very quickly; they are quick _ their ground speed is tremendous; and they are agile _ they can run and jump with ease. All three of these qualities are assets when you consider Agility Trials test a dog in many ways. The competition is based on how fast a dog can complete an obstacle course that includes twists and turns, jumps and climbing, weaving and flat_out sprinting. This fits right in with the Toller's resume.

It has been said that Tollers in Agility are extremely trainable, love to please their handler, intelligent, athletic and fun loving dogs. However it should also be mentioned that they sometimes make independent decisions on their own not always the right ones!

If you are considering Tollers for your next competitor you should take into consideration their high degree of "thinking" intelligence. Sometimes the trainer will almost have to explain why he wants the Toller to do this or that. Many Toller owners report that their dog is happiest when working. However, they also state that the Toller has it's own time_table for learning. They are bright, intelligent and easy to train "if" you are experienced. The Toller owner/trainer should be one that can give love as well as accept love. Harshness or total rigidity in training is not for a Toller and the owner will be disappointed.

Tollers are ardent observers of life and as young dogs can be easily distracted in the ring. At about 2 years of age they reach a level of mental and emotional maturity that makes the training process easier and proceed more quickly. This is not to say the Toller can't be trained until this maturity arrives, but rather that while they learn quickly, they also bore quickly. Training sessions must be kept short and light, fun and challenging. As well, it is very important to for the owner/trainer to have a strong bond with their Toller, in fact a young Toller should be taught that the owner/trainer is the most exciting thing in life, as it will help keep other possible distractions to a minimum!

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever has broken free of the constraints of the hunting technique for which it's named. Today the Toller is multi-faceted! Today's Toller can compete with the big boys in Agility!

Professional Photos taken by Tien Tran

**For a list of Breeders,
send a self-addressed, stamped envelop
to**

**SUE VAN SLOUN, Breed Referral
P. O. Box 116, Westport Pt., MA 02791**

For additional information on the
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever
& the National Breed Club - visit
www.nsdtrc-usa.org

The Toller Breed Video is now available-
write to NSDTRC(USA) Merchandising:
Kelly Barry - 8124 West Davis St.,
Niles, IL 60714

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

TOLLERS IN AGILITY



In September 2001, the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever "TOLLERS" entered the AKC world with full entry into Agility Trials. By the end of October 2001, Tollers had earned 89 Agility Titles!

"Agility is unlike any other dog sport to me. There is something about the bond on an agility course that beats all the other team events. Clearly you need teamwork in anything you do with your dog, but this is just different. There is a freedom to agility that I don't see in any of the other sports, and my dog recognizes it and feeds off it. Perhaps its because you, too, are running free with the dog"
_ Kim Simons.

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers were developed in the early 19th century to toll, or lure, waterfowl into gun range. The playful action of the Toller retrieving a stick or ball along the shoreline arouses the curiosity of ducks offshore, mesmerizing them, making them forget everything else and eventually