

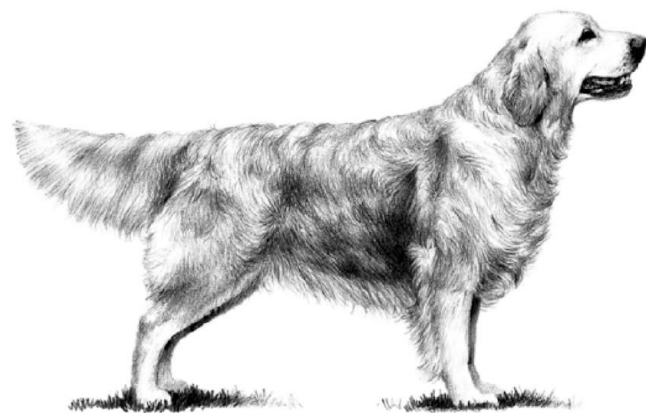
KIND FRIENDLY & CONFIDENT

It's not surprising that Golden Retrievers are one of the most popular dog breeds. Along with being exuberant and friendly, they are strong hard working dogs. Goldens excel at whatever they do, be it hunting, an assistance dog, working search-and-rescue, or being devoted companions. Though they are serious about their work, they also enjoy being downright silly!

HISTORY

In the early 1800s, game was plentiful in England and Scotland, and hunting was both a sport and a practical way of obtaining food. Golden retrievers came into prominence because of the desire for a medium-sized dog that would do well in wild-fowling, both upland game and waterfowl.

Development of the Golden Retriever is found in records from 1850 to 1890 at the Guisachan estate of Dudley Marjoribanks, the first Lord Tweedmouth. The estate although sadly just a ruin today is near Inverness in Scotland.



TEMPERAMENT

With their friendly temperament and striking good looks, this breed is both beautiful to look at and a joy to own. While Goldens are very adaptable, they need considerable daily exercise to maintain physical and mental fitness. They love company and time spent on daily walks and physical activity should be complemented with time spent with their families indoors.

Without the companionship of people and adequate exercise, goldens become bored and full of pent-up energy, leading to hyperactivity causing them to bounce around the house, and display behaviours such as barking and destructive chewing this behaviour is atypical of the well-cared-for pet and family member.

TRAINING

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.

Goldens remain enthusiastic and puppy like for many years, so early training is a must to teach them appropriate good manners, their minds and hearts are gentle but their bodies grow big and strong very quickly and can become over exuberant in their enthusiasm for life. They are eager to please and enjoy training but they get easily distracted by exciting sights and sounds, so you must be patient and persistent.

NUTRITION

The Golden Retriever is a large breed and has a lifespan of 12 to 14 years. What you feed your dog is an individual choice, but working with your breeder will be the best way to determine frequency of meals as a puppy and the best adult diet to increase his longevity. Clean, fresh water should be available at all times.



GROOMING

Grooming can be a wonderful bonding experience for you and your pet. Golden Retrievers have a dense, water-repellent outer coat with a thick undercoat and if you live with a Golden, you'll need to adapt to a certain amount of dog hair in your house and on your clothes.

Daily grooming is recommended to prevent tangling, and once a week is the bare minimum. They will also need the occasional bath to keep them clean and looking their best. Their strong fast-growing nails should be trimmed weekly to avoid overgrowth, splitting and cracking. Their ears should be checked regularly to avoid a build-up of wax and debris which can result in an infection. Teeth should be brushed regularly.

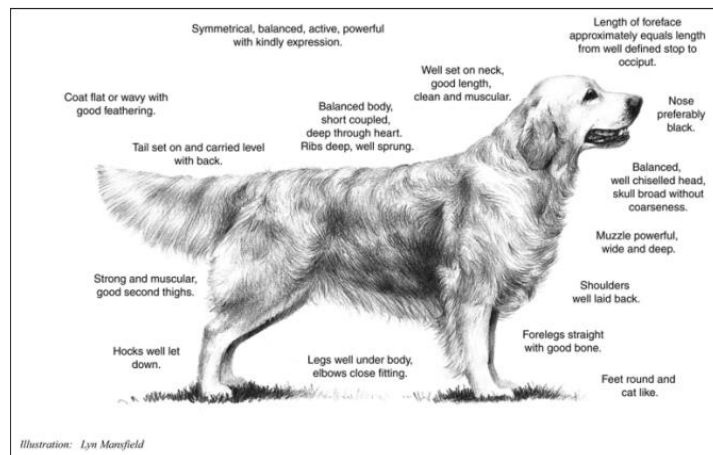
EXERCISE

Golden Retrievers have a joyful, playful approach to life and maintain this childlike behaviour for longer than some other breeds. They are the Peter Pan of dogs! They love to play outdoors and need plenty of exercise, daily activities are a must.

HEALTH

Like all breeds there may be some health issues, particularly hip and elbow dysplasia, eye disease and cardiac disease. Some dogs may be faced with these health challenges in their lives, but the majority of Golden Retrievers from responsible breeders are healthy dogs. Working with responsible breeders/state breed clubs; potential owners can gain the education they need to know about specific health concerns within the breed.

Good breeders utilize health and genetic tests of their breeding stock to reduce the likelihood of disease in their puppies.



Origin	Scotland
Weight	Male 65-75 lb (29-34 kg) Female 55-65 lb (25-29kg)
Height	Male 22-24 in (56-61 cm) Female 20-22 in (51-56cm)
Coat	Double coated and can be straight or wavy
Colour	Any shade from cream to gold
Life span	12-14 years
Classification	Group 3 (Gun dogs)

Contact your State Breed Club
for Further Information
<http://ausnrc.org/state-breed-clubs/>