

## "The Genesis of the Labrador"

The fate of the Labrador is unknown to most people. Most people believe that the Labrador is an English dog. The truth is, however, that it originates from Newfoundland, where, for many centuries, it was a good and helping working dog for fishermen and hunters. The book is about how a European breed got Arctic properties, and how the Arctic dog ended up in England, and why it became the dog we know today under the name Labrador and how it got that name.



In "The Genesis of the Labrador", focus is set on the everyday life, that has been forgotten. It is figuratively described and the reader gets a very exciting experience, for here, something is hidden that many wouldn't have counted on - or thought possible!

In Newfoundland St. John's Water Dog was born. The dog got that name because it lived in the area around the capital, St. John's, Newfoundland. It was here that the dog learned to give a nose or a paw with whatever needed. The dog was with fishermen in dinghies when fishing. If a cod got off the hook, or jumped out of the net, it was the dog that immediately caught the escaped cod and brought it back. If the fishermen dropped tools in the ocean, the dog dove, found the tool and brought it back. If a fisherman fell overboard, the dog swam straight out and helped him back into the boat. When the great sailing ships stopped in the harbor entrance, the dog jumped into the water, swam out after a line and back again, so the ship could be pulled to the quay. Therefore Labradors love water and are dressed for life in water, both in meter-high waves and calm weather.

It is from the time spent with fishermen and hunters, that St. John's Water Dog developed its great desire and appetite for food. During the summer the dogs were not fed. They had to search and find their own food. The dogs ate almost everything they met on their way, because they didn't know when they would get something to eat again. The endless desire to eat, the Labrador has inherited.

In its own way the St. John's Water Dog developed into a hunting dog. It learned how to catch prey and how the animals behaved, and gradually it developed into a hunting dog. First as the trappers' faithful companion, hunting with traps and snares, later with a gun! It was a great retriever both in water and on land, always willing to help, that has Labrador also inherited.

However, the "Newfoundland dog" was a nuisance for economic development and was nearly wiped out. In 1908 there were only two females at 6 and 8 years left. They were immediately sailed to England, and were part of the English breeding, and it was there the Labrador was created. In 1911 the last old male closed his eyes for the last time, and St. John's Water Dog was extinct in Newfoundland. The rescue of the Labrador is a unique example of how an endangered species can be saved, and it is the most successful rescue mission ever! From just 450-500 dogs and only 100 years, it has become a world race with 30 million registered Labradors. In Denmark 75,000.

It is the properties as a hunting dog that makes today's Labrador world famous. The Labrador is being used for hunting anywhere in the world, and it is going hunting with everyone, from presidents, royal families and nobility, to ordinary people who loves hunting with their faithful companion the Labrador.

**Finn Bech Christensen is willing to give interviews. You can contact him on telephone no: +45 35 10 15 28, or via [fbc@malusen.com](mailto:fbc@malusen.com). Book reviewers can order a PDF a-book at [ba@malusen.com](mailto:ba@malusen.com). There can be excerpts from the book in connection with the publicity of: 'The Genesis of the Labrador'.**