

Information about CNM & CNM Carrier Status

At Whittlesey Valley Retrievers, our main goal is to ensure you receive a healthy and happy puppy, both physically and emotionally. We openly inform you of **Maddie's CNM "CARRIER" status** and **Patton's CNM "CLEAR" status**, so that you can make informed decisions if you ever decide to breed your puppy. Together, Maddie and Patton will produce all healthy and exceptional puppies that will satisfy all your goals. But the future of your litters is up to you and your willingness to make informed and responsible breeding decisions.

What is CNM?

Centronuclear Myopathy (CNM) is a severely disabling disease caused by a genetic mutation that affects the musculature of a pup at an early age. It is non-curable, and affects Labrador retrievers of both field and conformation bloodlines throughout the world, including some of history's most famous field trial bloodlines.

The disease has been known since the 1970's, however a genetic test for the disease was not made available until 2005. Most Labradors have not been tested for this disease; therefore many buyers are unaware if their pup may or may not be affected by or be a carrier of CNM.

Responsible breeders now test their dogs so that they can make informed decisions about suitable breedings to prevent whelping any "AFFECTED" puppies.

Clear or Carrier?

Dogs that are tested as "CLEAR" of the mutated gene are displayed on a White List Registry which is only available from the Alfort School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dogs that are tested as "CARRIERS" of the mutation are not affected by the disease, but cannot be registered on the White List, as they possess the mutation and can pass it on to their progeny if improperly bred.

What About Breeding?

CARRIER TO CARRIER

Two "CARRIERS" of the mutation should never be bred to each other as they will produce "AFFECTED" puppies.

CARRIER TO CLEAR

A carrier can be bred to a dog tested clear, and no "AFFECTED" pups will result. However, in this situation, statistically, 50% of the puppies will be "CARRIERS" and 50% will be "CLEAR"; although results may vary by litter. Full disclosure of CNM status to the future owner is important!

Full Disclosure

It is critical that the breeder inform their clients of the "CARRIER" status, in case the client ever intends to breed the puppy when it reaches suitable age. If future breeding is planned, the buyer should have their pup tested, or at least ensure that the future mate they choose for their dog is registered on the White List as "CLEAR". With knowledgeable and responsible breeding, no "AFFECTED" pups should ever be produced, and the disease will eventually be eliminated from the Labrador breed over time.

For more information about Centronuclear Myopathy, see our link to CNM and the Alfort School of Veterinary Medicine.