

***THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB  
OF GREATER TORONTO***



***2006 PUPPY BUYERS GUIDE  
AND BREEDERS LIST***



## **THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF GREATER TORONTO**

### **2006 PUPPY BUYERS GUIDE AND BREEDERS LIST**

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You have taken the first step toward buying a healthy, sound Golden Retriever puppy by approaching a recognized breed club to find a responsible and ethical breeder. This Buyers Guide has been produced to help you find a responsible breeder and just the right healthy and sound puppy to become a part of your family. We have attached a Buyers Checklist and Breeders list to help you screen potential sellers. We encourage you to contact several breeders to make an informed decision.

#### **THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF GREATER TORONTO**

The Golden Retriever Club of Greater Toronto (GRCGT) is an affiliate of the Golden Retriever Club of Canada (GRCC) and a member club of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). Our sincere interest in the welfare and development of our breed has led to the establishment of a strong public education program. This program includes training workshops and educational seminars for our members and a rescue and adoption service for unwanted and displaced Golden Retrievers, known as Golden Rescue. Through the efforts of our members the GRCGT is host to a variety of CKC recognized events including conformation shows, obedience trials and working certificate tests. All of which demonstrate the talents and versatility of our breed.

GRCGT members have agreed to abide by a Code of Ethics designed to ensure sound breeding practices and equitable puppy sales.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE CLUB CODE OF ETHICS**

Breed only adult dogs (18 months or older) with sound temperaments. All breeding stock must be certified by appropriate veterinary institutions as clear of heritable conditions such as hip / elbow dysplasia, hereditary heart disease and hereditary eye disease.

The dam (mother) Provide a guarantee outlining the obligations and responsibilities of both buyer and seller. This guarantee must address conditions of sale, replacement/refund circumstances, health guarantee, time limits and terms.

Provide the buyer with a three-generation pedigree, CKC registration certificate and the results of any hip, elbows, eye, heart or blood examinations done on and sire (father) of the puppy.

Keep all dogs under sanitary conditions, provide proper health protection and annual Veterinary exams. Bitches must have appropriate spacing between litters.

Sell Golden Retrievers only to those who will give them proper attention. Breeders are forbidden to supply puppies or adult dogs to pet stores or commercial breeders.

Sell all dogs with a CKC Non-Breeding Contract which may only be canceled by the breeder when the dog sold obtains proper adult clearances.

Make available to the novice owner, the benefit of his/her experience, advise and service.

#### **CONSIDERING AN ADULT GOLDEN RETRIEVER?**

The Canadian Golden Retriever Adoption Service Inc. Otherwise known as *Golden Rescue* is a rescue and placement service for unwanted or abandoned Golden Retrievers. If you are interested in an adult companion they may have the dog for you!

CALL THE RESCUE HOTLINE FOR MORE INFO (416)657-2445  
Or check out the web site <http://www.golden-rescue.net/index.html>  
Registered Charitable Organization 88810 1128 RR0001

## **ABOUT GOLDEN RETRIEVERS**

Golden Retrievers were 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 and 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 importantly however, Goldens make unsurpassable family companions.

## **HEALTH CONCERNS IN GOLDENS**

Like all dogs, Goldens 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 G.R.C.G.T 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 Goldens can be surgically corrected while others may result in various degrees of blindness.

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 or elbow certificate is issued by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) at 24 months of age to any dog who's pelvic x-rays show no sign of hip or elbow dysplasia.

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 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 they combinations will affect offspring. However, there is no doubt that breeding non-affected animals greatly increases the chance of producing non-affected offspring.

## **MALE OR FEMALE?**

Many people ask "Which makes a better companion, a male or female Golden Retriever"? Studies have shown that when it comes to trainability, intelligence and temperament, there is absolutely no difference between male and female Goldens!

## **IS A GOLDEN THE RIGHT DOG FOR YOUR FAMILY?**

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.

## **HOW ABOUT PET SHOPS AND COMMERCIAL KENNELS?**

Purebred puppies sold by pet shops and commercial kennels generally originate from mass-production kennels or puppy mills located in Canada and the United States. The buyers of these puppies may face problems including;

**Background of Dam and Sire are Unknown:** Breeding stock of Commercial breeding kennels is usually not screened at all for heritable abnormalities, temperament, health or conformation faults of the dam and sire.

### **Unknown Rearing Practices:**

Puppies destined for retail trade are bred and sold as a commodity. It is virtually impossible for operators of these 'puppy mills' to give an individual puppy the human socialization required to ensure normal temperament and behavior.

### **C.K.C. Registration Difficulties:**

Canadian Kennel Club registration is not automatically granted to dogs, but must be applied for and certain conditions must be met. Please note that not all U.S. imported dogs are eligible for registration.

## **"BUT I JUST WANT A FAMILY PET"**

It is a popular misconception that private breeders of purebred dogs produce only show dogs. A vast majority of puppies in breeders litters are carefully placed in homes to become companion dogs.

You may hear puppies in a litter be described as 'pet quality' or 'show quality'. A minor fault only noticeable to the experienced fancier may make an otherwise outstanding puppy non-competitive but extremely suitable as a family dog.

## **HOW TO FIND A GOOD BREEDER**

### **Initial Phone conversation:**

During your first conversation, you will want to know when puppies will be available. Be cautious if the seller:

1. Says they do not have puppies today, but will be getting a "shipment" in the near future.
2. Agrees to sell a puppy younger than 7 weeks of age.
3. Cannot answer any of your questions.
4. Is very eager to sell a puppy without asking you questions about you, your family or your lifestyle.
5. Is not a member of the CKC and a recognized Breed Club such as GRCC or GRCGT
6. Charges one price for registered dogs and less 'without papers' - this is illegal
7. Takes a deposit over the phone or gets you to send a deposit before having met with you and your family.

If you have any concern after your conversation -- keep looking! If you feel you are, dealing with a responsible person, arrange to visit the breeder. This gives both of you a chance to get to know each other and decide if a puppy from this kennel is right for you as well as discuss expectations, price and terms. A good breeder will be concerned where his/her puppies are going, so expect to be interviewed.

### **Is the Facility Clean?**

All kennel areas have a doggy odor, but an accumulation of feces or strong urine smell can be a potential health risk for puppies. Is the kennel well lit? Well ventilated? Secure and large enough for the number of dogs being kept there? Do the dogs look well cared for and happy?

### **Is the Dam (mother on the Premises)?**

Ask to see her and note her appearance, size, temperament and general health - your puppy will have many of the same qualities. Ask for information about the puppy's sire (Father) if he does not belong to the breeder.

### **Have the Sire and Dam been certified free of heritable diseases?**

A good breeder should show you documents/certificates from recognized institutions certifying both sire and dam are not affected by heritable abnormalities. Ask to see hip, eye and heart certificates for the Sire and Dam as well as any blood or other reports.

### **Will the puppy be sold with a Written Guarantee and a CKC Registration?**

Is the guarantee specific and clearly written? Without meaningless generalizations (eg. guaranteed against "sickness")? Does it guarantee the puppy for a reasonable time against debilitating hereditary conditions? Will the breeder supply you with CKC registration at no extra cost? By federal law, dogs sold as Purebred in Canada must be sold with CKC Registration.

### **Do you feel you are dealing with a Conscientious Person?**

Would you feel comfortable calling this person for advice? Is he/she knowledgeable about Golden Retrievers and dogs in general? Are his/her own dogs treated well? Is the seller more interested in the welfare of his puppies than making a sale? Do you feel pressured into buying a puppy?

### **Before you bring your Golden puppy home....**

#### **Is the puppy healthy?**

Healthy Golden Retriever puppies are alert, mobile, inquisitive and friendly. They should be interested in their surroundings and curious about you. The puppy's eyes should be bright and clear; not runny. The nose should be moist and pliable, not dry and caked and there should be no obvious difficulty breathing. Gums should be healthy and pink. Look under the puppy's tail there should be no signs of diarrhea. Ruffle the fur, you should see no fleas or flea dirt. Does the puppy seem well nourished?

#### **Will the Seller guarantee the puppy's health for at least 72hrs after purchase?**

Does the seller encourage you to have your veterinarian give an opinion on the puppy's health? Will the seller refund the purchase price or replace the puppy if your veterinarian determines it was sold in an unfit condition?

*These guidelines were produced to help you find a well-bred and healthy Golden Retriever puppy and a seller who is responsible, reputable and ethical. If you have answered 'No' to any of the above questions, carefully consider if it is wise to purchase a puppy from this breeder.*

## The Golden Retriever Club of Greater Toronto 2006 Breeders List

The breeders listed below are members of the G.R.C.G.T. And have agreed to abide by our code of ethics

### **Ambercroft Perm. Reg'd**

Carol Ann Lee  
Palgrave, Ont  
(519)941-1047  
ambercroft@accglobal.net

### **Donamor Reg'd**

Don & Anna Morison  
Mississauga, Ont  
(905)270-9582  
morison@ica.net

### **Gowrielea Perm. Reg'd**

Bruce & Liz Russell  
Scarborough, Ont  
(416)284-5112  
gowrielea@rogers.com

### **Animation Kennel Reg'd**

Vicki Ellery  
Midland, Ont  
(705) 534-2743  
info@goldens.on.ca

### **Fare Kennel**

Jim & Sandra Fare  
Anten Mills, Ont  
(705)726-6125  
fareway@sympatico.ca

### **Keighley Reg'd**

Cathy Park  
Vandorf, Ont  
(905)751-1061  
cathypark@rogers.com

### **Ballangeigh Reg'd**

Michele and Tony Rebelo  
Markham, Ont  
(905) 472-3515  
ballangold@aol.com

### **Goldfever Reg'd**

Molly & Frank Barber  
Mount Albert, Ont  
(905)473-9938  
info@animalrehab.on.ca

### **Makani Meadows**

Betsey Ryan  
Palgrave, Ont  
(519)941-3170  
makani.meadows@primus.ca

### **Carolee Perm. Reg'd**

Shirley & Al Goodman  
North York, Ont  
(416)447-7347  
goldenyrs@sympatico.ca

### **Piador Reg'd**

Sandy Hillier  
Newmarket, Ont  
(905)836-2771  
piadorgoldens@rogers.com

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

The Canadian Dog Owner's Companion - Davidson & Manning

The New Golden Retriever - Schlehr

Just Got A Puppy - What Do I Do? - Seagal & Margolis

Good Owners Great Dogs - Kilcommons & Wilson

Don't Shoot the Dog - The New Art of Teaching & Training - Pryer

Child proofing Your Dog - Kilcommons & Wilson

Dog Logic - Companion Obedience - McMains

Dog Owners Home Veterinary Handbook - Carlson & Giffen

Sirius Puppy Training (VHS)- Dunbar

These books are available from  
DOGS in Canada  
89 Skyway Dr.  
Suite 200,  
Etobicoke, Ont.  
M9W 6R4  
(416)798-9778

And are available at most bookstores or may be borrowed from your local library.



**THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB  
OF  
GREATER TORONTO**

- \* WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE AND PRESERVE THE  
**GOLDEN RETRIEVER**
- \* STRONG PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM THROUGH OUR  
**PUPPY BUYERS GUIDE & BREEDERS LIST**
- \* MEMBERS COMMITTED TO **ETHICAL** BREEDING PRACTICES.
- \* ENCOURAGING **RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP.**
- \* DISPLAYING THE BEAUTY AND VERSATILITY OF THE  
GOLDEN RETRIEVER AT  
**SHOWS, OBEDIENCE TRIALS, RETRIEVING TESTS**
- \* OFFERING AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION THROUGH  
**'GOLDEN RESCUE'**
- \* PROMOTING SOUND BREEDING PRACTICES FOR ALL BREEDS  
**ANNUAL HEALTH CLINIC**
- \* CONTINUED MEMBER EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION  
**SEMINARS, SPECIALTY SHOWS, FUN EVENTS**

The club established in 1986 by a group of Golden Retriever  
Fanciers interested in the welfare and development of the breed

Visit us at: [www.grcgt.com](http://www.grcgt.com)