

# DAVID: GENTLEMAN FROM THE DECENT FAMILY

Interviewed by Yana Khorunzhaya



Photo: Evelina Macijauskaite

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All of us have some hobby, affection or even passion. We are different and live our own lives. But when we are involved in the dog's world, all of us go through the same way – from the amateur to the professional, growing into the last one in a varying degree. It always depends on how great this interest to the favorite breed is, and what part of your life you are ready to devote to it. Nadezhda Balikoeva is the owner of the yellow Labrador ORCHIDEI MARI DAVID NESRAVNENNYI (DOVE), and she takes for granted what she wants from her dog and from herself. Being a degreed psychologist and a channel sales executive in an insurance company she continues her education. The goal is to become a comprehensive breeder, which is impossible without a cynological education.

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Photo: Olga Vayvoda

**DR: Nadezhda, when did you decide that it would be only a Labrador?**

– Yet in my childhood I wanted to devote my life to Labradors. I saw on the TV how they helped to the blind, searched and rescued people, looked after children. For me they were more than just dogs – but real companions, friends, human beings.

**DR: What is the story about David's introduction into your family?**

– You may have an easy approach to the choice of a dog: to take the first puppy you like. Exactly this is the way of a majority, without thinking through. But instinctively I understood that the Labrador is something more than a name of a breed. I only had to find «my own» Labrador – a real English gentleman from some decent family, who should have makings to be a show champion. Considering that back then I understood nothing about all these intricacies in breeding, kennels and shows, so the adventure had promised to be exciting. The only question I couldn't answer for myself was the color of the future puppy. Chocolate or yellow? I like both. The luck resolved the question. Aiming to the kennel with chocolate and yellow puppies which I like, I made a dry shot. All of them were sold. But the breeder turned out to be

a Samaritan and delegated me to the kennel of super-duper champions. But they also didn't make me happy there, and frustratingly I understood that the wide range of puppies was not a guaranty to buy the puppy you want. Seeing my upset face the breeder promised to find out about one puppy boy from her stud, which was destined a glory carrier. In the evening a long-awaited phone call rang. I felt like gaining the main prize of the great lottery: a perspective three-month-old yellow male was obviously waiting for me. Right then I understood him to be my dog. And he realized me to be his owner and henceforth, for better or for worse, we would be together.

**DR: Tell about David, about his temper... Which Labrador features does he possess and which does he lack?**

– My boy is a true Labrador. He likes people and their attention, birds and water. If David gets into a pond, chances to put him out are nil until he wants to do it himself or gets tired of bathing. Dove is very emotional, lively and fearless, with a rock-solid mentality: fireworks usually bring out of him a burst of emotions and wish to get to know them better. Though in some moments he lacks a self-possession and a concentration which is peculiar feature



of Labradors because of their activity and energy, so it is difficult for them not to move at one place. The educational basics are in aid of us!

**DR: Is he a real gentleman?**

– Yes, and what is more – from a decent family. There are the most famous English-Finnish lines collected in his pedigree, including such kennels as «Carpenny» and «Tweedledum». Bloods of glorious Inter and Multi Champions – CARPENNY SCENARIO, TIMANTTI SOLID DAVIDSON.

**DR: Tell us about your first dog show with David.**

– I still remember that CACIB in Vladimir. Dove was 4 months old and he became Best Baby. I was crying with happiness and was ready to smother with kisses both the judge and the handler.

**DR: Which Dove's wins do you consider as the most significant?**

– There were a lot of them: starting from his win as a baby till my own work in the

ring. At 15 months David won Cruft's qualification, at 17 he became Junior Multi Champion, and at 18 – Grand Champion of Russia, Lithuania Champion and Grand Champion of Belarus. I remember my first experience as a handler and our first serious wins: Best Junior, Best of Sex, Best of Breed and Best in Group – 2 under respectable judges. This win will always dwell with me. I

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remember Dove has gone to Latvia with his handler Julia Pugacheva for the first time. I let him go alone and was so much worried. But when Julia called me to congratulate with titles of Best Junior and

Junior Champion of Latvia, I was jumping all around the shopping mall and screaming with delight making people passing by to stop and looking with bafflement at me. That was our first win in Europe! I can also mention as significant a big specialty in



Photo: Natalya Kononenko

Saint-Petersburg, where Dove in strong competition has become Best Junior under the English judge mr. Andrew Metcalf. So there were many happy moments.

**DR: Why did you decide to participate in shows right at the beginning? This wish usually comes later, when the owner understands that his dog is a promising one.**

– I am an ambitious person all my life, and I've been a sportswoman. So in everything I tackle I am geared towards some result. To bring up a dog, to train and love it – all this is a process. Dog shows and breeding – this is a result. Moreover, dog shows are certainly competitions, an adrenaline. This is quite the same atmosphere which I've been surrounded by during a part of my childhood and adolescence.

**DR: How do you consider dog shows before you came into the ring yourself?**

– For some time I didn't have a notion of it. But at the some moment I had to take off my rose-colored spectacles when it concerned the implied objectivity of the judgment. I'm usually deeply upset when the win goes to hardly the best dog. But this excites me even more, because I'm not used to give up.

**DR: When you go to the dog show do you aim to win or simply to participate? How do you take defeats?**

– I always aim only to win, that's why it is so difficult for me to be defeated. All these

also go from my sporting history. There is only a golden medal and only a first place. All the rest is a defeat. More or less easily I take objective defeats: when there is a strong competitor, but Dove is out of his condition. Then it's just an analysis does on: what should we do or change more to win. But subjective defeats are always difficult for me.

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**DR: What an ante did you raise for David's show carrier?**

– There are no any raised antes, because when somebody crosses it, he doesn't see where to go higher. Our short-term goals are Inter Champion and adult Multi Champion.



Photo: Maksim Akinin



Photo: Olga Vayvoda





Photo: Boris Glukharev

**DR: Which dog show do you wish to win?**

– My dream is definitely «Cruft's». This is the highest achievement for a Labrador.

**DR: Which experts inspire your highest respect?**

– I like to see breeders in the judge's role. They see all nuances and are less subjected from the fashion craze... Gary Johnson, Guy Spagnolo, Sussie Wiles, Philippe Lammens, Jan Roger Sauge. In Russia this is surely Olga Teslenko.

**DR: What do you consider the most important in a Labrador's evaluation? What kind of judgment do you want to see?**

– Making a judgment of any breed, it is important not to forget about the Standard. The Standard is the first of all, then an anatomy and a balance, and after all is a personal preference. This is difficult but the urge is precisely this kind of a judgment. Certainly the judge should like his work and dogs, and not to forget that the aim of his choice is the improvement of the breed.

**DR: What do you dislike at the dog shows or what difficulties do you suffer from as an exhibitor?**

– Globally I see only one problem: the most worthy dogs are not always winners. Taking away the diplomacy, we sometimes see that pulling strings are turns out to be more important than a quality of a dog. Nuances of an organization are also happen sometimes: ineffectual use of the show space, problems with parking and so on. But

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all this can be easily rubbed through unlike the non-sporting approach to the judgment.

**DR: You got lucky with David. But what if the dog didn't satisfy your expectations?**

– Lucky or not... A dog should be loved as a friend or a family member, then your world won't collapse because of your dog hasn't become a champion. But if your goal is to win at dog shows, so getting some experience and relations, you can take really promising dog. Remembering words of my favorite teacher: «the first dog is usually for pleasure, the second is a friend for the first one, and only the third becomes a proud for a breeder.»

**DR: As far as I'm concerned, you do not plan to fix upon the only one Labrador?**

– Yes, I'm really thinking about one more Labrador: David is boring alone. Also my ambitions are growing together with my knowledge in cynology and understanding of the breed. Although this is also not a fixing upon point. But let particulars to be some intrigue.

**DR: Why are you going to devote your life to the Labrador's breeding?**

– I like this breed and consider it to be the most suitable, loyal and comfortable to live with in any conditions, any circumstances, appropriate for anyone – with family or single. Labradors serve faithfully not only as a family pet. They have perfectly proven themselves in many spheres of human life. Why not to nourish it?

**DR: Despite the Standard different types of Labradors exist. What kind of them do you prefer?**

– That is a difficult question. Figuratively it is included two types: English and American. «Englishers» in my opinion is more about the Standard and classics. But I usually feel lack of a bone and a volume looking on them. «Americans» are more heavy-boned, but often too stubby and «loose», with rude Rottweiler-style heads. An ideal dog is very difficult to breed out, because breeding is not only a Standard. Here are breeders' likings, «fashion trends» and dog's purpose – a hunting or a show. Personally, I am for a healthy, harmonious and balanced dog whatever its type.

**DR: Don't you consider owners usually idealize a favorite breed, and if a dog doesn't meet their expectations, they risk to be disappointed with it?**

– The pursuance of an ideal is a work of a breeder and a wish of an owner. But it is necessary at least sometimes to face the truth: 10 times to think, to weight up your needs and capabilities, being based on the breed's purpose.

I've started with Labrador's shortcomings. But it turned out to be such insignificant for me, so some of them even turned out to be advantages.

I fell in love with the breed yet in my childhood, but I made the dream a reality only a year and a half ago. By this time I've already been a «grounded» amateur who realizes what am I doing, what for and what will I get from this escapade.

**DR: How do you think, why dogs of the same breed can possess quite different tempers, psycho and breed's qualities?**

– In my layman's opinion the reason is in two main factors. As with people, they are genetics and education.

**DR: What is a difficulty for amateurs in buying some promising show-dog?**

– To buy a promising dog for an amateur – is a great difficulty, especially if it is his first dog and he has no any pro by his side, who can give advice. Here are so many nuances, among them parents' health tests, documents check and pedigree understanding are only the top of the iceberg. Next is a choice of the dog itself. Any puppy is a «pig in a poke,» it can grow into all over the map. Even breeders themselves choosing between two promising in their opinion puppies, sometimes make mistakes. By no means always their prediction turns out to be the truth for 100%, and the best dog leaves the kennel, although the breeder will gladly keep it. One may understand how difficult it can be to manage for a novice.

**DR: Do breeders willingly sell a promising dog to a novice?**

– That is a controversial topic, situations are different. In my opinion, most breeders prefer to keep best puppies. Searching a home for such puppy has an alternative way – to sell it to another breeder, and



Photo: Tatiana Zubkova

only in the last turn – to ordinary people. Ideally a breeder wants the dog to be shown. You ask me «why»? That is simple: he should show results of his work and sustain the kennel's image.

**DR: What to start a kennel foundation from, and is it possible for everybody – to be a breeder?**

– A ground zero is a sincere affection to dogs and an understanding of the responsibility. Yet you also need a lot of omnifarious knowledge on anatomy, genetics, biomechanics, zoopsychology, and

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also you should look at questions of law. Summarizing these factors I don't think that anybody can be a breeder. And one more of my important remarks: the one should not try to grow rich from dogs breeding. As a rule, owners of the most successful Russian and foreign kennels are people of substance



which have already fulfilled in another occupation and take breeding of dogs as a hobby. If breeding is turned into a business, so it is not a kennel any more, but a puppy mill with all the consequences that come with it.

**DR: What personal qualities should a breeder possess?**

– Enthusiasm, patience, thoroughness, loyalty, humaneness, communicability and of course – a boundless love to animals.

**DR: How far the one should go in listening Labrador breeder's advice or is it better to approach it in a differentiated way, guiding only with your own experience and knowledge?**

– Deferring to professionals' opinion is obligatory! But to do what somebody say or follow advice of anybody blindly is a wrong way. I usually listen to some people, read a literature and learn information on the Internet. To all this are added my knowledge, experience and surveyings. And only on the basis of the analysis of all acquired information I make some decision.

**DR: Whom would you like to thank for your knowledge and experience, for help in the work with Dove?**

– First of all I'd like to return thanks to our breeder Olga Yazykova, because with her help my honey Labro-champion gives me happiness every day. Many people help us to grow and achieve success: Oksana Klimenko

– our irreplaceable handler, teacher and helper; handler Julia Pugacheva, through her help Dove conquered Latvia and Estonia and won Cruft's qualification. And this is far from being complete list of our dear and important people.

**DR: What is your most cherished dream?**

– To build a country house where in perfect conditions will be born and grown up into champions healthy and beautiful Labradors. ■



Photo: Olga Vayvoda

# Dove

MULTI JCH  
JCH RU, JCH CLUB  
JCH BALTIC, JCH LT, JCH LV  
JCH EE, JCH BY  
GRANDCH RU, CH CLUB  
CH OANKOO, CH RFLS, CH RFSS  
CH RKF, CH LT, GRANDCH BY  
CRUFTS QUALIFICATION  
INTERNATIONAL WORKING  
CERTIFICATE: SEARCHING  
AND RETRIEVING FIRED BIRDS



PRA, HNPk, CNM - CLEAR  
HD-A/A, ED-0/0

DOB FEBRUARY, 26 2015

COVER MY EYES ANY COLOUR YOU LIKE X CERCERA BELAYA ORCHIDEA

## ORCHIDEI MARI DAVID NESRAVNENNYI

OWNER NADEZHDA BALIKOEVA

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