

Congratulations on your new

Golden Retriever!

Golden Retrievers originated in the 1860's in Great Britain from foundation stock developed at the Scottish country estate of Lord Tweedmouth. To begin the breed, Lord Tweedmouth mated a yellow wavy-coated retriever-the only yellow in the litter of blacks-to a Tweed Water Spaniel (a breed now extinct). The resulting litter produced four bitches who, with limited number of outcrosses, produced the foundation stock from which of today's Golden Retrievers descend. Goldens were first brought to North America in the late 1890,s and were first registered by the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 1925.

As you may know, Golden Retrievers were originally bred to assist in retrieving both upland game and waterfowl. Their basic hunting instincts remain today in varying degrees. The Golden is equally at home as a beloved companion, a gun dog, a guide dog for the blind, an assistant for the handicapped, an obedience competitor and/or a show dog. Goldens are noted for their gentle, loving dispositions and are an excellent breed for families with children. The Golden's desire to please humans is legendary- making them a top obedience competitor and a first-rate companion dog.

While Goldens can adapt to virtually any living situation, they need considerable daily exercise to maintain physical and mental fitness. You Golden should never be allowed to run free. Time spent in the companionship of people indoors can and should be complemented with time spent on daily walks or playing in a secure fenced area. Without the companionship of people and adequate exercise, your golden may display behavior not typical of the well-cared pet and family member.

Regular veterinary care, yearly vaccinations and proper feeding are vital to maintaining your dog's good health. With proper nutrition, routine veterinary care, and regular exercise and grooming, your Golden Retriever should live from ten to thirteen years.

Basic obedience training is an essential part of responsible dog ownership. It will make your dog a better companion and will help establish a stronger bond between the two of you. Your Golden wants nothing more from life than to please you. Therefore, it is your responsibility to train this faithful companion to do as you wish. Classes ranging from "puppy kindergarten" to advanced obedience training and competition- are available in most areas. Of course we would love to see you in our Canine College classes. We love to see how the puppies are doing.

A question that is frequently asked is, "Should I breed my dog?" This is a much more complicated question to answer than it is to ask. As with other breeds, Golden Retrievers may be subject to a number of serious genetic problems that can be passed on to any puppies they produce. These defects can include hip dysplasia (malformation of the hip joints, which can cripple), several eye problems, and less frequently, epilepsy, skin allergies and heart defects. Poor temperament is also a serious genetic problem passed from parent to puppy. A Golden with atypical temperament for the breed should never be bred. Consult your veterinarian for additional information about these and other health problems.

Before you consider using your Golden as a stud dog or brood bitch, remember: No dog with genetic problems should be bred. He or she should be certified free of hereditary eye problems by a Board-Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist; hip dysplasia by an x-ray submitted to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals or to PennHIP; and elbow dysplasia by an x-ray submitted to the O.F.A. If one parent of the puppy is a carrier for the prcd mutation of PRA, an additional blood test, by Optigen Labs will be required prior to upgrading from limited to full registration, as the seller utilizes such information to improve their breeding program for genetic soundness.