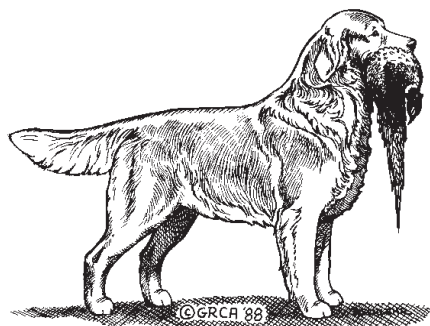




Golden Retriever Club of America®

The Golden Retriever Club of America® (GRCA) is a large national non-profit club whose mission is to advance and protect the Golden Retriever and be a resource for all interested in our breed. We are available to help you learn more about the breed, including some of the basic information provided here.

Golden Retrievers originated in Scotland in the 1860s to retrieve both waterfowl and upland game and were brought to North America in the late 1890s. The Golden is equally at home as a beloved companion, a gun dog, a service dog, a performance dog, and a show dog. Goldens are noted for their gentle, loving dispositions and desire to please, and are an excellent breed for families with children.

The Golden is a large, double-coated dog, with a mature male standing 23-24 inches at the shoulder and weighing 65-75 pounds. A mature female is a little smaller at 21½-22½ inches and 55-65 pounds. With responsible breeding, regular veterinary care, and good home care, their average lifespan is 10-12 years, which is within the range for dogs of similar height and body mass.

While Goldens can adapt to many living situations, they thrive on human contact. They do best – and owners enjoy them most – living in the home with the family.

As a Sporting breed, Goldens need regular exercise, and this is most pronounced during puppyhood (which often lasts up to two years of age). While they can adapt to a less active lifestyle once they are mature and trained, puppies and adolescents often have energy to burn. As adults and into their senior years, Goldens benefit from regular, vigorous activity to maintain lean body weight, promote physical and mental fitness, and improve longevity.

Training, with an emphasis on manners, is an

essential part of responsible dog ownership and will make any dog a better companion. Goldens are well known as being easy to train, and classes ranging from “puppy kindergarten,” to Canine Good Citizen, to competition obedience are available in most areas, often as a service of a local kennel club. Classes offering trick training, therapy dog training, agility, and other activities are often also available. Training your dog with positive reinforcement is valuable time spent together and a bonding experience for you and your dog.

As with all AKC registered dogs, there is an approved breed standard for Golden Retrievers. This is a written description of desirable Golden structure, temperament, and movement, and is available on the GRCA and AKC websites. Your Golden Retriever breeder should be a valuable resource and wealth of information beyond the breed standard.

All breeds of dogs, as well as mixed breeds, have their own particular hereditary health risks. Fortunately, many significant health issues can be greatly reduced through careful breeding practices,





beginning with certain screening examinations of the prospective parents of a litter before breeding. Details of pre-breeding health screening are discussed in several places on the GRCA website, and in other club literature, and are included in the GRCA Code of Ethics.

Failure to screen for hereditary conditions before breeding causes unnecessary risks for diseases and may lead to distress for the buyer and dog alike. By far the safest way to find responsible breeders is through the referral service of the nearest Golden Retriever club (there are approximately 50 around the country), and contact information for these clubs can be found on the GRCA website under "Where to Find a Golden." Random internet searches are an especially risky way to find breeders.

In addition, owners who might be considering breeding their Golden would benefit greatly by

becoming a member of their local Golden Retriever club and seeking out respected members to advise and mentor them. Producing predictably healthy, good-tempered puppies is far more complex than most people realize and requires a significant investment of time, study, and usually, money.

Beliefs that dogs need to be bred or that breeding will stabilize their temperament are simply not true. All factors considered, spayed females and neutered males make the best pets for most owners. Opinions on recommended ages for spay/neuter and on the impact to overall lifetime health should be discussed with your breeder and veterinarian. Current recommendations on spay/neuter and information on related health issues can be found on our website by searching for "Early Spay or Neuter."

Finally, we encourage you to learn more about the Golden Retriever Foundation (GRF). The GRF is a tax-exempt, non-profit, IRS 501(c)3 organization established to fund projects that promote the welfare of the breed. In its first 20 years, GRF has funded millions of dollars for projects that include rescue, education, cancer research, and other health concerns. The power of the Foundation lies with Golden Retriever owners and donors, and more information is available at:



www.goldenretrieverfoundation.org.

For more information about Golden Retrievers and GRCA:

- ◇ visit our website at www.grca.org and visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GRCoA/
- ◇ purchase our 75-page handbook at www.grca.org/shop/an-introduction-to-the-golden-retriever/
- ◇ find a local Golden Retriever club or breeder referral at www.grca.org/about-grca/grca-clubs-map/
- ◇ email info@grca.org with questions

