

RARE?

Anyone searching the web for Goldens recently is certain to have probably seen some pretty fancy sites on the internet advertising “Rustic Reds” or “English Cremes” or “European Platinums” or “Snow-White” or “Arctic White” or “Extra-large and Blocky” Golden Retrievers. If you see a breeder marketing their dogs using such phrases, beware!

English style Goldens are neither rare nor white nor extra large. Goldens with darker coats, or from working lines are not a rare rustic throwback. The emphasis on such extremes that some less-than-reputable breeders promote in their marketing contributes to splits in the breed that are moving away from the dog described in the standard. While some of these individuals may claim that they are working to have the “English” or “Rustic” Golden recognized as a separate variety (as in the division between American and English Cocker Spaniels) the parent breed clubs do not support such activities.

That breed standard defines the size that a Golden retriever should be, in order to maintain its integrity as a hunting dog, and allows a range of coat colours from cream to a very dark, almost red-gold. Dogs who do not fall within the allowable size range, or whose coats are pure white or setter red, are outside of the standard, and thus **should not be bred**.



What is a fair price?

Another warning sign that you may be dealing with a profit motivated breeder is the price of their puppies, whether high or low.

Poorly bred pups can be significantly more expensive than the pups sold by reputable breeders in the same region, and this without a history of traceable clearances and proving of breeding animals through competition in conformation, obedience, hunt tests, or other kennel club sanctioned events. They will often refer to their “multi-Champion” pedigrees, but their own dogs will be completely lacking any titles. The claims of rarity are then used to lure the buyer in place of real standards of quality. Sometimes they will attempt to justify their prices through the expense of importing dogs; however, many reputable breeders also import quality dogs, and do not charge exorbitant prices for their puppies. The imported dogs of reputable breeders come from well-known and successful English, Australian, and European breeders with whom they have developed longstanding and trusting working relationships. The less-than-reputable are often bringing in dogs from Eastern Europe, through puppy brokers, as they do not have the connections or reputation to get dogs from leading breeders overseas.

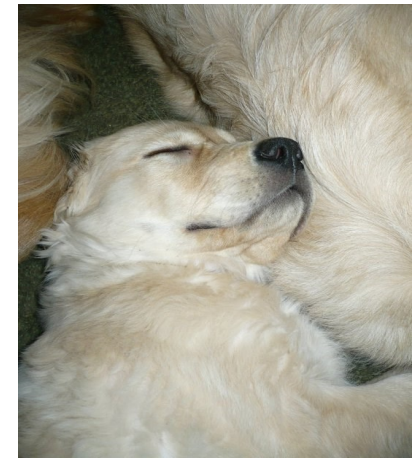
By contrast, the pup that is sold for much less than those sold by reputable breeders in the area is an indication that corners are being cut. The “bargain” dogs are often lacking required clearances, are not competed with or trained, and the pups are sent home far too young in order to save costs. These sorts of puppy producers make their money on sheer volume of cheaply produced pups sold. Even if you are “just looking for a family pet”, you deserve one that has had a good start, and has a history that will give you the best chance at a healthy and long-lived companion.

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ON DOODLES AND CLAIMS OF RARITY



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

OUR STANCE ON POODLE -GOLDEN CROSSES

Recently, the media has hyped the emergence of a number of designer dog "breeds." These include the long popular cockapoos, and other small breed crosses, and now the newly popular large breed doodles. Much of what these breeders say to promote their puppies is misleading, if not downright false. The breeders of the various "doodles", including the Goldendoodle, which most concerns fanciers of the Golden Retriever breed, perpetuate a number of myths in their quest to sell puppies.

The Goldendoodle, like the Labradoodle and other Poodle cross breeds, was initially bred to be a low shedding assistance dog for individuals who suffered from allergies to shedding hair or had other problems with excessive shedding. However, not all Goldendoodles exhibit the "hypoallergenic" coat style of the poodle; as a mixed breed dog, the traits of puppies cannot be accurately predicted. While some Goldendoodles are low-shedding, many others shed a small amount and still others shed as much as a Golden Retriever. While some breeders claim that the Goldendoodle is a hypoallergenic canine, allergists believe that there is no such thing as a hypoallergenic animal. There have been no studies to date verifying whether any canine is completely hypoallergenic. Furthermore, the assistance dog programs that began these breeding programs have since abandoned them as the puppies produced were not consistent enough in physical type or temperament.

The Goldendoodle is *not* a purebred; rather, it is a mixed-breed dog or crossbreed. As such, it is not accepted for registration by mainstream registries of purebred dogs such as the American Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club. Goldendoodles are a first generation cross between a Standard Poodle and a Golden Retriever.

In order for a particular group of dogs to be classified as a breed, there must be a written standard describing the conformation of the breed, and a studbook must be maintained listing all members of that breed registered. In order for that studbook to be accepted by the kennel club, breeders must have gone through a rigorous process by which the breed is accepted for consideration for recognition and voted on by the club membership. Before even getting to that stage however, the breed club must provide evidence that the dogs in question are indeed a breed. That means in a newly developed breed, such as the Cesky Terrier or Black Russian Terrier, records of the breeding program resulting in the new breed have been maintained, and once the phenotype has been set, like bred to like produces like for several generations, proving that genotype has also been set. This is a very simplified explanation of a complex process. But essentially, since most "doodle" puppies result from the mating of Golden to Poodle, and not back into each other with an eventual goal of setting breed type in mind, and the puppies produced vary wildly in conformation, they are not a breed.

Another "benefit" that is often raised is the notion of better health resulting from "hybrid vigour." Poodles and Goldens are actually prone to some of the same or similar inherited conditions, such as problems with skin, hips and eyes. Their structure is also significantly different enough that there can be serious orthopaedic problems.

The final issue in this breeding activity lies with the ethics of the doodle producers.

To obtain their breeding stock these people have either bought poorly bred dogs from backyard breeders or pupymill auctions, or lied to reputable breeders. **No reputable breeder of Goldens or Poodles would sell a puppy to someone who had told them they intended to use the dog for crossbreeding. Member breeders of the CKC cannot be involved in the breeding or selling of non-purebred dogs. To do so can result in the loss of registration and competition privileges.**

Within the Golden Retriever community, this has become

such a concern that the Golden Retriever Club of America issued an official statement in 2006. It states in part:

The Golden Retriever Club of America is dedicated to the health and welfare of the Golden Retriever breed while conserving the original breed function - that of a "working retriever." A purebred dog offers to his owner the likelihood that he will be a specific size, shape, color and temperament. . . . The Goldendoodle is nothing more than an expensive mongrel. Because the genetic makeup is diverse from the Poodle genes and the Golden Retriever genes, the resultant first generation (F1) offspring is a complete genetic gamble. The dog may be any size, color, coat texture and temperament. Indeed Goldendoodles do shed. Their coat may be wiry or silky and may mat. Body shape varies with parentage but tends to be lanky and narrow. Behavior varies with the dog and within a litter with some puppies poodle-like in attitude and others somewhat like the Golden Retriever. The Golden Retriever Club of America is opposed to cross-breeding of dogs and is particularly opposed to the deliberate crossing of Golden Retrievers with any other breed. These cross-breeds are a deliberate attempt to mislead the public with the idea that there is an advantage to these designer dogs. The crossbred dogs are prone to all of the genetic disease of both breeds and offer none of the advantages that owning a purebred dog has to offer.

Please do not support the unethical practices of the doodle breeders by buying into their deception. Protect the integrity of our breeds. Get your purebred puppy from a reputable breeder, or adopt a shelter dog and save a life.