

NSDTRC Club: Source: [http://judges1.com/TOLLER~1\\_files/frame.htm](http://judges1.com/TOLLER~1_files/frame.htm): This is an older publication see: <http://nsdtrc-usa.org/>



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



This PowerPoint Presentation CD on the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever was created by the Club's Judges' Education Committee.

*In order for you to learn and enjoy the information &  
we have formatted the <sup>photos,</sup> slide show to move at your  
~ simply hit the space bar <sup>pace</sup> OR click on the screen with  
your mouse to move to the next slide.*

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- This CD includes:
  - v Illustrations of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Standard with full color photos of good examples of the breed.
  - v A brief visual commentary on the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever and the Breed Standard.
- This CD provides:
  - v Judges' Seminar attendees with a means to review the points discussed during the seminar.
  - v The viewer with many examples of Tollers, so they may develop an appreciation for the breed.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- We hope you enjoy this presentation.

Remember, to move to the next slide, hit the space bar OR click your mouse on the screen;

To move backward, hit the “backspace” key TWICE.

*Welcome to the wonderful world of Tollers ...*

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever (Toller) was developed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to toll, or lure, and retrieve waterfowl. The playful action of the Toller retrieving a stick or ball along the shoreline arouses the curiosity of the ducks offshore. They are lured within gunshot range, and the dog is sent out to retrieve the dead or wounded birds.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



*Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada is considered the place of origin of the purebred dog officially known as the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever – or more affectionately known as the “Toller.”*

There is no authentic record of the development of the Toller, but present day thinking is that the basic stock was the red decoy dog, probably brought to Nova Scotia with the early settlers from Europe. Crosses with other breeds: possibly spaniel and setter-type dogs; retriever-type dogs; and farm collie, produced today's Toller. Originally known as the Little River Duck Dog after the district of Yarmouth County, or as a Yarmouth Toller, the Toller has bred true for generations and was granted official breed status by the Canadian Kennel Club in 1945, when 15 were registered.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Today's Toller in the USA

- v **Growth** ~ from initial pockets in the NE, SE, Mid-West ... Tollers can now be found throughout the United States.
- v The NSDTR Club (USA) has divided these states into 7 regions.

In 1998 the United States Club voted to apply with the AKC for full recognition as a breed. When the club turned over its registry to the AKC's Foundation Stock Service in 1999, there were over 1,200 entries. As of mid July 2002, there were over 1,700 registered with the FSS. The NSDTRC(USA) has over 20 registered breeders and 17 registered Tollers at Stud in this program.

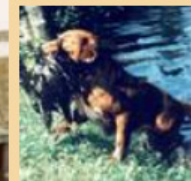
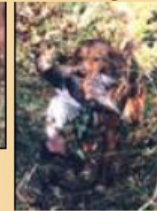


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## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA) was formed in October 1984 to promote the interest of the Toller and to safeguard its future in the United States. The Club holds the belief that as a sporting breed dog, the Toller should demonstrate the basic instincts and traits necessary to adequately execute the tasks for which they were bred, and encourages all Tollers to prove them by passing an approved field test.








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Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers  
(Tollers)  
Are “not” little Goldens!

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever





**GOLDEN RETRIEVER**  
23-24" / 21.5 – 22.5"

**NSDTR [TOLLER]**  
18-21" / 17-20"

β To set itself apart as a separate breed different from that of any other, the Toller should display a distinctive silhouette in profile. One cannot mistake an Irish Setter, Cocker Spaniel or a Golden Retriever in silhouette and the same is true for the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever. The above silhouettes show that the Golden Retriever and Toller are different from each other in shape and balance as well as size.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Type
  - The silhouettes represent a range of Tollers you might expect to see at a show ...



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## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



**β This medium-sized, powerful, compact and balanced dog is the smallest of the retrievers.**

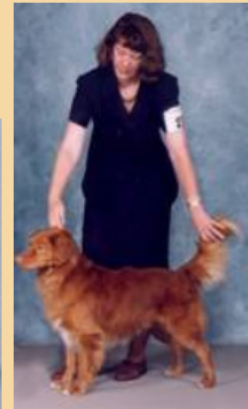
## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- **MEDIUM/MODERATE**

**Size (the smallest retriever)**

- v Coat (not long or long feathered)
- v Bone (dense, not heavy)



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



**β The Toller's attitude and bearing suggest strength with a high degree of agility. He is alert, determined and quick, with a keen desire to work and please.**



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



### *II. Size, Proportion and Substance ...*

- Size



**Height at the withers –**

♂ Males: 18-21 inches, *ideal is 19 inches*

♀ Females: 17-20 inches, *ideal is 18 inches.*

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Size



**B Bone is medium** – Weight is in proportion to height and bone of the dog. The dog's length should be slightly longer than height in a ratio of 10 to 9, but not give the impression of a long back.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Head

- v is clean-cut and slightly wedge shaped
- v must be in proportion to body size



- Stop

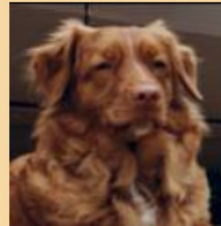
- v is moderate

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Head

v **Skull** ~ The broad skull is only slightly rounded, giving the appearance of being flat when the ears are alert.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Head

✓ **Skull** ~ The occiput is not prominent. Checks are flat.



✓ The The length of the skull from the occiput to the stop is slightly longer than the length of the muzzle from the stop to the tip of the nose.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- **Expression . . .** Is alert, friendly and intelligent. However, many Tollers have a slightly sad or worried expression when they are not working.



- v The moment the slightest indication is given that retrieving is required, they set themselves for springy action with an expression of intense concentration and excitement.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Eyes

- v The eyes are set well apart, slightly oblique and almond in shape.



Eye color blends with the coat or is darker

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Eyes



V Eye rims must be self-colored or black, matching the nose and lips.

v *Faults*

large round eyes. Eye rims and/or eyes not of prescribed color.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever

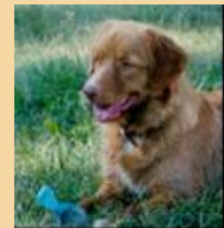


- Ears

- v The high-set ears are triangular in shape with rounded tips, set well back on the skull, framing the face, with the base held slightly erect.



- v ears are short-coated and well feathered only on the back of the fold; length should reach approximately to the inside corners of the eye.



- v ears should be carried in a drop fashion ~ not folded.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Muzzle

- v The underline of the muzzle is strong and clean.
- v The muzzle tapers in a clean line from stop to nose, with the lower jaw not overly prominent.



- V The jaws are strong enough to carry a sizeable bird.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Nose

- v is fairly broad with the nostrils well open, tapering at the tip.
- v color should blend with that of the coat or be black.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Lips

- v Lips fit fairly tight, forming a gentle curve in profile, with no heaviness in the flews



### V BITE

- §The correct bite is tight scissors.
- §Full dentition is required.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Body

- v The body is deep in chest, with good spring of rib; the brisket reaching to the elbow. Ribs are neither barrel shaped nor flat. The back is strong and straight. The loins are strong and muscular, with moderate tuck-up.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- **Body**

v The **Backline** – level



v The **Neck** is strongly muscled and well set on, of medium length, with no indication of throatiness.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



### • Tail

v The **Tail** follows the natural very slight slope of the croup; is broad at the base and is luxuriant and well feathered, with the last vertebra reaching at least to the hock.

v The Tail may be carried below the level of the back **except** when the dog is alert or gaitting, when it should be held high in a curve.



V Faults – tail too short, kinked or curled over touching the back.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Forequarters

- v The shoulders should be muscular, strong and well angulated, with the blade roughly equal in length to the upper arm.



- v The pasterns are strong and slightly sloping ~ not down.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Forequarters

- v Elbows should work close to the body, cleanly and evenly. When seen from the front, the foreleg's appearance is that of parallel columns.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Feet

- v are strongly webbed, slightly oval, medium in size and tight with well-arched toes and thick pads. Front dew claws may be removed.



- v Faults – splayed or paper feet.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- **Hindquarters**

- v The hindquarters are muscular, broad and square in appearance. The croup is very slightly sloped. The rear and front angulations should be in balance.

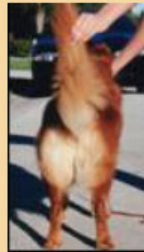


## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- **Hindquarters**

- v The upper and lower thighs are very muscular and equal in length. The stifles are well bent.



- v The hocks are well let down, turning neither in nor out.

v Rear dew claws **MUST NOT** be present.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Coat

- v The Toller was bred to retrieve from icy waters and must have a water-repellent double coat of medium length and softness, and a soft dense undercoat.

- v The Coat may have a slight wave on the back, but is otherwise straight. Some winter coats may form a long loose curl at the throat.



- v Featherings are soft and moderate in length.

- V Overcoated specimens are not appropriate for a working dog and should be faulted.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Grooming

- v While neatening of the feet, ears and hocks for the show ring is permitted, the Toller should always appear natural, never barbered.

- v Whiskers must be present.

- §Coats/Tails should never be scissored or appear sculpted.

- §Coats should appear clean and well brushed, but not fluffed out, moussed or back brushed.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- **Color ...** is any shade of red, ranging from a golden red through dark coppery red, with lighter featherings on the underside of tail, pantaloons and body.



Even the lighter shades of golden red are deeply pigmented and rich in color.

V Disqualifications – brown coat, black areas in coat or buff.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- **Color ...**





## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



### • Color ... *Disqualification*

- v **Buff** may appear as faded brown with or without silver tips.





## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- **Markings ...** while the flash of a marked dog is admired, serious Toller fanciers choose a dog based on structure, movement, temperament and working abilities.

The Toller usually has at least one of the following white markings ~ feet (not extending above the pasterns), chest, blaze and tip of tail. A dog of otherwise high quality is not to be penalized for lack of white.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- **Markings ... *Disqualifications***

v white on the shoulders, around the ears, back of the neck or across the flanks.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- MOVEMENT

- v Good reach and drive, but not like the setters.
- v May remind you of a Chesapeake's movement, especially from the rear



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Temperament

- v The Toller's strong retrieving desire coupled with his love of water, endurance and intense birdiness is essential for his role as a tolling retriever.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Temperament

- v The Toller is highly intelligent, alert, outgoing and ready for action, though not to the point of nervousness or hyperactivity.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Temperament

- v Some individuals may display reserved behavior in new situations, but this is not to be confused with shyness. Shyness in adult classes should be penalized.



## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Temperament

- v He is affectionate and loving with family members and is good with children, showing patience.





## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Summary

- v Faults

- § large round eyes; eye rims and/or eyes not of prescribed color
    - § Dish face
    - § Bright pink nose
    - § Roached or sway back
    - § Slack loins
    - § Tail too short, kinked or curled over touching back; carried below the level of the back when the dog is gaiting
    - § Down in the pasterns
    - § Splayed or paper feet
    - § Coat longer than medium length; open coat

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Summary

- v Disqualifications

- § Butterfly nose

- § Undershot bite, wry mouth, overshot by more than 1/8 inch

- § Rear Dewclaws

- § Brown coat, black areas in coat or buff

- Buff is bleached, faded or silvery. Buff may also appear as faded brown with or without silver tips.

- § White on the shoulders, around the ears, back of the neck or across the flanks.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



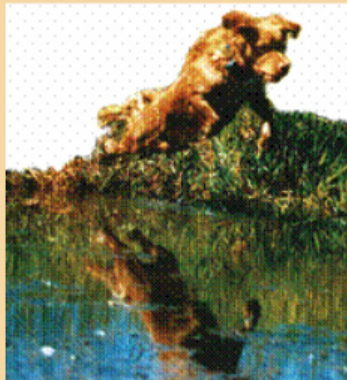
- **Today's Toller in the USA**

- v **In September 2001**, the breed entered the AKC world with limited conformation in the Miscellaneous Class and full entry into both Obedience and Agility Trials. By the end of October 2001, Tollers had earned 26 AKC Obedience Titles; 1 AKC Tracking Title and 89 Agility Titles! The NSDTRC(USA) has divided these states into 7 regions.
- v **In June 2002**, the breed entered the AKC Hunt test arena. In the first month, 13 Tollers entered and had 20 passes in Master, Senior and Junior. Two of these Tollers passed four straight Junior Hunter tests and were awarded the first AKC Hunt Titles of JH! Within the next month, two more Tollers achieved the JH Title, and more are knocking.
- v All in all, the owners and their Tollers have shown AKC that the breed has been strongly maintained; we are here to stay and become major contenders in the wonderful world of dog sports.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- NSDTRC(USA)  
Breed Video



The video captures the essence of the Toller's energy, working ability and personality. You will learn about tolling, and be able to see Tollers in their natural element retrieving on land and water. Many examples of live Tollers capture the breed's intensity and sparkle.

The video also explains the AKC Standard for the breed, with live Tollers illustrating each section. Video Length: Approximately 16 minutes.

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever breed video was produced by Blake Porter and members of the Judges' Education and Standard committee of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA). Blake Porter is a gifted wildlife videographer, whose work is frequently seen on television outdoor programs. The production of this video was completely sponsored by the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA).

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## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever

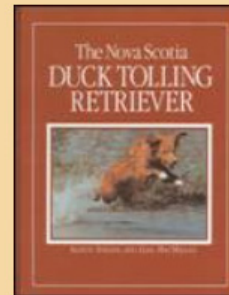


- Suggested readings

- v **The Toller Book**

- §Written by Alison Strang & Gail MacMillan

- §Alpine Press – 800-777-7257



- v **Robert Cole's article**

- §Dog News 2000 – the NSDTRC Standard

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



- Credits

- v The NSDTR Club (USA)
- v Blake Porter – Breed Video
- v Judges' Education Committee
- v Robert Cole – Dog News Breed Standard article
- v Breeders & Members

*~ Many thanks to those who shared their photos*

**PowerPoint Presentation**  
**Created & Produced by Gretchen Botner, PEC**

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Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



# Questions?

*For additional information, go to*

**[www.nsdtrc-usa.org](http://www.nsdtrc-usa.org)**

***Or contact:*** Peggy Park, Judges' Education  
5104 N. Hickory Road, Muncie, IN 47303 ~  
email: [parklake@netusa1.net](mailto:parklake@netusa1.net)

***Ask about the Club's Loaner Program of the Breed Video***



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