

THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER

A brief overview

The Golden Retriever is one of the world's most loved breeds and for good reason. They are known as the KFC dog because they're kind, friendly & confident. They are a trusting breed that wishes only to please their owners, which in turn makes them easy to train. Goldens have a sense of humour and can get up to all sorts of funny antics. Goldens wear a smile unlike any other breed.

Goldens are highly intelligent playful dogs that ideally suit most families. Whatever you're doing they want to be part of it all, be that laying at your feet while you read a book, going for a jog or playing games. If you're off camping or to the children's sporting activities, your golden wants to be with you. Goldens adore children, again making them the ideal family pet. Remember, retriever by name, retriever by nature; your Golden was bred to retrieve game over land and water, so if there are shoes lying around the house, the odd stuffed teddy bear, maybe even a book or a remote control left at mouth level rest assured it will be retrieved. Don't expect to get it back the way it was left.

Goldens love water, whether it be their own water bucket, a puddle, a creek or river, lake, pond or ocean. If it's wet, they will be part of it!

If a Golden is left alone for long periods of time without suitable entertainment, they will, find their own. Invariably this will be seen by their humans as destructive behaviour.

Goldens are avid gardeners and can dig huge holes in many locations while you're at work, eating your newly planted Azalea could present a peaceful hour for a Golden while it lays in the sun. If you're planning on having your dog live outside most of the time and/or you spend a lot of time away from your home, then a golden retriever is not the breed for you and your family.

Size, age & coat

Goldens are considered a large dog, weighing between 25 & 35 kilos and measuring 56-61 cm for dogs and 51-56 cm for bitches at the withers (shoulders). Generally, goldens live for around 12 years. Generally, goldens live for around 12 years. They have a long thick coat that sheds golden glitter 24 hours a day, so Golden owners do a lot of vacuuming. Goldens will also have two major coat drops during the year. One at the beginning of summer when they drop their winter undercoat and the other at the beginning of winter when they drop the light summer coat and grow one that will keep them warm in winter. Goldens should not be shaved, as their coat is designed to keep them warm in winter and cool in summer.

Feeding

Golden Retrievers enjoy eating. Over feeding your Golden is not only a waste of your money but also detrimental to your dog's health. We recommend you take the advice of your breeder when choosing the brand of dry dog food to feed your new baby puppy. A diet of 75% dry food to 25% wet food is ideal, but you can feed your dog less wet food and give 100% dry food if necessary.

Wet food that dogs can eat are things like:

Dairy: Eggs (which should include the shell), cheese, yoghurt, goats milk.

Fish: sardines, tuna, salmon, (when feeding canned fish, include all the oil, bones & flesh). Fresh sardines can also be fed.

Meat: fresh meat, cooked meat – beef, lamb, kangaroo. If including chicken in your dogs diet it should be cooked and chicken bones of any types should not be fed to a dog.

Bones: never feed cooked bones of any description or poultry bones including chicken (they are brittle can splinter and puncture your dog's stomach & intestines).

Vegetables: can be fed cooked or raw. Carrots, pumpkin, potatoes, cabbage, spinach, beans, broccoli, cauliflower. When cooking vegetables for dogs make sure they are cooked until super soft as this will help with digestion. Do not feed onions or mushrooms to dogs.

Fruits: strawberries, tomatoes, watermelon, apples etc.

Pasta & Rice: Cook until super soft and if feeding rice do not rinse the rice before or after cooking as you remove the starch which aids in digestion.

Grooming

Goldens require a medium amount of work for grooming, a brush with a sturdy bristle at least once a week. When they drop coat, you may wish to use a "slicker" brush to help remove the dead/lose coat. Toe nails need to be trimmed every fortnight and the hair that grows between their toes should be trimmed back flush with the toes every fortnight. The tail can also be tidied up from time to time. Bathing once every 4 – 6 weeks is desirable.

Exercise

A brisk daily walk, swimming, playing chase, retrieving everything and anything, digging holes, rolling in mud, laying on your bed or lounge sound asleep are all activities a golden retriever enjoys.

To enquire about a buying a puppy from a club member please read our buying a puppy page on this site and make contact with the puppy information officer.

To keep up to date with all things Golden join our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/GoldenRetrieverClubOfNsw>