



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LABRADOR RETRIEVER DEFENDS THE TITLE OF MOST POPULAR DOG BREED IN AMERICA**

*--AKC Releases 2003 Registration Statistics--*

**New York, NY** – For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Labrador Retriever is the most popular purebred dog in America, according to registration figures released today by the American Kennel Club\*. Nearly three times as many Labs were registered in 2003 as any other breed.

Golden Retrievers were a distant second, with Beagles, German Shepherds and Dachshunds rounding out the top five spots. The top five breeds are the same as in 2002, with the exception that Beagles moved ahead of German Shepherds into the third position.

The top 10 most popular dogs according to 2003 AKC registrations are:

1. Labrador Retriever (144,934)
2. Golden Retriever (52,530)
3. Beagle (45,033 moving up one place from 2002)
4. German Shepherd Dog (43,950)
5. Dachshund (39,473)
6. Yorkshire Terrier (38,256)
7. Boxer (34,136)
8. Poodle (32,176)
9. Shih Tzu (26,935 moving up one place from 2002)
10. Chihuahua (24,930)

“The Labrador Retriever has proven once again to be a family favorite,” said AKC spokesperson Gina Lash. “The Lab’s versatile nature makes him ideal for work or play, which is why you see the breed successfully used for a variety of tasks including AKC companion events, service work, hunting as well as family companion.”

At the other end of the list, the least-registered purebred dog (19 registrations) is the English Foxhound. The other four most rare breeds are: Otterhound (34 dogs), Harrier (45), American Foxhound (52) and Komondor (69).

