



# Breed Feature GOLDEN RETRIEVER



In the early 1800s game was plentiful in England and Scotland, and hunting was both a sport and a practical way of obtaining food. Retrievers came into prominence because of the desire for a medium-sized dog that would do well in wild-fowling, both waterfowl and upland game. During the 19th century, gamekeepers at the Guisachan estate of Lord Tweedmouth at Inverness-Shire, Scotland, kept records of the development of the Golden.

Your Golden is symmetrical, balanced, active, powerful, level mover; sound with kindly expression. Bid-dable, intelligent and possessing natural working ability. Kindly, friendly and confident.

His coat should be dense and water repellent with a good undercoat and neither coarse nor too silky. His outline should be natural and untrimmed. As this coat also needs to be a rich lustrous golden colour, whatever you use should enhance the shine of the coat without making it fluffy or soft.

Between the shows I recommend oiling the coat with Plush Puppy Seabreeze Oil at a ratio of 1 tbspn to 1 gallon/4 litres water. Saturate the coat and work well into the coat with a sponge or carefully pour over and squish well through. Then use the oil straight from the spray, applied undiluted to the areas around where they pee. This is a bad area for breakage. Keeping it oiled will help to prevent the coat getting brittle or tangled and will dissuade the accumulation of debris from the yard. This is a super oil as it is water soluble and won't build up or be nasty to live with. It is also all naturally derived and there is nothing quite like it. I like the depth of colour it tends



## GROOMING TO WIN

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to add to the coat and the wonderful healthy vigour that goes with continued use.

For a show routine, I recommend using Plush Puppy All Purpose shampoo for great shine and best suited to the Golden, (at a ratio of 3:1 i.e. 3 parts water to one part shampoo). At Times when the Golden's coat gets a little greasy, use Plush Puppy Deep Cleansing Shampoo. Ideal for deep cleaning of the coat. If your Golden is out of coat, then I suggest Plush Puppy Body Building Shampoo. Gives a bodified appearance to the silhouette. Dilute all shampoos for a show bath at the ratio of 3:1. After shampooing condition with Plush Puppy Silk Protein Conditioner diluted at the same ratio as the shampoo. I only condition the feathers at this ratio. I prefer a much weaker ratio of 15:1 for the topline. You don't want over softening of this area or to make it fluffy.



Okay here's where the harder stuff begins. In order to get that soft draping fall to the lengths without wave, use Plush Puppy Swishy Coat. There are those who like to apply it undiluted but I always recommend dilution as you have a large dog and it is easier to get it evenly applied and just right this way. Dilute at a ratio of 1 tbspn to 3 cups water depending on the texture of the coat. You can dilute further or less. Sponge or pour thoroughly through the coat ensuring even distribution. Squeeze out excess and blow dry. I also, even for show baths, include a small

amount of Plush Puppy Seabreeze Oil to this final rinse. I suggest 1 teaspoon which can included with the Swishy in 4 L or 1 gallon of water and left in.

Use a Plush Puppy Oval Pin Cushion Brush for this as you don't want to rip the coat or overstretch at this point. When ¾ dry, switch to an oval ½ bristle ½ plastic brush such as the Plush Puppy Anti Stat Brush. This will give you that smoother, straighter and glossier finish to your drying that the pin brush won't do. I also like to get in under the lengths with the brush and gently bend the ends around the curve of the brush. I never entirely dry with a top brushing action only. I find this just flicks the short pieces in the coat outwards and gives that fly away look to the coat. We are after a polished professional look that once you have mastered, is just breathtaking.



Should you have a coat that is too curly or wavy, you can add a tbspn of Plush Puppy Blow Dry Cream to the Swishy Coat mix as this will further flatten the coat. On show days Plush Puppy OMG is a great grooming spray. The Concentrate can be diluted to suit each dog's coat type. As a general rule I would say a 1 part OMG to 15 parts water would be a great. This reduces static, allows for easy show day pre and

won't build up on the coats.

The trimming is relatively easy but does need attention and time. The Standard states feet may be trimmed and stray hairs neatened, but the natural appearance of coat or outline should not be altered by cutting or clipping.

The featherings need perhaps just a gentle shaping with thinning scissors for a softer effect giving a fairly natural look to the curve. You are only removing the stray ends and the end result is still to shape the dog to his best without looking totally contrived. All excess feathering is to be removed from the feet.

On Show day, spray with Plush Puppy Odour Muncher and Plush Puppy Shine & Comb for that final glamour. I do like a dusting of Plush Puppy Pixie Dust just lightly applied on strategic areas with your brush. The secret is just a dusting and not to turn it into the glitter fairy.

Your Golden with his kindly expression, all alert and full of confidence, is now ready to compete, showing himself with good reach and co-ordination as a retriever of the gundog group should be, all fit and in hard working condition.

This loveable and trustworthy dog is always reliable and always a delight to behold.

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# Breed Feature GOLDEN RETRIEVER



## They answered

A.1. I got my first Golden in 1979. The breed appealed to me for its beautiful temperament, working ability and lovely golden coat. I was keen to compete in show and obedience at the time, and a Golden ticked all the boxes. My first dog went on to tick all the boxes too, becoming Ch Doncari Josiah UD. I have founded my breeding on this lovely boy and was very lucky that my first Golden was such a wonderful, sound, intelligent dog!!!! I am currently showing and trialling his Granddaughter Supreme Ch Dykinta Never Ending Story (AI) CCD RA, with considerable success!!!



A.2. Golden today vary greatly in type. With the introduction of bloodlines from various countries around the world, a great variation is being seen within the breed, particularly in Australia.

A.3. Certainly some judges have a clear preference on a particular style of Golden, however I don't believe colour alone determines the decision of the judge in relation to their placements of exhibits when judging.

A.4. Golden should be sound in both mind and body. Temperament should be a priority when breeding or assessing Golden Retrievers. As a majority of puppies go to families, it is paramount that the breed standard is foremost in the minds of breeders and judges alike. An unsound dog should never be awarded. Many comments have been made about "limping" Golden being awarded. There is never a reason to award a dog which is unsound.....Golden Retrievers should be "balanced". Each part of the dog should balance with the next. When looking at a Golden, if something looks out of place, then the chances are, something is not in balance! They should have a kindly expression, with dark pigment and dark eyes. I'm seeing many Golden with light pigment and hard expression. They should also stand true front and rear. No turning out of the forelegs or turning in of the hindlegs.

A.5. Above all else, remember this breed should be capable of working

a day in the field, and consideration should be given to their working ability when making awards.

A.6. Golden are generally a healthy breed. Most breeders are proactive in testing their breeding stock for diseases which can be inherited and only breed with those dogs/bitches who are graded within the recommended guidelines.

A.7. Be careful!!!!!! Ensure you are dealing with a reputable breeder. NEVER buy from a pet shop!!! Educate yourself on issues relating to Golden Retrievers. Check all the certificates of the parents before committing to purchase a puppy. Do NOT enter into any kind of breeder agreement, always purchase your puppy outright, no strings attached. Check with your lo-

“ As a majority of puppies go to families, it is paramount that the breed standard is foremost in the minds of breeders and judges alike ”

cal Golden Retriever Club for guidance and recommended breeders. Ensure the puppies in the litter are clean and outgoing. The breeder should provide you with written information regarding diet, vaccination and worming history. Above all else, if you are not comfortable with the breeder or the puppies, it may be a good time to look elsewhere!!!! Be patient. You are making a long term commitment so make sure you choose carefully!!!

**Carolyn Ryan Ryangold**

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A.1. I have been involved actively in the breed for over 47 years now breeding my first litter 44 years back. I was so lucky to enjoy the support of my parents which enabled me to have my dogs at home and attend shows with them, all whilst studying at school.

I kind of 'fell' into the breed after losing a competition on the radio to win a Labrador Retriever! I started showing Golden Retrievers when I was 11 years old and have maintained my love and enthusiasm for this beautiful breed ever since.

I was first attracted to the breed by a gorgeous male called REX - Aust CH Sandleigh Romulus, who belonged to the elder sister of a girl I did ballet with. I would see him sitting proudly in her car week after week and I adored his lush honey coloured. I began attending a few shows with them as an observer only and started showing and handling Rex myself to help out. I completed his Aust Ch title easily with a couple of Best in Group wins. I was hooked! Rex was duly mated to a bitch from Melbourne bred by Roger Bridgeford of Taumac Kennels. Taumac Saffron produced a lit-

## We asked

**Q.1. How long have you been breeding Golden Retrievers? Why are they your chosen breed?**

**Q.2. Is the Golden Retriever in the show rings of Australia & NZ more or less consistent in 'breed type' than say 15 years ago?**

**Q.3. Is there colour prejudice by judges when it comes to shades of "gold"?**

**Q.4. Could you list in order of priority the 5 most important points you think a judge should look for in the Golden Retriever?**

**Q.5. If you were able to add a sentence to the Golden Retriever breed standard what would it be?**

**Q.6. Does the Golden Retriever have any health problems?**

**Q.7. What would your advice be to a potential puppy buyer when looking for a Golden Retriever?**

ter of 7 puppies and my parents finally relented and let me have a puppy. This puppy went on to complete her Aust CH title and become the Dam of my first homebred champion at KAPARLA. ....and so my love affair began with the dogworld's "all round good guy"!!

A.2. There is still a large variety in breed styles within the breed standard for type. There are very good dogs in both countries, very average quality dogs and a few very poor dogs displaying quite inconsistent breed type but this is true the world over, not just in Australia and NZ. Having judged the breed in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, India, Italy, and Ireland the statistics would have to be similar, but I must say I have been surprised at how most conform to the breed standard regardless of background, origin, bloodline or country of birth.

I do feel for those new to judging our breed, as the variations in just one class, in any given ring at any show, can cause great confusion to both the uninitiated and experienced alike. My advice is to find a style within correct type and run with it....placing dogs that appeal to your eye within this style. There is only ONE TYPE ....as described in the Breed Standard.

The GR is a dog of moderation not of extremes, so placings dogs in Australia or NZ with coarse 'blocky' heads, incorrect construction and poor movement only serves to encourage the ongoing breeding of dogs who have traits inconsistent with good breed type..... something needed for the successful future of this beautiful breed.

Our breed has always been known for its beautiful nature and superb temperament. In my opinion this remains paramount but sadly we are regularly seeing Golden displaying soft, scared/worried, nervous, anxious and over the top hyperactive temperaments; with some even falling into what is clearly an aggressive, bossy and too assertive category.

I guess the ongoing argument amongst the dedicated GR fraternity is

that too many Golden are losing the correct balance of height to length. We often see Golden long in body and correspondingly low on leg, with coats sculpted into shape way too much, and these seem to be more and more acceptable to the eye of both judges and exhibitors/breeders alike - myself included.

Toplines are always an area to keep in mind, as we see lots of dropped steep croups and 'roundy bums', as are 'terrier type' front assemblies with short upper arms...nothing new really as these are things in the breed that are always there and will continue to appear unless we all actively breed for the correct structure needed in a working dog. One thing I have noticed in the past 41/2 decades since becoming involved in the breed is extremes of angulation creeping in, and although it may look eye catching it is most incorrect and must be curtailed.

A.3. I think that a good Golden Retriever will win in the ring and hold his own under most judges regardless of colour as the old adage "no good dog is a bad colour" rings true but I do however, believe unfortunately, that colour does unfairly still play a part in the All Breeds ring as some judges continue to make life difficult for the paler coloured dogs. I have personally had judges make comment to me about their preference for the 'correct gold' Golden Retriever; proudly and openly admitting to never putting up a pale dog.

Despite the clear wording of the standard and despite the ongoing education of our new judges there are still blatant prejudices occurring and although everyone is entitled to their opinion it continues to be a problem in our breed; and one that causes the most angst amongst the faithful who have a genuine understanding of the term "ANY SHADE OF GOLD OR CREAM". Many use the term 'white' to be condescending and derogatory in their description of the paler dogs when the Golden is incapable of ever

*Continued on page 44*

GOLDEN RETRIEVERS OF DISTINCTION

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# Breed Feature GOLDEN RETRIEVER



## They answered

Continued from page 41

being white (yes I agree there are some that are very pale) as they simply DO NOT carry the white gene!

A.4. 1. Form and Function – Golden Retrievers must be constructed in a way that allows them to do the job for which they were bred... this means excellent skeletal and muscular construction. They are a working dog not a couch potato. Look for a silhouette and outline that shows the dog underneath will not disappoint by the ensuing hands-on appraisal – level topline, clean neck into shoulders, super angles fore and aft but not overdone – the Golden Retriever is more a dog of moderation THAN extremes.

2. Shape and Make – Males should look masculine and females feminine, not vice versa. Big coarse heads and fine narrow heads in either sex are not correct. Both should have substance and depth but should be balanced, in head and body. The Golden Retriever is not a weedy light framed dog, nor is he clunky and heavy. He must have the strength of body to work all day in the field or play all day with his friends and family, both canine and human.

3. Soundness of Body and Mind – Look for a happy wagging tail and calm demeanour both on the stack and on the move. Good temperament is paramount. One sees way too many dogs in our breed that are over the top and hyperactive. The standard states 'kindly, friendly, confident' but too often we see crazy or timid dogs atypical of the breed. They were designed to sit calmly beside their gamekeepers waiting to be sent to retrieve a fallen animal, not leap and jump all over others and be uncontrollable. These days most of our breed are sold as family pets and no family wants a lunatic in the back yard, yet so many are like this nowadays.

4. Fitness and Musculation – he is a working dog who must be able to hunt, retrieve, swim, run, jump with or without a large bird or rabbit in his mouth. He cannot do all these things if he is unfit, over or underweight. He should always be shown in peak physical condition. I like to see the dogs 'cover the ground' with long even strides and correct footfall; I always ask that the handlers 'use all the ring and give me a big triangle', both so they can showcase their dog's super movement and also so that I can see the dog move out and back well. I don't like to see the dogs raced round the ring – ask that handlers move them at a steady pace rather than pull the dog off balance and race around the ring at a fast flashy pace. Fast is not best.

5. Glamour and Appeal – I know this may cause a stir as coats come

and go, but for me personally, I love to see the finished product in full bloom with a beautiful gleaming, clean, coat and complete furnishings. The appeal of a dark eye showing a soft, gentle, melting expression on a beautiful balanced head completes the picture. A GR that resembles a Collie Rough or a Newfoundland is just as incorrect as one which looks stunning but cowers away from you or worse still growls at the judge or other dogs. The Golden Retriever is after all a very attractive, coated dog and should look so in the ring – neatly trimmed, well presented and shown to full advantage.

A.5. What a great question!! General Characteristics: "A powerful level moving dog without obvious extremes or exaggerations – no coarseness, a breed of moderation"

A.6. Like all pure bred breeds Golden Retrievers suffer from many inherited and genetic problems, some playing a more significant role than others. Concerned breeders check their stock for these by way of Specialist Vet checks in specific areas and receive certificates that state so. Unfortunately in the world of advancing technol-

“ *One thing I have noticed in the past 41/2 decades since becoming involved in the breed is extremes of angulation creeping in, and although it may look eye catching it is most incorrect and must be curtailed* ”

ogy these forms and documents can be tampered with and this may affect the accuracy of the data, which may in turn impact upon the dogs produced. I would hope that honesty and integrity prevail and that breeders faced with problems can be open and honest to better understand the condition and the mode of inheritance. Not an easy task by any means but worth considering, as we may not have to throw the 'baby out with the bath water', but can move on in an educated and informed way.

In my opinion the main genetic problems to keep a close eye on and maintain honesty with our dogs in breeding circumstances, are epilepsy, ectopic ureter, and mast cell tumours as these impact so heavily on the individual dog and their owners; then there are the old contenders which will always need research for pedigree analysis in relation to individual breeding programs – hips, elbows, eyes and hearts and all their related conditions.

In recent years skin problems such as Ichthyosis and flaky dandruff skin have emerged as being an issue worthy of DNA testing; and I feel many Golden Retrievers are allergic to one thing or an-

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other which makes life difficult for their families.

A.7. Be genuine and be prepared



to wait for the right puppy and to stay in regular contact with your chosen breeder. For me the 'squeaky wheel gets the oil'. Do plenty of research yourself – the world wide web has opened up so many easy ways to do some homework on the breed and be sure this is the right breed for their particular circumstance. Do not write one-liner emails if making contact by that method. Provide some information to the breeder and let them know what you want. Be prepared to attend shows and obedience Clubs as an observer first, listen and learn about the breed. Other areas may interest you in terms of rally, agility, endurance, tracking and Gundog work, showing including etiquette and skills, grooming and preparation needed to keep even the most rugged outdoor dog clean and knot free. Be patient and buy the best possible dog FIRST time, don't make do with an average one first as you will only be disappointed and lose interest if showing is your interest. It is hard enough winning in this competitive breed anyway, let alone trying to do so with an average specimen.

Never buy from the local paper or petshop and never from public forum sites such as Gumtree, Facebook or the Trading Post. I am aware that the popu-

larity of the Golden Retriever makes it easy for those who wish to breed for the pet market to churn out puppies of inferior quality. There are way too many reputable, genuine breeders who understand the implications of breeding the best to the best, and these people would never allow the downfall of our breed. Many of us have invested vast amounts of time and money in making sure that the good will prevail. Many of the Petshop and Backyard acquired dogs show less than desirable traits (poor breed type and temperament, a marked predisposition to allergies – to name a few) prevalent in dogs of poor quality and the new owners soon realise this and do not usually repeat the mistake second time round.

Heather Morrison *Kaparla*

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A.1. Santamaria have been breeders for 50 years now, I had no alternative really having been born with a Golden by my side. I inherited Santamaria from my mother and father Brian and Shirley Lee many years ago, they were very active members and breeders and were wonderful ambassadors for our breed. I could never own another breed.

A.2. I think the Golden Retrievers are more consistent in some ways and less in others. A few examples, we have many long and low Golden Retrievers creeping in these days, 15 years ago they were a great deal shorter in backs within the breed.

I also see many toplines being lost on the move and the powerful hind-quarters lost. It is very important for the breed, as it states, "Powerful with good Drive" these important points add up to Breed Type, those with soft toplines and not the typical powerful movement which is important for the working ability of our breed obviously will alter the breed type. I believe that more emphasis being put into these important attributes.

Its important to note when judging or breeding, ask the question, can this

Continued on page 48

# CHALEUR

## Golden Retrievers

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*Thomas*

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**CHALEUR**  
*Golden Retrievers*

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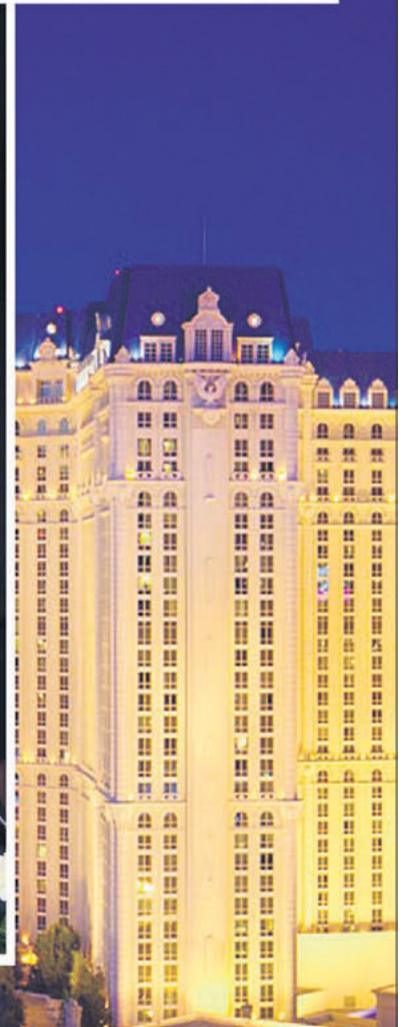


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# Breed Feature GOLDEN RETRIEVER



*Continued from page 44*

dog work all day!

A.3. I think generally speaking Judges don't really have any color prejudice, there may be a few that do, and I have had many judges make comments, such as, thank goodness a Golden with color, but generally they judge the dog first, and color last, which is after all what we want.

- A.4. 1. Balance
2. Powerful Movement
3. Symmetry
4. Soundness
5. Temperament

A.5. A sentence was deleted from the breed standard years ago which was as far as my parents and myself point of view very important, "Not long or Short on Leg" also the eye shape has been deleted from the standard, the eye shape of a Golden is NOT round, which I am seeing more off, and which is not correct, I believe both the above should be referred to and replaced into the breed standard. You must remember changing the shape of the eye also changes the shape of the skull.

A.6. Because of the breeds size, hips and elbows are and have always been the major health issues within the breed followed by Eyes. I think the breed has been well looked after by the more experienced breeders who test for the above. I believe that the more consciousness breeders are very careful and are mindful that high hip scores can increase without warning.

A.7. Do your research; don't go on what another breeder says about another, the breeder who bad mouths another is the one who I would be careful off. There are many breeders out there and mostly it all comes down to what pleases you the buyer. It may be color, or just looks, ask lots of questions, it also may come down to how many are on our waiting lists, as the most sort after breeders usually have many waiting for a puppy. Also never be in a rush, you may have to wait for just the right puppy. Prices may vary from breeder to breeder, there is no right or wrong, and it is the choice of the breeder what they want to charge.

**Dianne Lee Santamaria**

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A.1. My parents first established "Chaleur" Golden retrievers back in 1969 in Melbourne. In 1971 we moved as a family to WA and the first litter was born shortly after. Our 2 foundations bitches were line bred, from imported dogs that came to Australia from the very famous "Westley" kennel in the United Kingdom. I took the prefix over from my parents in 1990, as it had been in recess for a few years. I had purchased a beautiful bitch, Grand Champion Ralun Stop N Stare from Robyn Pierce "Ralun" in 1990, and all of our dogs today carry her and her famous son Grand Champion Chaleur Acclaim To Fame, somewhere in their pedigree. We have been blessed with some

great successes over the years in the Specialty and All Breeds rings, with 1 Supreme Champion, 5 Grand Champions, 33 Champions, 21 Specialty Best in Shows, and 32 Specialty CC's, and Many All Breed Best in Show winners.

My love for the Golden Retriever is because to me they are the perfect family house dog. They love to be part of your family, you can take them anywhere with anyone and never have to worry that they wont be sociable to whoever they meet. They are a wonderful dog individually or in a group, and can always be trusted around children



and puppies. Perhaps at times their love of life can be a little too enthusiastic, but they always have a smile for you no matter what. The fact that the boys and girls can all get along with each other is exactly how I like my dogs to be, as mine must always be able to run, play and eat together. They are a breed that can be active at the beach the park etc, but can also be a wonderful house companion as well. They have an unending desire to please, and a wonderful affiliation for children which makes them an ideal family dog.

A.2. I think the breed still struggles with consistency in breed type if you go to just an All Breeds Show. If you attend some of our bigger Specialty shows or Nationals I do believe you will see a more consistent type in the ring. Sadly we are seeing judges putting up a more generic type of dog that would not fair so well perhaps in the Specialty ring and some breeders are choosing to breed these dogs as they achieve some success in the All Breeds ring with them.

Personally I have continued to breed to our breed standard for our country of origin and have been lucky to have success in the All Breeds ring with my dogs as well at all levels including Royals which is very pleasing. I do believe though that there is nothing more satisfying than a win at a Specialty show, it is certainly the icing on the cake!

It is a shame that we don't see more trainee, and newer judges attending some of our Specialty shows to observe the breed, as I think regardless of what the judge is doing, you can learn so much from watching large classes of dogs in the ring at once.

A.3. This unfortunately is an old debate, for me personally now I tend not to have this discussion as it seems

to fall on deaf ears, sadly most people who judge this way will never change their idea. My personal opinion is that if people are only going to judge by color then it shows a complete lack of understanding and knowledge on the breed. The one thing it does show is that they really haven't studied the breed well enough nor are wide enough travelled to give an educated opinion.

The Golden Retriever doesn't have a "White" gene so we can't breed a "White" dog, you can breed gold to gold and get all cream puppies, and you can breed cream to cream and get all gold puppies. Color is no indication of gene pool or of breed type either, and as the old saying goes "A good dog cannot be a bad color". I have owned and bred the full spectrum of the color range in the breed but I have never kept a puppy nor have I ever judged a dog by choosing on color as any consideration. Breed type, construction and soundness must be foremost always.

A.4. To me it must always be Type, Temperament and Soundness first and foremost.

Type, is typified by the head, a soft melting expression from that beautiful dark eye that exudes that confident and kind nature of the breed. The head should be well chiselled and perfectly balanced, it should never be coarse, domed and never show any wrinkling. The eyes are what give that soft melting expression, so they should be dark, a light or yellow eye will give a mean expression, and too small an eye or an eye too deeply set will detract and give a foreign expression.

A Golden Retriever must always display a confident friendly and kind temperament, puppies maybe excused for being unsure at times, but otherwise a golden should never show any shyness, fear or aggression towards a human or another dog, and if it does it should be excused from the ring and non-awarded. It should always be remembered that this breed is chosen to be a family pet because of their temperament and nature, and there should never be allowance for anything other than displaying the virtues of the perfect family dog.

Soundness is paramount in the breed, as they are primarily a working dog. The Golden must be athletic, well muscled and show the ability to have enough endurance and fitness to be able to work for extended periods of time on land and in water. They must show reach and drive which comes from a well angulated and a well balanced front and rear. They must not be too long in body as they will tire easily and become weak in back. This breed over time has also had issues with hip and elbow dysplasia, and responsible breeders have been screening their dogs for many years, so lameness should not be tolerated, nor a lack of reach and drive.

Our breed standard is very brief, but it does state that the Golden should be

a "powerful level mover", which gives the judge a few clues as to what they should look for. Power means athletic, strong, well muscled, Level meaning the topline should be level standing and moving from the withers to the tip of the tail, and the dog should move with ease and look effortless.

Finally the Golden Retriever must portray balance. The head proportions should be balanced, the front and rear angulation should be balanced, the height to length should show balance and the depth of body and length of leg should be balanced. It is not a breed that should display extremeness

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in anyway.

Q. 5. If you were able to add a sentence to the Golden Retriever breed standard what would it be?

A. That the Topline must be level standing and moving, from the withers to the tip of the tail, and dogs should be penalised heavily for a roached back, or a sway or dipping back, roundness or dropping off of the croup is highly undesirable.

A.6. At this present time I would think the Golden Retriever is probably the most tested breed in the world. Most breeders who have a responsible breeding program test for Hip and Elbow Dysplasia, we have annual eye tests with a Specialist Ophthalmologist, we do Cardiac Screening primarily for Sub-Aortic Stenosis, and more recently we now DNA test for PRA1, PRA 2 and Ichthyosis (excessive dandruff). Puppy buyers should ensure they are always buying from breeders that do all relevant tests and screening of their breeding stock, and request to see the certificates of both parents when purchasing a puppy.

A.7. Where possible make sure you go to a breeder that has been recommended to you, the breeder should be a member of their state controlling body, and state breed club. Try and meet the parents of the puppies where possible or relatives of them. If you are buying from a breeder interstate only buy from a breeder that has come recommended from another breeder or friend who has seen and met their dogs, and seen the environment that the puppies have been brought up in. Golden retriever puppies can be hard to come by especially from responsible breeders, so be prepared to wait, your patience will pay off.

**Ruth Thompson  
Chaleur**



# Breed Feature GOLDEN RETRIEVER



## The Breed Standard

### GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Symmetrical, balanced, active, powerful, level mover; sound with kindly expression.

### CHARACTERISTICS:

Biddable, intelligent and possessing natural working ability.

### TEMPERAMENT:

Kindly, friendly and confident.

### Head And Skull:

Balanced and well-chiselled, skull broad without coarseness; well set on neck, muzzle powerful, wide and deep. Length of foreface approximately equals length from well-defined stop to occiput. Nose preferably black.

### EYES:

Dark brown, set well apart, dark rims.

### EARS:

Moderate size, set on approximate level with eyes.

### MOUTH:

Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. Upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

### NECK:

Good length, clean and muscular.

### FOREQUARTERS:

Forelegs straight with good bone, shoulders well laid back, long in blade with upper arm of equal length placing legs well under body. Elbows close fitting.

### BODY:

Balanced, short coupled, deep through heart. Ribs deep, well sprung. Level topline.

### HINDQUARTERS:

Loin and legs strong and muscular, good second thighs, well bent stifles. Hocks well let down, straight when viewed from rear, neither turning in nor out. Cowhocks highly undesirable.

### FEET:

Round and cat-like.

### TAIL:

Set on and carried level with back, reaching to hocks, without curl at tip.

### GAIT/MOVEMENT:

Powerful with good drive. Straight and true in front and rear. Stride long and free with no sign of hackney action in front.

### COAT:

Flat or wavy with good feathering, dense water-resisting undercoat.

### COLOUR:

Any shade of gold or cream, neither red nor mahogany. A few white hairs on chest only, permissible.

### SIZES:

Height:

Dogs 56-61 cms (22-24 ins) at withers

Bitches 51-56 cms (20-22 ins) at withers

### FAULTS:

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work. Notes: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.