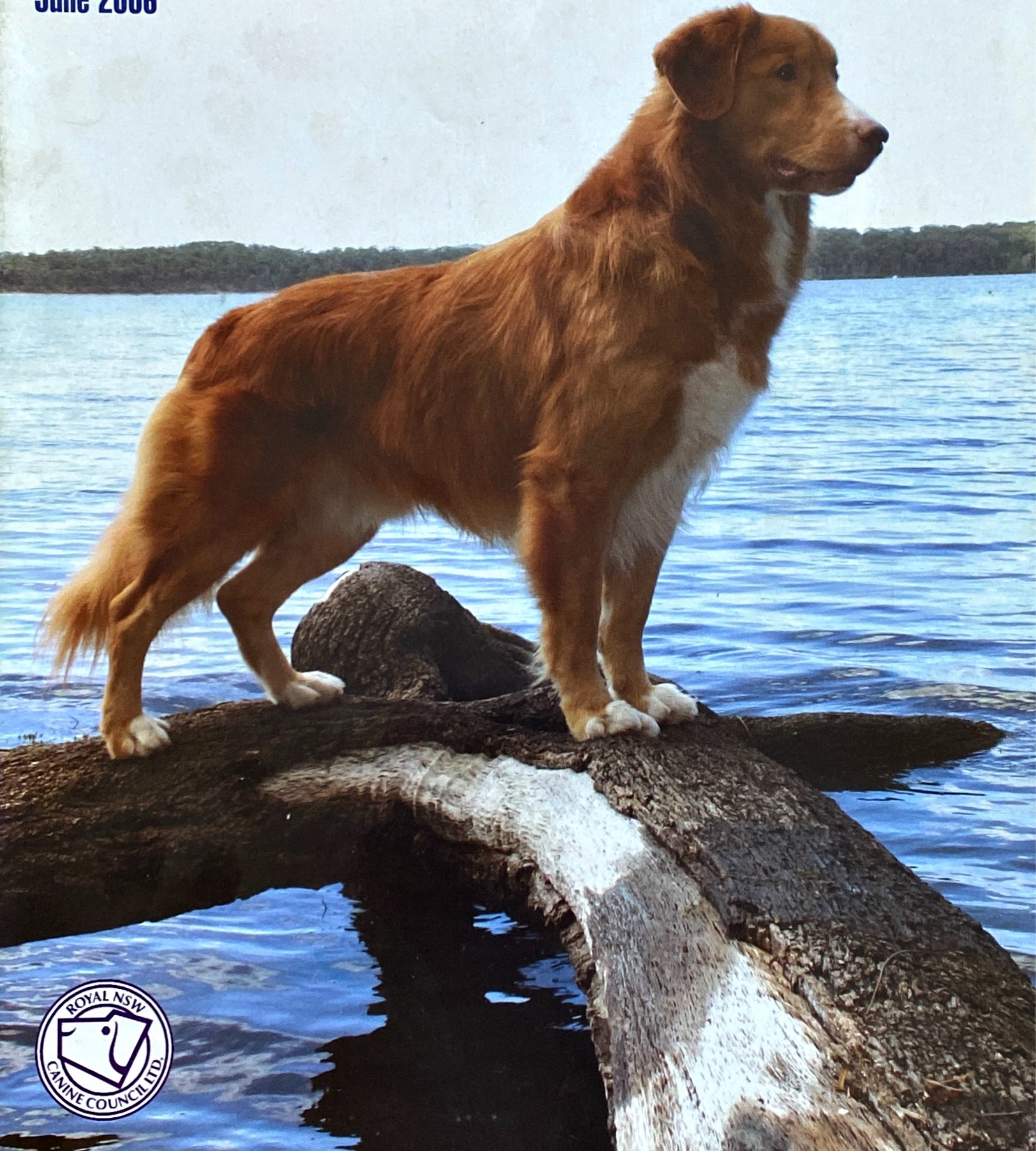


the
CANINE journal

The Official Publication of the Royal N.S.W. Canine Council Ltd.

June 2006



For further information contact:

S. Coombes on 6585 6345

K. Walker on 4973 5270

T. Kropman on 6230 8278

N
O
V
a

Scotia Duck Tolling

Retriever

"Tolling" is a Middle English word meaning to "lure or decoy game".



History

It is said that the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever was not, at any stage of its development, influenced by other countries. It was developed in Canada specifically for Canadian hunting conditions. The Toller is nearly as old a breed as the other popular retriever breeds, including the Labrador, Chesapeake, and Golden Retriever, but has until recently remained rare. The Golden Retriever, for example, began its development only two years before the Toller while the Labrador's development began only a little earlier in the 1800s. The main developers of the breed were avid duck hunters and they did not want competition in the lakes or on the marshes. They restricted the distribution of the breed by only selling males keeping the females in house for their own breeding programmes. As a result the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever is not considered to have any rivals as an all-purpose hunting dog particularly under Canadian hunting conditions. The great advantage in

using a Toller as a hunting dog, and particularly as a retriever, is its compact size. The Toller is the smallest of all retrievers and they are very agile, possessing enough strength, determination and courage to fight heavy seas or icy water to reach a downed duck, but compact enough to travel in a boat or to keep hidden in a bivouac at their master's side.

Sometimes vocal at home, when in action, the Tolling dog makes no sound. It does not try to catch the ducks and does not go into the water. It is the dog's presence and playful movements that attracts the curiosity of the ducks. To "toll" the hunters will set up in a blind, or hide in the grass on the shore of a lake, river, or tidal marsh. If there are ducks far out in the water, out of shotgun range, the hunters will allow the Toller, which is at all times under their control, to play and retrieve along the water's edge and by doing so, the ducks will be attracted close to shore. Hunters do not shoot while ducks are on the water, but when the birds are in range the hunter will stand, which disturbs the birds, causing them to fly. This makes them more vulnerable targets and reduces the chances of losing wounded or crippled birds as on land. When the shooting is over, the Toller then acts in its second capacity and works as an efficient, soft mouthed retriever. The Toller will go after a downed duck under conditions of ice and heavy seas, with courage and determination that is remarkable. Prior to the 1940s, the breed was known as the Little River duck dog or the Yarmouth Toller but was later changed to the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever when the breed was officially recognised by the Canadian Kennel Club in 1945.

Australian history

Tollers officially arrived in Australia in 1991 when Marilyn Kellie and Denise Sandow imported a pair from Vancouver in Canada. Their first litter in 1993 allowed Sara and Tim Coombes to acquire a pup for their daughter. Sara and Tim had been breeding German Shepherds prior to the arrival of Kelmark Fox O'Fundy (Halifax) but were so charmed by Halifax that they went on a search for a female to import and increase the numbers in Australia. In November 1993 they were offered a bitch in whelp from UK. They were building at the time but decided that buying a Toller was far more fun than buying a kitchen and so Lyonhouse Agnes arrived into quarantine on Dec 24th to do her two months, whelping in quarantine just two weeks later. The seven pups born expanded the Toller population of Australia and they were all named in honour of the missing kitchen with

monikers such as Kirchoff Duck A L'Orange and Lord Kitchener. Further breeding and importing took place over the next few years with more breeders becoming interested. There are now 10 active breeders in Australia and a few more with young dogs prepared to breed in the future. Breeders are still selective with their stock and prefer to place them in homes where they will be having plenty of activities – agility, retrieving sports, children to entertain, etc. rather than more sedate homes.

Care and Maintenance

Tollers have a straight, medium length, soft topcoat with a soft, dense undercoat that requires weekly grooming and has some shedding. This double coat should be brushed down to the undercoat to encourage a healthy and smooth coat. Dry shampooing often works best on the coat of this breed. They should not be bathed regularly as this removes the oils from the skin and coat, which aid water resistance. Hair is clipped the hair around the feet and ears once every three to four weeks.

Exercise and Training

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers are not couch potatoes and they require a good deal more exercise than many other breeds their size. They thrive on a good daily walk or free running exercise in a park and at least 15 minutes per day learning new tricks or 'showing off' their old ones. Like other retrievers, these dogs are playful and full of energy with a strong retrieving desire. A good activity for a Toller is to throw a ball or other object for them to retrieve. Young Tollers love to practice retrieving, and having children throw objects for them to retrieve will also assist in developing close relationships. Repetitious training methods will bore and distract a young Toller. With their highly developed hunting instincts, honed by years of dedicated breeding practices, training methods that keep training sessions challenging, interesting and fun are often the most successful. With positive

training methods they are fast learners and enjoy working for their handlers. Tollers are exceptional dogs and have excelled in obedience, agility, pet therapy, flyball, retrieving trials/hunting tests and canine freestyle. There are many Tollers working in search and rescue and their ability to scent, combined with strong retrieving drive makes them very successful drug detection dogs. Since their arrival in Australia we now have approx 460 Tollers in the country. Of these we have three Grand Champions, two Australian Obedience Champions, multiple field qualified Tollers with one currently working in All Age stakes, multiple agility and obedience titled Tollers, and eight dancing Tollers! This is not counting those Tollers who are working at home, keeping the family entertained, exercised and loved.

Appearance and Size

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever is a medium sized dog that is recognised as the smallest of the retrievers. The head of the Toller is wedge shaped and the triangular shaped ears are set high and fold forward. Its facial expression often appears rather sad but becomes very animated when the dog goes to work. The water-repellent, double coat keeps the dog warm when retrieving from icy waters and is usually straight although it may have a slight wave. A Toller has a well-feathered tail that is used for added balance when swimming. An unusual feature of this breed is their webbed feet that assist them to swim easily.

Summary

- Intelligent, keen worker.
- An all-purpose happy working dog.
- A wonderful companion and playmate.
- A good watchdog, although not a guard dog.
- Great sense of humour.



TARSHONA KENNELS

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

Kim, Tony, Crystal, Danielle & Jessica Walker

Ph: 02 4973 5270

Email" toller1@optusnet.com.au

www.geocities.com/tarshonakenels

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Aust Ch. Renarders Beunas Tardes (Swd)



Aust. Ch. Kirchoff Gracelands

Apilraine Kennels

Anembo NSW ph: 62308278

pawzabull_ABs@austarnet.com.au

The adult Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever stands around 48-51cms for a male, and weighs 20-23kgs while a female stands 45-48cms and weighs 17-20kg.

Temperament

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers are fun loving and affectionate dogs although they may be aloof with strangers. This trait makes them reliable watchdogs although they are not guard dogs. They are loyal and loving family pets that love to please. They do well with children because they are patient and love to play, especially fetch. Although they are gentle with children they have a tendency to "bounce" which can be overwhelming for small children. As with all breeds, they should be supervised around children at all times. The Tollers size, disposition, and easy maintenance makes them wonderful pets for active families as well as excellent hunting companions. Tollers do not thrive as outside dogs and prefer to be house dogs and part of the family. As with any puppy, early socialisation and training is important. They need consistent and fair handling and to understand who is the leader of the pack.

Health

Like other retrievers, Tollers are susceptible to hip dysplasia and eye problems, so all breeding stock should have hips x-rayed and eyes tested according to recommended procedures. Both progressive retinal atrophy and juvenile cataracts are known in the breed, so eye tests are critical. PRA strikes late in life but recent advances in DNA testing allows breeders to identify PRA affected puppies soon after birth with a simple blood test. A well-maintained Toller's life expectancy is approximately 12-14 years.

KIRCHOFF KENNELS

NOVA SCOTIA DUCK TOLLING RETRIEVERS

"The big dog in a small package"

Owners of the First Best in Show Toller in Australia. Breeding our Tollers for both work and pleasure. Consistently importing stock to widen our gene pool from both Canada & UK.

We currently have stock with proven working ability in the field, obedience, Agility and endurance. Our dogs are multi BOB winners at Royals in most States since 1994.

All stock health cleared before breeding with certificates supplied and pups certified heart clear by cardiologist.

FOR FURTHER

ENQUIRIES:

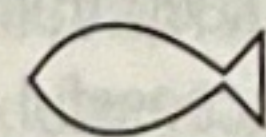
TIM & SARA COOMBES

PO BOX 450

WAUCHOPE

NSW 2446

(02) 6585 6345 ph/fax



kirchoff@midcoast.com.au

GOSFORD GROOMING

★Central Coast Business Award Finalist 2005★

★Won! Best In Show Groomer 2005!★

We make you fall in love with your dog again!

- Shampoo, Cologne & Blow Dry
- Clipping & Scissoring All Breeds
- Skin, Ear, Eye & Nail Care

* TAFE Qualified & PIAA Accredited salon

Dedicated to the comfort, health & beauty of cats & dogs

Now available Dr Billingham's BARF Patties

www.gosfordgrooming.com.au

Call your Petstylist Today 4329 6200



Ronald Bowden Photography



Email: rnbowden@dodo.com.au

Ph: 0263617978

Mobile: 0428645544

Covering Country & City Canine Events for all your photographic requirements