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The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever

The "Toller" as it is affectionately known, is the smallest and probably the least known retriever. Its origins date back to the 1800s when local hunters in Nova Scotia, Canada, used a small red dog resembling a fox to toll (or lure) curious ducks into range. This native dog is thought to have been further developed with the involvement of the Cocker Spaniel, Irish Setter, Collie, Brittany and various retrievers to produce the dog we recognise today. The first

Canadian Kennel Club registration of 15 dogs was in 1945.

The act of tolling is a very important characteristic of the breed and in the field this involves the dog running and playing along the shoreline in view of the ducks while the hunter is throwing a stick or ball. The animated

appearance of a red dog with splashes of white on the tail tip, head and feet arouses the ducks' curiosity and lures them into range. This "tolling" behaviour is very evident at home with Tollers being very animated in play. They are also fanatical retrievers and would retrieve all day if allowed.

Tollers are extremely versatile and can be found undertaking all kinds of activities, from the conformation ring to obedience, agility, tracking and retrieving trials. They are very powerful and agile and have great endurance. On the other hand, they make great companion dogs and are quite content to lie at their owner's feet (or in their laps) until it's time to work. They

are patient and tolerant with children and have been used as therapy dogs, in nursing homes and as guide dogs for the blind. Tollers can be quite vocal when excited and make good watchdogs but not very good guard dogs as they just love people. They are also renowned for the "Toller scream" which you soon learn about when you own one. When really, really excited they like to tell everyone!!!



Tollers generally need little grooming but some coats can get quite knotty behind the ears, so regular brushing and keeping the ears and feet trimmed is important. They can range in shades from red to orange with normally at least one white marking either on the feet, chest, tail tip or face. The tail carriage is quite unique to this gundog as it will flag

its tail when alert and working – this can be a sight to behold with its full feathering carried over the back. The lip/eyelid pigment and eye colour can come in two shades: dark point and flesh coloured. The eye colour should match the pigment and also blend with the coat colour (Dark eyes – dark nose – darker coat etc.).

Tollers enjoy lots of exercise and love swimming but, more importantly for them, lots of human attention and they are very devoted to their owners. They make great family dogs and will be quite content to play with small children but enjoy getting around with the big kids as well! ♦

DARE TO BE RARE

LIDLRIVA & FIONAVAR

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE ALL ROUND TOLLER



STRIVING FOR VERSATILITY – SO FAR, WE HAVE ACHIEVED
MULTI IN GROUP AWARDS AND HAVE ATTAINED BOTH NOVICE
AND OPEN OBEDIENCE TITLES AND ARE CURRENTLY TRAINING
FOR RETRIEVING TRIALS.

ALL PARENTS HEALTH CLEARED FOR HIPS, HEART AND EYES
PRIOR TO BREEDING.

ALL PUPPIES LOVINGLY HOUSE-REARED

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