



LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB of Qld Inc. RESCUE & RE-HOME SERVICE

Policies, Guidelines and Standards

The LRCQ Inc. is affiliated with (and operates under the Rules and Code of Ethics of) the Canine Control Council (Qld) t/as Dogs Queensland. Established in 1964 the LRCQ Inc. has as its primary objective the improvement in breeding, working and exhibiting of pure bred, pedigreed, registered Labrador Retrievers.

The LRCQ Inc. R & R Service has been operating for a number of years, initially by Life Member Mrs Barbara Norman (Waglett) at her own significant expense. More recently LRCQ Inc. members have undertaken to voluntarily continue this good work on behalf of the Club, utilizing funds sourced from donations and “scheme specific” fundraising events.

Whilst to many breed enthusiasts it would seem inconceivable that anyone would need (or want) to part with a much loved Labrador Retriever, from time to time circumstances do arise where “rescue and re-homing” may be necessary and is the only option available to owners.

The LRCQ Inc. provides a valuable service to our chosen breed whereby everything possible will be done to ensure the immediate safety, wellbeing and long term placement of an identified and verified Labrador Retriever. Please understand that this service is not provided simply as a “dumping ground” for irresponsible owners to unload their unwanted pets nor is it intended as a short or long term boarding facility. The expense of providing such a service can at times be significant. The following Policies, Guidelines and Standards have been developed to ensure that all those involved (appointed LRCQ Inc. R&R Service delegates, LRCQ Inc. members, current and prospective new owners) are fully aware of the required operational procedures and protocols.

POLICY

The LRCQ Inc. has as its primary motivation the care and welfare of pedigreed, registered Labrador Retrievers. In the first instance, owners who are surrendering their Labrador Retriever must provide the R&R service with the original certificate of registration & pedigree issued by an ANKC affiliated state Canine Controlling Body. If original documents (or certified copies) cannot be provided then representatives of the LRCQ Inc. R & R Service must determine if the individual dog meets the requirements of the current Breed Standard. If so satisfied that the individual dog does in all probability meet these criteria, the dog may be accepted into the R & R programme. It is the sole responsibility of the R & R Representative involved in each case to determine the dog's suitability based on our agreed guidelines and standards. The LRCQ Inc. has every confidence in its representatives' ability to determine the breed and suitability of each dog in cases where a pedigree cannot be provided. Whilst a dog may “look” and behave like a Labrador Retriever, without a pedigree we cannot prove it's breeding. Therefore, where papers cannot be provided, users of this service must understand that the LRCQ Inc. cannot and does not guarantee the accuracy of that assessment.

Furthermore, the Canine Control Council (Qld) t/as Dogs Qld Members “Code of Ethics” Section 2 (k) states:

“I agree to only sell a dog where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and I will assist in the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change”.

This clearly imposes an obligation on the “breeder” of a pedigreed, registered Labrador Retriever to assist in the re-homing process. As a first point of contact owners intending to re-home their Labrador Retriever must contact the breeder of their dog. If the breeder has been contacted and has either refused or is unable to assist, these details must then be provided to the LRCQ Inc. R & R service representatives.

The ability to quickly and permanently re-home a Labrador Retriever into suitable accommodation will depend entirely upon a number of factors. Obviously a young, healthy, structurally sound dog will be a far better candidate for re-homing than will an elderly, infirmed or chronically ill dog. Each case will be determined on its individual merits and a decision will be made in the best interests of the dog. Under no circumstances will a Labrador Retriever be accepted into the LRCQ Inc. R & R programme without the originals of the following documents being signed and supplied by the declared owner:

- Surrender certificate (including proof of current ownership)
- Signed transfer of Registered Pedigree (where available)
- Signed certificate of Indemnity
- Original of current vaccination certificate
- Details of the current attending Veterinary Surgeon (where applicable)
- Details of the breeder of the dog where available and any correspondence to date
- Signed transfer of microchip identification

GUIDELINES & STANDARDS

The LRCQ Inc. R & R service has been approved by the CCC(Q) t/as Dogs Queensland and as such enjoys the protection of that controlling body's Public Liability Insurance. This "cover" provides some degree of confidence for our volunteers when they deal with surrendered dogs, current and new owners. However, common sense does dictate that Guidelines must be agreed and Standards observed to ensure the continued and ongoing success of the service that the Club provides.

In ideal circumstances the LRCQ Inc. R & R service will simply act as a conduit between current and prospective (new) owners in an attempt to orchestrate a satisfactory re-homing outcome. It is far better that a dog remains in familiar surroundings (it's existing property) until a suitable new long term home can be found.

The LRCQ Inc. maintains a register of prospective owners who have been screened for suitability and dog knowledge / experience. Similarly, the Club keeps a database of "available" Labradors that require re-homing. Please visit our Club website www.labradorclubqld.com to register your details.

If immediate or ultimate surrender of a Labrador Retriever to the LRCQ Inc. R & R Service is unavoidable, then certain Guidelines and Standards must be observed. These Guidelines and Standards meet the requirements of the current Queensland Animal Care & Protection Act and ensure the safety and wellbeing of both animals and handlers.

1. **Temperament** - any dog that displays an aggressive disposition to humans or other animals is dangerous and must be declared as such. If necessary the LRCQ Inc. R & R service will first enlist the assistance of an expert in this field to determine the severity and extent of temperament related issues and whether these can be "corrected". As an example a young adolescent male dog may appear to be aggressive where in actual fact he may simply be demonstrating a dominant "male" personality. This temperament is very different to savage, aggressive behaviour. The LRCQ Inc. R & R service must refuse assistance if the temperament of the dog is deemed to be aggressive or not typical of that expected of a well adjusted Labrador Retriever.
2. **Health** – the usual (average) life expectancy of a well raised and cared for Labrador Retriever is 12 years. As dogs mature it is only natural that certain age related health issues can be expected. A mature age Labrador Retriever does provide many advantages and benefits to an adoptive family – routine, obedience and often an easy going nature are just some of the positive aspects. However there are many health related issues (not necessarily always age related) that can make it almost impossible to find suitable long term accommodation. Very close Veterinary scrutiny will be applied to any Labrador Retriever before acceptance into the R&R programme if the dog is suspected of suffering any of the following ailments (note - this list is not limited in it's nature). If so determined by a Veterinary Surgeon the current owner may be required to take remedial action to treat the identified ailments before surrender of their dog is permitted.

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|--|----------------------------|
| **Parvovirus | **Distemper |
| **Hepatitis | **Kennel Cough |
| **Severe (untreated) injury | **Immobility |
| **Vision Impairment/eye diseases | **Dental disease/disorders |
| **Obvious serious structural defects (e.g. hips, elbows) | |

3. **Indemnity** – the acceptance of any Labrador Retriever dog by the Club into the LRCQ Inc R & R programme is dependant entirely upon the current owner providing unconditional Indemnity from prosecution or charge to the Club. Similarly, a new owner will be required to sign a waiver from any liability in favour of the LRCQ Inc. if at any time in the future the re-homed dog is deemed unsuitable or is found to be suffering from some previously undetected disorder.
4. **Desexing** – where necessary (and as required) every Labrador Retriever that is accepted by the LRCQ Inc. R & R service will be mandatorily desexed before re-homing. The only exception to this requirement will be in the event that Veterinary advice is received which recommends that surgery may be injurious to the health or welfare of the dog.
5. **Fees and Charges** – as previously outlined, the LRCQ Inc. relies heavily upon donations and fundraising events to generate sufficient income to continue providing a reliable and ongoing Re-home & Rescue service. Whilst generally this service has operated “in the black”, there have been occasions when the R & R service has been depleted of immediate and much needed funds necessitating a “loan” from general Club funds. It is only fair and reasonable to expect that both relinquishing and prospective new owners contribute in some way to the provision of this valuable and highly regarded service.

Whilst every attempt is made to keep associated costs to an absolute minimum, the following upfront fees and charges will be applied (to the current owner) at the time of surrender and (to the new owner) at the time of placement where collection and temporary accommodation of a dog is required. These charges are deemed to be fair and reasonable and cover administrative, travelling and other incidental costs.

An owner (or nominated agent) surrendering a Labrador Retriever to the LRCQ Inc. R & R service will be charged a \$100.00 surrender fee – this amount to be paid by direct deposit or bank cheque in favour of LRCQ Inc.

A new owner taking delivery of a suitable “re-home or rescue” Labrador Retriever from the LRCQ Inc. R & R service will be charged a \$300.00 service fee - this amount to be paid by direct deposit or bank cheque in favour of LRCQ Inc.

Note – under special circumstances, the decision to waiver any or all of the aforementioned charges shall rest entirely with members of the LRCQ Inc. Management Committee and their decision after considering all of the related facts shall remain final and binding.

6. **Other points to note -**
If you are a current financial member of LRCQ Inc. and you are interested in offering your assistance by way of volunteering to help with the assessment and/or collection and/or boarding of Labrador Retrievers in need, please provide your details to our R & R Coordinator, Mrs. Sandra Luchterhand, so that we can add you to our database.

Please note the following documents which form part of the LRCQ Inc. Re-home and Rescue Protocols and Guidelines - Surrender Agreement



Labrador Retriever Surrender Agreement

Please inset text in the box below each heading. Please provide as much detail as possible. The boxes marked with an asterisk * must be completed.

Dog(s) name*	Gender M/F	Birth date* (estimate if not known) dd/mm/yy	Colour	Distinguishing features

Surrendered by * (surname and given name)	Council Reg No.	Microchip Number	Is the dog de- sexed?* Y/N	Tattoo (details)

Reason for Surrender*	Did you contact the breeder? (Y/N)	Where was the dog obtained?

INSERT PICTURE OF SURRENDERED DOG HERE



HEALTH & IMMUNISATION

Vet record available Y/N	Date immunisation due* (dd/mm/yy)					
	C3	C5	Kennel cough	Flea treatment	Heartworm	Intestinal worms

FEEDING

What food is fed regularly to the dog	
Other comments	

BEHAVIOUR & TEMPERAMENT

Housetrained Y/N	
Crate trained Y/N	
Obedience training None/basic/intermediate/advanced	
Biting Y/N	
Destructive behaviour (type, e.g. chewing, scratching, digging, etc)	
Escapes Y/N	
Is the dog used to other dogs, cats, other animals children (All that apply)	
Behaviour issues i.e. fear, anxiety, separation anxiety food protection	
Any other information that may help us place the dog in a new home	

RELEASE /SURRENDER

I/We declare that I/We are the sole owners of the above described dog and that no other party has a legal or financial interest in this dog

I/we declare that all the information given in this document is true to the best of my/our knowledge.

I/We relinquish all rights, interest and ownership of the above dog to Labrador Retriever Club of Queensland Inc and hereby relinquish all claims to the aforementioned dog.

I/We understand that this surrender is final and ownership of said dog is relinquished to LRCQ Inc.

I/We further understand and agree that I/We will receive no money or any other compensation as a result of this surrender.

Any donation made to Labrador Retriever Club of Qld Inc does not constitute a sale and this donation will be used to benefit future LRCQ Inc activities relating to dog rescue.

This surrender agreement is made on this _____ day of _____ year _____

Surrendering owners name (print) _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Contact numbers (H) _____ (M) _____

Email address _____

Witnessed by _____