

## Do you think you have a “Toller” in your Shelter?

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA) Rescue Program is dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Toller. It is comprised of all volunteer members. If you think your Shelter has a Toller, please contact our National Rescue Coordinator as soon as possible.

**Email:** [TollerRescue@nsdtrc-usa.org](mailto:TollerRescue@nsdtrc-usa.org)

For additional information on the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever & the National Breed Club – <http://www.nsdtrc-usa.org>

For information on our Rescue Program: <http://www.nsdtrc-usa.org/rescue.htm>

As much as we would like to think it won't happen to our breed, the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA) realizes that it is inevitable that Tollers will show up in Rescue Shelters. We have prepared the following information - including photos to help you decide if any of the dogs in your Shelter might be a Toller.

### How to identify a Toller vs. a Toller wannabe:

The more Tollers you see, and the more “variation” in the breed you are aware of will help you make this decision. The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever is a medium-sized, compact dog. Some say - “the smallest of the retrievers”.

Pay particular attention to the head, ear placement, length of muzzle compared to length of skull, shape of the head, shape of the ear, eyebrows, eye shape, roundness or flatness of the skull, planes of the skull and muzzle (not parallel, the muzzle being slightly down), the flews.

You should keep in mind all the variations in the Toller head and compare the wannabes head to them. Most Toller wannabes are golden crosses and the golden head shape can be pretty distinctive. (The Border collie crosses are more difficult unless they have the eye). Of course, the Toller head appears in many guises, and this can be deceptive.

If the dog has black pigment, and it is an older dog, is it still really black? Most Tollers' black fades to brown by two.



The Toller body shape again is not the same as a Golden's, and a good side photo can give you a clue to that, particularly the rear quarters.



Look at the white. Is it distinct, with a sharp cut off from red to white? If there's ticking (something like freckle marks or spots of color on the white areas), particularly on the chest, it's probably not a Toller. Ticking on the feet is more problematic, but again most Tollers are not ticked, except perhaps on the nose.

Of course the dog has to fit into the height and weight range. The coat should at least look like a Toller's as to color and texture and feathering. Remember that a neutered Toller may develop those fuzzy hairs down their legs.

Does the dog hold its head in that Toller attitude? Sometimes that just shines through even in a photo. The attitude and way of holding itself can sometimes just inescapably say “Toller.”

**Color:** Normal color is various shades of red with lighter featherings and underside of the tail. However some Tollers may have light shades of golden red OR buff (bleached, faded or silvery).

**Size:** Height at the withers---males, 18-21 inches; females, 17-20 inches. Bone is medium. Weight is in proportion to height and bone of the dog



## **Additional Photos**



**Regional Toller Rescue Volunteers in Your Area:**

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**Thank You for Your Support!**