

# Labrador Retrievers

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*"Take your pick: The sunny, smart, and hard-working Labrador Retriever is America's favorite dog."- Dogtime.com*

# Table of Contents

Introduction	3
History	4
Appearance	5
Temperament	6
Colors of Labs	7
Types of Labs	8-9
Jobs of Labs	10-12
Labs in War	13
Play Time	14
Glossary	15-16
Questions	17

## Introduction

Labrador Retrievers are also commonly known as “labs”.



Labrador Retrievers got their name from their first job. Their first job was to **retrieve** fish on the shores of Newfoundland for their owners.

Labrador Retrievers make very good family dogs and they love kids the most. They live to please their owners and love to make them happy.

They love to play and are very athletic dogs.

They are the most popular breed in the United States.

## **History**

Labrador Retriever's were originally called "St. John's" because they were first found in St. John which is the capital of Newfoundland in the early 1700's.

While in Newfoundland, labs spent their days retrieving fish off the shores. In 1880 labs almost become extinct because the government created laws and raised the taxes.

In the 1920s labs came to the United States. The breed became popular after World War II and in the 1920s.

## Appearance

Labs are large dogs. Their **coats** are short and very thick. Their coats are also **water resistant**. This helps them stay warm in cold water and cold weather. They have **webbed feet** as well that help them swim just like ducks do.



The females and males look a little bit different.

This is what webbed feet look like.

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<b>Pounds</b>	65-80	55-70
<b>Height (inches tall)</b>	22.5-24.5	21.5-23.5

These numbers above are just **averages**. Labs can be smaller or bigger than this.

## Temperament

Labs are very kind dogs. They are great to be around. They are outgoing and love to have fun. They make great family dogs.

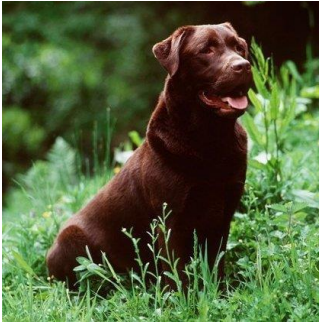
They have a very strong sense of smell that helps them with their daily tasks and their jobs.

They are known for their gentle mouths. Labs do a thing called **soft mouth**. They can even carry an egg in their mouth without breaking it!

It is known that females can be more independent than males.

## Colors of Labs

There are three original colors of labs.  
That is black, yellow and chocolate (brown).  
They are others as well that a mix of the colors  
like red, white and charcoal.



## **Types of Labs**

There are two types of labs. There are American (left blow) labs which are known for work dogs. Then there are English (right below) labs which are known for show dogs.

English labs are calmer tempered than American dogs. That is why American are used for working and English are used for shows.





## **Types of Labs**

You can see the difference between American and English labs below.

	<b>American</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Body</b>	Big, <b>stocky</b> , block like, long chest, very solid, short bodies from head to tail, runs slower	Skinny body, short chest, long bodies from head to tail, runs faster
<b>Head</b>	Wide, top of head looks like square, thicker face, short muzzle	Skinny head, top of head looks round, long <b>muzzle</b>
<b>Neck</b>	Short, thick	Long, skinny
<b>Tail</b>	Thick, straight	Skinny, curls towards the end
<b>Legs</b>	Short	Long
<b>Coat</b>	Thick coat	Thin coat

## Jobs of Labs

Labs are very smart and have very good noses so they are used for a lot of jobs.

Labs are used for hunting: they **flush**, **point**, and retrieve.



## **Jobs of Labs**

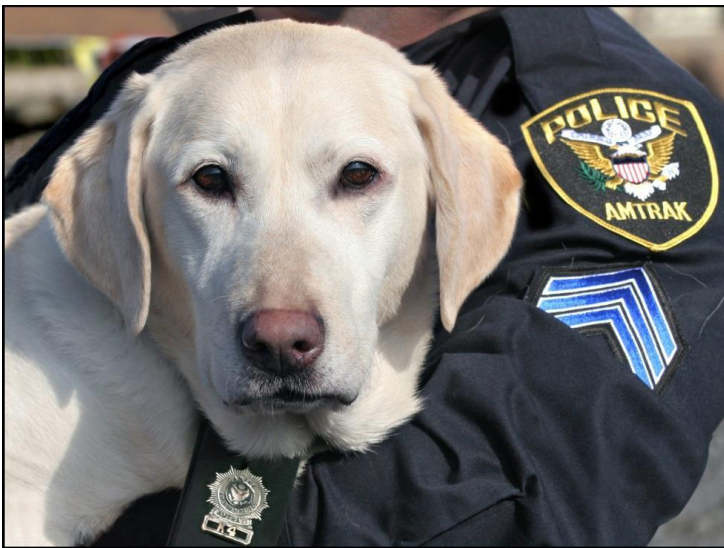
Labs are also used for **tracking**. When they track they use their nose to find whatever they are trained to find. Some are trained to find hurt people in earth quakes, hurricanes or even a burning house. They are also trained to find bombs or explosives to help keep people safe.

**Disabled assistance** is another job of labs. They do a lot from helping blind people get around and keeping them safe. Or they help cart people around who cannot walk or need help walking.



They also make great therapy dogs. They go into hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, and school to help adults and kids to feel better and safe.

Labs also make great friends and buddies for police officers. They stick by the police officers side and keep them safe from any danger. The police officer and its lab go through a lot of training together so they gain a lot of trust with one another.



## Labs in War

Labs that were in the **Vietnam War** were the only dogs classified as “military working dogs”. There were 4,000 labs that helped in the Vietnam War. They helped the soldiers find where the enemies and dangers were. They helped find soldiers that were hurt and needed help. Mostly importantly they helped keep the soldiers safe.



## Play Time

Labradors love to play. They need 30-60 minutes of exercise a day in order to stay healthy. If they do not get the exercise that they need they may become bored and chew things up.



Labs live to train and please their owners. There is a lot of training you can do with a lab. You can teach them to sit, lie down, roll over, and shake and so much more.

One of labs favorite things to do is play fetch. They also love to play with other dogs.



# Glossary

Retrieve: to get or bring something

Newfoundland: large Canadian island off the east coast of the North American mainland

Coat: fur or hair covering an animal's body

Water resistant: able to keep water off to a certain amount

Webbed feet: skin that connects between toes

Soft mouth: behavior that means to pick up, hold and carry very gently

Stocky: thick and heavy built

Muzzle:

Flush: to find the game being hunted then running into the hiding place making them available for the hunter to shoot

Point: stopping and aiming its muzzle towards the game being looked for

Tracking: following a course or trail to an item or destination

Disabled assistance: those who need help physically, mentally or emotionally

Vietnam War: a war from 19-55-1975 that was fought by the United States against the Vietnamese



# Questions

**Question:** Are labradors good swimmers?

**Answer:** Yes! They have webbed toes that help them swim. They also use their tail to help them swim because it helps them steer them in the right direction.

**Questions:** What else do webbed feet help labs do besides swim?

**Answer:** They work pretty much as snowshoes as well. It keeps the snow from building up between their toes so that they can stay running on top of the snow.

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# **Common Core State Standards**

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCRA.R.4 Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

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