

## Adopting a Golden Retriever

The adoption of a Golden Retriever is a considerable, but extremely rewarding commitment which should be discussed and considered by the family as a whole before proceeding. Golden Retrievers can be expected to live for approximately 15 years and should therefore not be seen as a short term commitment but as a major part of family life for some considerable time to come.

It is also important when considering adoption, that you consider your current and possible future circumstances and take time to select the right animal for your home and situation. Try to be open minded and do not discount an older dog as these have many qualities and just as much love to give as a younger animal.

Getting a dog is a serious thing, not to be taken lightly. A dog is not something that can be thrown out or disregarded when the novelty has worn off. He/she is a living animal which will need your care and attention for all of its life.

Deciding which breed to choose requires research and then objective consideration as to which fits your lifestyle.

If you can digest all the information about the Golden Retriever which is available to you and then still be of the opinion that one will fit your lifestyle then you will be taking on one of arguably the best breed of dog in the world.

All we ask is that you look after them in a right and proper way and you won't have to wait till you get to heaven for your reward.

### Did you know?

The Golden Retriever loves to be with people and hates being left for long periods. Puppies have sharp needle like teeth which can easily hurt very young children when playing. They can also be very destructive when left alone any length of time (don't forget a shoe chewed up in the morning will have been forgotten by the time you come home). Your Goldie is so pleased to see you, in fact it's all he has thought of all the time you're out, and instead of a warm welcome he gets scolded for the chewed shoes!

The Goldie is a strong active dog and needs basic obedience training.

Puppies and dogs under twelve months must not be over exercised as this can lead to problems with the joints

An adult Goldie needs daily exercise equivalent to one hours free running or lead walking a day

Goldies can be greedy dogs and can easily become overweight if not fed a balanced diet.

The Golden Retriever loves water and more important... MUD!

### **Reasons why I should have a Golden Retriever:**

I'm on my own all day when the family are at school/work or I have time on my hands for a dog  
My children are old enough to know and respect what a puppy/dog will need as a family member  
I have a well fenced-garden  
I live in the country (or place where I can exercise my dog)  
I need and enjoy the exercise  
I have a full set of wet weather gear  
I don't own anything breakable  
I've just lost my old dog  
I own a Dyson

### ***Why I Should Not have a Labrador:***

There is no one at home all day  
I couldn't cope with a baby/young child and a dog as well  
I don't have a garden or enclosed yard  
I live in a high rise flat  
I don't like exercise  
I don't like going out in bad weather  
I have lots of valuable ornaments/furniture  
I don't like a dog that's smarter than me  
I can't make long term commitments  
I can't stand dog hairs around the place.  
I don't own a Dyson

## Size

Golden Retrievers are medium-sized dogs. Male golden retrievers are usually 23-24 inches in height at the withers, while females are usually 21.5-22.5 inches. Male dogs usually weigh 65-75 pounds, while the females are commonly 60-70 pounds. Their tails are also at the perfect height to knock everything off of your coffee table.

## Attention

Golden Retrievers are family dogs and crave human contact.. They live for their family and are therefore poorly suited to live the life of a backyard dog, or a dog that is alone all day. A golden will always prefer to sit on your knee to tell you just how much he loves you and will be a devoted and loyal friend and companion. When bored or stressed, many dogs can resort to digging and other destructive behaviours

## Exercise

Golden Retrievers are sporting dogs. They were bred to have the ability to work in the field with the stamina to work all day. As a result, they require daily exercise. Letting your dog out to run to the nearest tree as a potty break and back again is not considered enough exercise. A Golden should be given at least 2 good walks a day!

## Grooming

Golden Retrievers have a full luxurious coat, and they shed at least twice a year, minimum. You WILL have dog hair in your house, on your clothes, and probably even in your food. If you are a fastidious housekeeper, a golden is probably not for you. In order to keep your golden's coat in good condition, they need to be brushed every couple of days. This prevents matts from forming and helps to cut down on the shedding in the house. As well, regular brushing will help remove the small twigs and grasses that will collect in your golden's coat! It is often said that with every Golden should come the household Dyson!

## Health

There are several health issues to be aware of. Every breed has their share of hereditary health problems, and the golden retriever is no exception. Possible conditions that may affect your Golden are hip displasia, eye problems and thyroid conditions. It is always recommended that you should take out suitable pet insurance to ensure you can give your dog the best care needed should it be required.

## Carrying things

Goldens are retrievers. They LOVE to carry things around in their mouth. Be prepared to pick up your socks and underwear, you never know just what your golden will grab to greet guests at the door !!

## Water

Golden Retrievers love water, and will go out of their way to get wet and muddy. Male goldens with larger heads will usually have longer lips which means DROOL!! Oh, and did I mention? They SHED!!!!