

Stargardt Disease – The Approach We Have Taken with Both Our Female Labrador (who is a Stargardt Carrier) and this Breeding

We were blessed to welcome our beautiful long-haired fox red labrador female, Rosie, the grand-daughter of both Snapper (Gunstock's Topshelf Snap Decision) and Rooster Smasher (HRK's Rooster Smasher of TGK), to Texas in late 2019. Rosie earned her Master Hunter title by mid-2022, and we had a full genomics panel done for her prior to her first breeding to Bullet (FC AFC Another Round in the Chamber), in September 2022. Rosie was diagnosed as a Stargardt Disease "carrier", but not Stargardt "affected". At that time Stargardt Disease was still relatively less known in Labrador Retriever circles. For additional informational on Stargardt Disease and the safety of breeding if one of the parents has tested Stargardt-negative, please click this [LINK](#), or consult your own veterinarian/consultant.

As we did during the whelping of Rosie's first two litters, we will swab each puppy in Week Two and send the testing-swabs to Paw Prints Genomics, for Stargardt-carrier testing. We hope to begin receiving results by around Week Four.

Puppies Testing Clear (Negative) for Stargardt - Assuming around 50% of the litter could be tested as "clear" of Stargardt. These puppies would be deemed as potentially breedable, and could potentially be transferred on an Unlimited Registration basis, to experienced/active owners and potential breeding partners, who have the time, experience and resources to commit to bringing one of these puppies to its full potential.

Puppies Testing Positive as Stargardt "Carrier" But Not "Affected" – Assuming around 50% of the litter could test positive as a Stargardt carrier, but not affected, we could potentially transfer ownership/registration on a "Limited Registration" basis. Just like the Stargardt-carrier puppies from Rosie's first two litters. These dogs are just as athletic and robust retrieving "forces" as their littermates who tested clear/negative for Stargardt (the stories that we hear from the owners who welcomed Rosie's first pups on Limited Registration have been inspiring!). These pups will just not have breeding rights that come with "Unlimited Registration". For these pups, we will be dialoguing with experienced dog-owners/loving-families, and serious waterfowl gun-dog owners and waterfowl guides, who are looking for a phenomenal, athletic labrador retriever partner. [If you are an aspiring and/or hard-working waterfowl guide/outfitter on the gulf coast, who might be one four-legged superstar away from having a full "A Team" outfitting experience for your clients, we want to speak with you about putting one of these retrievers in your blind.](#)