

What to Do?

Golden Retrievers are a highly intelligent and versatile breed. As a result they are well-suited to involvement in a number of activities. If you enjoy any of the following, then a Golden may well be the right dog for you!

AGILITY: Work as a team with your dog to navigate over and through obstacle in a timed race against other teams!

OBEDIENCE AND RALLY-O: Hone your dog's responsiveness to your commands to demonstrate that it is a reliable and obedient canine citizen.

HUNT TESTS: Prove that your dog still has the "retrieve" in retriever. Dogs retrieve birds in natural hunting conditions to demonstrate that they have the skills to be

CONFORMATION SHOWS: compete against other beautiful dogs to show that your dog exemplifies the breed standard.

THERAPY WORK: let your Golden's gregarious personality help others. Therapy dogs visit nursing homes, hospitals, and schools.



A well-bred pup can bring your family years of wonderful companionship

The Golden Retriever was developed in Scotland and England in the mid-19th century as a hunting dog able to retrieve land and water fowl. Goldens made their debut in North America in the 1920's, where their handsome appearance, wonderful temperament and excellent working ability established their popularity.



The Golden Retriever is a sturdy, muscular breed. Mature Golden Retriever males measure 23-24" at the shoulder (withers) and weigh 75-80 lbs. Females are slightly smaller at 21 ½"-22 ½" at the withers and weigh about 60-65 lbs. It is acceptable for their height to vary by 1" either way. One of the characteristics of Goldens is their multi-length coat, which consists of a good undercoat during the colder months, with a longer, water-repellant outer coat with heavier feathering on the chest, tail, back of thighs and forelegs. The adult coat varies in shades of lustrous gold from cream to dark gold.

While Golden Retrievers are strikingly beautiful dogs, the hallmark of the breed is their wonderful eager-to-please temperament. Well-bred and properly socialized Goldens are extremely trainable and versatile. They are employed as guide dogs for the blind, independence dogs for the disabled, make superb hunting retrievers and excel in the show and obedience rings. Most important however, is that Goldens make unsurpassable family companions.

**THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB
OF GREATER TORONTO
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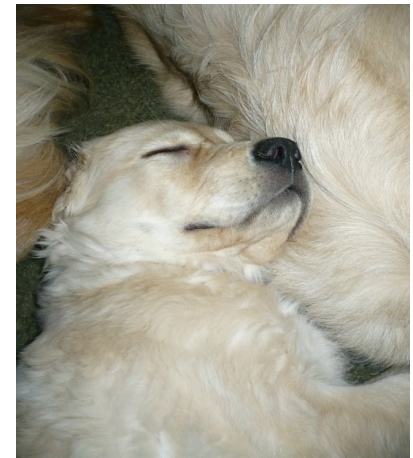
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TORONTO
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**IS A GOLDEN
RETRIEVER
RIGHT FOR ME?**



**PROMOTING TRAINING,
EDUCATION AND
BREED INTEGRITY.**

The Perfect Dog?



We think Golden Retrievers are just about perfect, but there are a few people who should think twice before buying one.

If you are an immaculate housekeeper, be aware that these dogs shed on an ongoing basis. Grooming and regular household vacuuming are a must.

Golden Retrievers retrieve. They will find all sorts of things to carry and present to you when you least expect it.

Golden Retrievers are water dogs! Everything from the drinking bowl to spring mud puddles are considered fair game for a quick dip. Expect to do some towel drying and floor mopping!

If you feel you need a guard dog, perhaps another breed might be a better choice. A Golden may or may not bark and growl when a stranger arrives, however, these dogs tend to be "friendly marshmallows" and make simply awful protective dogs.

Golden Retrievers need daily regular exercise.

If you hate the cold and rain and feel that a 5 minute stroll down the street is plenty of activity, you may want to consider a less active breed.

All dogs are social animals and Golden Retrievers are perhaps a little more than most. They need human companionship and attention! If you work outside the home all day and are gone most weekends, please consider carefully if it is fair to keep any dog at all.

You may expect to pay \$500-\$600 per year for food and about \$250 for basic annual veterinary costs. You should also budget for pet supplies and training classes.

Health Concerns

Like all dogs, Golden Retrievers are subject to a number of heritable defects including eye, heart, hip, elbow, blood and thyroid disorders. To reduce the occurrence of these abnormalities, ethical breeders have all breeding stock screened by veterinary specialists before their dogs are bred. A dog with a "clearance" has been tested negative for evidence of a heritable abnormality by a specialist and is given written certification. Breeder members of the GRCGT must obtain clearances for eyes, heart and hips as a minimum standard.

Eye examinations must be performed annually by a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists to detect cataracts and other complicated eye disorders. Some eye abnormalities found in Golden Retrievers can be surgically corrected while others may result in various degrees of blindness. In particular, we are now very concerned about pigmentary uveitis (PU) and progressive retinal atrophy (PRA). Both have late onset, which means breeders should be screening their dogs for life. Currently PU can only be diagnosed through a clinical exam. There are now DNA tests for two of the forms of PRA that affect Golden Retrievers. Breeders whose bloodlines are linked to affected bloodlines should be able to produce test certificates for these disorders, and all such breeding need to include one clear parent to avoid producing affected pup-



pies.



Sub Aortic stenosis (SAS) is a condition affecting blood flow from the heart. A report of normal heart function is issued by a veterinary cardiologist.

A **hip and elbow certificate** is issued by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) at 24 months of age or by OVC after the age of 18 months to any dog whose pelvic and elbow x-rays show no sign of hip or elbow dysplasia. A statement from the breeder's own veterinarian is not sufficient.

Von Willebrand's Disease (VWD) is a blood disorder which prevents blood from normal clotting. Dogs are given a blood test to determine if they are within normal range.

Hypothyroidism is a heritable condition and is detected through a blood test. Although it can be a serious condition, it is easily treated with hormone therapy.

It is important to remember that breeding "clear" dogs does not absolutely guarantee that puppies will be unaffected, as it is not usually possible to determine which genes both dam and sire carry and how their combinations will affect offspring. However, there is no doubt that breeding non-affected animals greatly increases the chance of producing non-affected offspring.