

Our Commitment to the Labrador Retriever

By: Stacey Green

At Greenstone Labradors, we are first and foremost **caretakers of the Labrador Retriever breed**. Every decision we make—whether evaluating a dog, planning a breeding, or placing a puppy—is guided by long-term stewardship rather than short-term demand.

Labradors are meant to be steady, kind, biddable dogs with sound structure and an eagerness to work alongside their people. Preserving those qualities requires intention, patience, and deep respect for the breed's history and purpose. We do not breed for trends, novelty, or convenience. We breed to protect what makes Labradors exceptional.

Why Preservation Breeding Matters

Preservation breeding means looking beyond individual dogs and focusing on **generations**.

Rather than producing puppies simply because two dogs are available, we evaluate health, temperament, structure, and pedigree trends over time. Our goal is consistency—dogs that are mentally stable, physically sound, and capable of living long, active lives as companions, workers, and family members.

True preservation helps ensure that future Labradors:

- Retain the breed's hallmark temperament
- Are built correctly to avoid unnecessary injury or breakdown
- Can perform the work the breed was created to do
- Remain reliable, family-safe dogs for generations to come

Health Testing with Purpose

Responsible breeding begins with meaningful health testing. We perform breed-appropriate, verifiable health screenings and make those results available, not as a marketing tool, but as a foundation for informed breeding decisions.

Health testing is not just about the individual dog being bred—it is about protecting the integrity of the bloodline as a whole. We evaluate results in the context of parents, grandparents, and extended pedigree to reduce the risk of inherited disease and structural weakness over time and because we have been involved in Labrador Retrievers for almost 25 years, we have made important connections all over the world and that has been so helpful in understanding the breed far beyond our own yard.

Structure, Evaluation, and Longevity

Correct structure is essential for a Labrador to live a full, comfortable life. Proper movement, balance, and proportions support joints, reduce wear, and allow a dog to remain active well into maturity.

We value objective evaluation through conformation and working venues because they offer independent assessment of a dog's soundness and breed type. Titles and achievements matter not for prestige, but because they help confirm that our dogs meet the standard they are meant to uphold.

Temperament Above All

Temperament is not secondary in the Labrador Retriever—it is the breed. A Labrador should be steady, people-centered, and emotionally sound, capable of working closely with humans and living easily in real homes. Preserving that temperament is as critical as preserving structure and health.

Our ability to produce predictable temperaments comes from years of experience and deep familiarity with our bloodlines. We have lived with, trained, evaluated, and bred within our lines long enough to understand how they mature, how they handle stress, and which traits reliably carry forward. This knowledge allows us to make informed breeding decisions rather than educated guesses.

Puppy raising supports this foundation, but it does not replace it. Our puppies are raised in a structured home environment with calm handling and routine, including early neurological stimulation and age-appropriate exposure, to reinforce the stable temperaments created through thoughtful breeding.

Preservation means intention at every level. When you truly know your lines, temperament is not a gamble—it is something you protect.