

ONCE YOU HAVE GOT YOUR PUPPY

Socialising. Once your puppy has been properly vaccinated by your Vet, look out for early age puppy socialisation classes. It is quite likely your local Vets or dog clubs will run these for mixed breeds which will help your puppy mixing with other dogs later on.

Training. Try to join a training club as early as possible. The younger a puppy starts its training there is more likelihood that you and your puppy will be more socially acceptable wherever you go. A training club that offers the Kennel Club Good Citizen Award Scheme Training from Puppy Foundation to Gold Standard is recommended.

Activities. Once your Golden is showing progress in its training and perhaps gets its Kennel Club Good Citizen Gold Award, look around for other activities that might interest you and your dog. These could include :-

Gun Dog work. Golden Retrievers are retrievers by nature and love to retrieve and present their finds to their owners. Gun Dog work covers either Field Trial work or just picking up (at a shoot with live birds) or Working Tests where canvas dummies are used that replicate the weight of live birds. There are plenty of Retriever Clubs that offer training and competitions in both and your Golden will love it!

Agility. Once your Golden has reached a year or older you could consider doing Agility. Don't start any younger as hips and elbows need to be fully developed and strong. You have to be reasonably fit yourself but the dogs love it and competition can be fun – watch it at Crufts!

Obedience. With basic training achieved, your Golden may show really good obedience ability. With Obedience Training offered by many Clubs, the opportunity of entering obedience competitions is there. Rally and Heelwork to Music are newer variations and Working Trials includes nose-work, agility and control.

Showing. Golden Retrievers, bred usually from show stock, can enter the show world, perhaps one day being a Crufts winner. Clubs may offer Ring Craft training, which is essential if you want to get a judge to take notice of your dog in a show ring. Many of the owners of highly prized Golden Retrievers are breeders, and success in the ring can often ensure matings take place between top quality health screened dogs to perpetuate the Kennel Club breed standard of the Golden Retriever. Breeders and breed clubs are happy to advise you as to where you might perhaps go to ensure you get a puppy that will suit you best.

Grooming. A Golden is a wonderful sight when it's been properly trimmed and groomed. Make sure you find someone who understands how a Golden should be trimmed, especially its tail - which is a thing of beauty when properly trimmed!

Have Fun. Golden Retrievers are very sociable animals. They love the company of people and other dogs. They like running, playing, getting in water, toys, and even a bit of mischief! Take them to Country Fairs, the seaside, long walks over fields and in woods, enter fun events whether that be for the Prettiest Dog at a fun show, or how quickly a three dummy retrieve can be done. The dogs will love it, and so will you.

The Do's and Don'ts



Of Buying a Golden Retriever Puppy

Produced by
The Southern Golden Retriever Society
at www.southerngoldenretriever.com
and Southern Golden Retriever Rescue
at www.sgrr.org.uk

DO

- Before you start, be sure you can afford to keep and care for a dog for all of its life. There will be food costs, insurance costs, vets fees, grooming fees and training fees to consider.
- Ask your Vet about local reputable breeders.
- Find a local breeder by contacting your regional Golden Retriever Club via the Kennel Club's listing of assured breeders on their web site:- <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/findaclub>
- Only look at reputable, genuine websites such as those of the Kennel Club and Champdogs.
- Check the Kennel Club website or phone them on 0844 4633980 for Assured Breeders of Golden Retrievers who might have puppies available.
- See the puppies interact with their mother.
- Check the conditions the puppies are being reared in, that they are clean and safe and the puppies look healthy.
- Ask the breeder if both parents have been thoroughly tested for all the recommended health tests relating to Golden Retrievers. Ask for copies of the information.
- Obtain Kennel names of sire and dam and check that the health test information given by the breeder corresponds with that on the kennel club website.
- Play with the puppies to see if they have been socialised with humans and visit several times.
- Ensure you are given a Kennel Club Registration Certificate at point of sale plus a Contract of Sale and 4 weeks free insurance through the Kennel Club or other reputable Pet Insurance Company.

DO BUY FROM A REPUTABLE BREEDER

DON'T

- DON'T look for a puppy on any other websites other than those of the Kennel Club, Champdogs or regional Golden Retriever Clubs and Societies.
- DON'T respond to ads in a newspaper or on a notice board and certainly don't buy a puppy in the Pub!
- DON'T buy a puppy or Rescue Dog from abroad (unless it's from a reputable overseas breeder).
- DON'T think a cheap price is a bargain. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. The price of a well-bred puppy will be well over £1800 or more, depending on region.
- DON'T proceed if a breeder can't or won't show you the mother with the puppies.
- DON'T proceed if a breeder says "I don't test because I don't have a problem" or will not tell you up to date health test information for the puppy's sire and dam.
- DON'T buy a puppy kept in filthy conditions.
- DON'T take a puppy home under 8 weeks of age. It's against the law to do so.
- DON'T "rescue" a poorly looking puppy or the "last" one, difficult as it might be to ignore. You may end up costing yourself a lot of money and heartache.
- DON'T buy a puppy as a surprise present.

DON'T BUY FROM A PUPPY FARM OR SHOP

