



# So, You Want To Buy A Golden ?

Adapted from Pamphlets by

The Golden Retriever Club of Canada  
The Golden Retriever Club of America  
The Humane Society  
The Dogs Annual  
Dogs USA

# Introduction

Thank you for your inquiry to our kennel, Silmaril Kennels (Perm. Reg.) !

As a longtime previous corporate member of The Golden Retriever Club of Canada, and as a current member of The Golden Retriever Breeders Association of Ontario, we hope this blog will help you decide if the Golden Retriever is the right breed for you and if so, to assist your selection. Before beginning your search for a puppy, we urge you to take time to learn about the breed - attend dog shows, obedience trials, field trials; talk with Golden owners and visit and talk to several breeders. Decide what you are looking for - a good family pet, obedience worker, hunting dog, conformation dog or a combination of all of these.

Do **not** buy on impulse. All puppies are cute !

Reputable breeders do not always have puppies immediately available and you may have to wait for one. You will have an easier time locating a puppy from a "backyard breeder" or a "puppy-mill". Beware ! These people may know little and care less about the breed; they may sell their puppies for a little less money but, in many cases they charge the same as a careful, knowledgeable breeder.

## Your Dog

Experts on people/pet behaviors say a dog can provide humans with a friend to confide in, play with, and care for; this is especially true for children. If you are considering getting a dog for your child, remember : a pet dog is a big commitment for the entire family.

Do **not** buy on impulse !

Properly chosen and trained, a dog can be a loved - and loving - member of your family for years to come. Dogs provide many health benefits to children and adults alike; scientific study of this "human/animal" bond has recently begun to flourish in professional journals, showing lower blood pressure, less depression and of course the benefits of "special needs" animals for the visually or hearing or physically impaired.

## Reasons **Not** To Get A Dog

Dogs demand more time and care than other pets; they must be fed and exercised on a fairly regular schedule - these may be chores that are hard to keep up with if you have a very busy family. Dogs are not "goldfish" !!!

If your child has allergies, or if there is a strong history of such allergies, you might want the child tested prior to buying a dog; if a child has only a mild reaction, they may still be able to safely enjoy a dog if taught to wash hands after petting.

If you travel or are away from home frequently, who will care for the dog ? Can your canine companion travel with you ?

## Good Reasons To Get A Dog

Dogs love unconditionally, don't criticize or give orders, and are good listeners for those who are lonely or upset. Pets are friends. Pets fight loneliness. People are less likely to be lonely with a canine friend around. Pet owners find it easier to make friends; seniors with pets meet more people and like to talk about their pets.

Children can gain self-esteem from owning and caring for a dog and this is especially important for children with physical and developmental problems. "Pride" of ownership is very apparent in the attachment of "dog people" to their canine companions. Seniors with dogs go for more walks and are generally more active than non pet seniors.

A dog teaches responsibility; even very young children can help care for a dog. Seniors take good care of their pets and better care of themselves when they own pets.

A dog teaches the importance of limits; learning that certain limits must be set for the dog's own safety helps children understand why limits must be set for them.

A dog can be your child's special companion, particularly if yours is a single parent or two-wage earner family. Do not expect the child to be solely responsible for the pet's care.

Many pets provide a sense of security.

Pets ease loss. Older people who suffer the loss of a spouse and own a pet are less likely to experience deterioration in health following that stressful event. Pets reduce depression. Seniors with pets suffer depression less often than those without pets.

Pet owners make fewer trips to the doctor; in one study of one thousand Medicare patients, even the most highly stressed dog owners had 21 per cent fewer physician contacts than non dog owners. A study of heart patients showed that people more than 40 who owned pets had significantly lower blood pressure and 20 % lower triglycerides than people without pets. Another study showed that talking to people increased blood pressure, while talking to pets decreased blood pressure !

In a psychologic study by Dr. Stanley Coren [University of British Columbia] published in The British Medical Journal, only 21% of severe allergy sufferers rid themselves of their pet or removed the pet from inside their homes, based on "Doctor's Orders". In those whose allergy /pet relationship was sufficiently long ago, that the animal subsequently died of old age, despite their Doctor's advice, *70% had replaced the animal !* He commented :

***" The emotional gain from the companionship associated with owning a pet is clearly sufficient so as to offset the physical discomforts caused by the continued allergic reactions."***

This certainly is an objective measure of the strength of the  
Human - Animal Bond !

## Choosing The Dog

Think seriously about the animal's age; for very young children, a young adult may be preferable to a puppy who needs special care and handling that may be difficult for a toddler to comprehend.

Purebreds' physical traits and temper are more predictable. Animals from the "pound" may have behavioural or socialization problems. Remember that large and vigorous dogs can accidentally hurt a small child.

Unless you are used to handling and training dogs, then avoid aggressive breeds !

A large dog can cost three to six times as much to feed as a small animal; that cute puppy may not stay small for long !

Some purebred animals have specific genetic defects which are common to their breed; ask your vet or breeder.

Remember that there are no perfect dogs [or people] !

# Where To Find The Dog

Choose a reputable breeder; they should be willing to discuss strengths and weaknesses in their breed.

What about their "failures" as well as their "successes" ?

Contact the Better Business Bureau. Ask each breeder for a copy of their personal code of ethics in breeding and selling dogs, one that they will abide by.

Use your eyes and ears and nose ! Visit more than one kennel, and compare; price, quality and care of the breeding animals, genetic screening, help from the breeder in answering questions etc.

Under Canadian Federal Law [The Animal Pedigree Act], a breeder must be willing to provide the registration paperwork at no additional charge for a purebred animal.

Canadian regulation also requires individual identification of the dog by microchip or tattoo, before the dog leaves the breeders possession

It is unusual to find more than two different breeds at the same kennel :  
Beware of "puppy mills" !

Look for a written contract lasting at least two years; not all genetic or birth defects show up right away. A "Lifetime" warranty may not be very useful - the 'lifetime' of many new breeders and exhibitors in the dog fancy averages five years ! How long has the kennel been in business ?

While you might get an excellent animal from a 'backyard breeder' [ who seldom breed], be sure that they are knowledgeable about genetic screening, pedigree analysis etc. Was the bitch bred to a given stud for specific reasons or only because they owned him, it was convenient or he was readily available ?

Let your child help pick out the animal [if possible], but in advance, make it clear that you will have the final say; sometimes a child will select a sick or nervous animal.

Ask the breeder's opinion about the best puppy for your situation : the breeder has had a "video" of the puppies behaviors compared to your "snapshot" !

# Safety Tips

When you get the dog, make sure you complete its vaccinations.

Make sure your child wash's hands after playing and before eating.

Teach your child respect for the dog; a few simple rules will reduce the chance of problems **Never** :

<b><i>pull tail or ears</i></b>
<b><i>hold on if the dog wants to leave</i></b>
<b><i>disturb while eating or sleeping</i></b>
<b><i>sit, jump or stand on the dog</i></b>

Directly supervise children younger than five or six who want to play with the dog, and don't allow the dog to sleep with children of this age.

Tell your child never to approach strange dogs [eg. at the park] and always ask permission before petting one; working dogs should never be petted while "in harness" [ eg a "seeing- eye" dog].

If approached by a strange dog running and barking, teach your children to "Stand Like a Tree". Do Not stare at the growling animal - in "dog" language, staring is a challenge ! Do Not turn and run - back or side step away - dogs have a developed sense of "run and pounce" ! If ever attacked by a strange dog, teach your children to "Roll like a Log", dropping supine, face down with arms over the back of the neck.

None of these aggressive behaviours should ever be seen in a well bred and trained Golden Retriever !!! Give serious consideration to taking the dog to obedience school !

***All dogs will bite under some circumstances;***  
seriously ill or injured animals should be approached with caution.

# Kids, Dogs, And Death

What to tell your child when your dog dies, rests on one simple rule : tell the truth. Children will know explanations like "he just ran away" are untrue, or worse, they'll feel that it was their fault. If your dog must be euthanised, you might explain it like this : "Skippy has started to die; we should help him, so he won't hurt anymore." Avoid using terms like "put to sleep", which can make children afraid of anaesthetic or going to sleep. Give them the possibility of saying "goodbye" if possible.

Beyond the above, explanations depend on the child's age :

AGE	EXPLANATION
<b>Under 5 Years</b>	Very young children are uncertain of what death is, so explanations should be concrete : "Skippy died so he won't be coming back, and you won't be able to play with him anymore."
<b>5 - 10 Years</b>	Children have some understanding of death and will have lots of questions; answer them clearly <i>making sure the child understands that it was not their fault.</i>
<b>11 + Years</b>	Older children will want to discuss death on an adult intellectual level, but require emotional support about their thoughts.

Pet loss therapist Susan Cohen suggests that a memorial to your dog may help a child cope with their pet's death. Remember your pet in a way meaningful to your family, such as planting a tree, or making a photo collage. "Kids can tolerate a certain amount of sadness and it is better to acknowledge it if everybody is still blue."

Loss of a close canine friend requires a period of grieving; for some this may be short, while for others this may require a long time. Allow yourself / family enough time to grieve : this may involve feelings of anger, depression or denial of the importance of a dog in your life. Ultimately, acceptance of the loss comes and a healthy new beginning or relationship will start.

***Beware of hurrying out to "replace" your old friend : it would be unfair to transfer expectations of your old companion's habits and mannerisms, to a new puppy with a personality of it's own !***

# The Golden Retriever In Canada

The Golden Retriever was developed in Scotland (near Inverness, at a small village named Tomich) in the late 19th century for retrieving upland game and waterfowl. They were bred from a yellow retriever of uncertain origin and crossed to a Tweedswater Spaniel. According to very old records, The Hon. Archie Marjoribanks [later known as Lord Tweedmouth] exported Goldens as early as 1881.

The Canadian Kennel Club officially recognized the breed in 1927 and Mrs. Alex MacLaren's imported 'Foxbury Peter' became the first Canadian champion in 1928. The first field trial champion was Mr. Snell's 'Stalingrad Express' in 1947. Early major North American stud contributions were made by 'Speedwell Pluto'.

Pioneering kennels were Mr. Armstrong's "Gilnockie" in Winnipeg and Col. Samuel Magoffin's "Rockhaven" in Vancouver.

## The Golden Retriever Club Of Canada

The Golden Retriever Club of Ontario, the first breed club, was formed in 1958 and in November 1960 became The Golden Retriever Club of Canada. The Golden Retriever Club of Canada is a national club managed by a Board of Directors. The aims and objectives of the club are :

To develop and bring the Golden Retriever to the highest standards possible.
To promote and develop the interest of <i>all</i> owners and / or fanciers in the prime activities of the breed.
Through positive public relations and educational programs, to encourage <i>all</i> owners / fanciers to become members of the National Club.
To promote the interests of and uphold the bylaws of the Canadian Kennel Club
To ensure that the breeder / members of the Club maintain the highest standards possible at all times with strict adherence to Club's Code of Ethics.

Unfortunately, the GRCC [effective January 1998] removed all constitutional reference to "Corporate Memberships" under which Silmaril belonged; Michelle still belongs as an individual member.

# Golden Retriever Breeders' Association of Ontario.

We also belong to a group of like minded breeders of Golden Retrievers within Ontario.

## Code Of Ethics

All breeders of the Golden Retriever Clubs should abide by a constitution, bylaws and a Code of Ethics. You should know that the GRCC functions on a '*complaint*' basis only, and has been unable to agree on mandatory or voluntary kennel inspections or grading for its members. Silmaril has been independently inspected as an 'Independent Research Facility' under the auspices of the Ontario Provincial Ministry of Agriculture. We have an independent Animal Care Committee as required by the Canada Council on Animal Care.

The points in typical Codes follow govern the breeding and sale of puppies.

"An ethical breeder is constantly aware of his / her responsibilities to the breed and he / she conducts their activities as follows :

### BREEDING

He only uses for breeding, adult dogs which are of sound temperament and before deciding to produce a litter, considers the possibilities of properly placing puppies he cannot keep himself.

He only breeds healthy mature bitches more than 16 months of age, and allows proper spacing between litters.

He sells all puppies with a non breeding agreement . [CKC #201]

He ensures that all breed stock is x-rayed for hip dysplasia and that the radiographs are read by a qualified radiologist or recognized institution.

He ensures the eyes of all breeding stock are checked annually by a qualified ophthalmologist.

He carries out all breeding with the Canadian Kennel Club breed standard in mind.

# Code Of Ethics (continued)

## HEALTH

All his / her stock is kept under sanitary conditions and are given the maximum health protection through worming and inoculations.

## REGISTRATION

He registers all stock and keeps accurate records of matings and pedigrees.

## SALES

He does not sell or consign puppies or adult dogs to pet stores or commercial dealers

He does not supply puppies or adult dogs for raffles, give away prizes or other such projects.

He sells Golden Retrievers, permits stud service and leases studs and bitches only to individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will give them the proper care and attention, and who are in accord with and will abide by this Code of Ethics.

He makes available to the novice, the benefit of his advice and experience.

All stock leaving his possession is at least seven [7] weeks of age.

He provides buyers with written details of feeding, general care, dates of worming, vaccinations and health exams.

He will provide buyers with the results of any hip, eye, blood or heart examinations carried out on the dog being purchased and on its sire and dam.

He will provide a four [4] generation pedigree on request.

# Breed Standard For The Golden Retriever

## GENERAL APPEARANCE

A symmetrical, powerful active dog, sound and well put together, not clumsy or long in the leg, displaying a kindly expression and possessing a personality that is eager, alert and self-confident. Primarily a hunting dog, he should be shown in hard working condition. Overall appearance, balance, gait, and purpose to be given more emphasis than any of his component parts.

## TEMPERAMENT

Friendly, reliable, trustworthy. Hostility or aggressiveness toward other dogs or people, undue timidity or nervousness in normal situations is not in keeping with the character of the Golden Retriever. Dogs displaying poor temperament should be excused from the ring.

## SIZE

Males	23" - 24"	(58.42 - 60.96 cm)	in height at the withers
Females	21 1/2" - 22 1/2"	(54.61 - 57.15 cm).	

Length from the breastbone to buttocks slightly greater than height at withers in the ratio of 12:11.

## WEIGHT

Dogs	65 - 75 lb.	(29.48 - 34.02 kg)
Bitches	60 - 70 lb.	(27.22 - 31.75 kg).

## COAT and COLOUR

Dense and water repellent with good undercoat. Texture not as hard as that of a short haired dog, nor as silky as that of a setter. Lies flat against the body and may be straight or wavy. Moderate feathering on back of forelegs and heavier feathering on front of neck, back of thighs and underside of tail. Feathering may be lighter than rest of coat. Excessive length, open coats or limp, soft coats are undesirable. The natural appearance of coat or outline should not be altered by cutting or clipping, other than the trimming of the feet and neatening of stray hairs. Colour lustrous golden of various shades. A few white hairs on chest permissible but not desirable. Further white markings to be faulted except for graying or whitening of the face or body due to age. Any noticeable area of black or other off-colour hair is to be faulted.

## HEAD

Broad in skull, slightly arched laterally and longitudinally without prominence of frontal or occipital bones. Good stop. Foreface deep and wide, nearly as long as skull. Muzzle when viewed in profile, slightly deeper at stop than at tip; when viewed from above, slightly wider at stop than at tip. No heaviness in flews. Removal of whiskers for show purposes optional.

## NOSE

Black or dark brown, although lighter shade in cold weather not serious.

## TEETH & DENTITION

Scissors bite with lower incisors touching inside of upper incisors.

Full dentition. Obvious gaps created by missing teeth to be faulted.

## EYES

Friendly and intelligent, medium large with dark close-fitting rims, set well apart and reasonably deep in sockets. Colour preferably dark brown, never lighter than colour of coat. No white or haw visible when looking straight ahead. Dogs showing a functional abnormality of the eyelids or eyelashes (such as, but not limited to, trichiasis, entropion, ectropion or distichiasis) are to be excused from the ring.

## EARS

Rather short, hanging flat against head with rounded tips slightly below jaw. Forward edge attached well behind and just above eye with rear edge slightly below eye.

## NECK

Medium long, sloping well back into shoulders, giving sturdy muscular appearance with untrimmed natural ruff. No throatiness.

## BODY

Well balanced, short-coupled, deep through the heart. Chest at least as wide as a man's hand, including thumb. Brisket extends to elbows. Ribs long and well sprung but not a barrel shaped, extending well to rear of body. Loin short, muscular, wide and deep with very little tuck-up. Top line level from withers to croup, whether standing or moving. Croup slopes gently.

## FOREQUARTERS

Forequarters well coordinated with hindquarters and capable of free movement. Shoulder blades wide, long and well laid back, showing angulation with upper arm of approximately 90 degrees. Shoulder blade and upper arm (humerus) should be approximately equal in length, setting close-fitting elbows back beneath the upper tip of the shoulder blades. Legs straight with good bones. Pastern short and strong, sloping slightly forward with no suggestion of weakness.

## HINDQUARTERS

Well-bent stifles (angulation between femur and pelvis approximately 90 degrees) with hocks well let down. Legs straight when viewed from rear.

## FEET

Medium size, round and compact with thick pads. Excess hair may be trimmed to show natural size and contour.

## TAIL

Well set on, neither too high nor too low, following natural line of croup. Length extends to hock. Carried with merry action with some upward curve but never curled over back or between legs.

## GAIT

When trotting, gait is free, smooth, powerful and well coordinated. Viewed from front or rear, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. Increased speed causes tendency of feet to converge toward center line of gravity.

## FAULTS

White markings beyond a few hairs on chest  
Dudley nose (pink without pigmentation)  
Low, hound-like ear set  
Slab-sidedness, narrow chest, lack of depth in brisket  
Excessive tuck-up, roach or sway back  
Cow hocks, sickle hocks  
Open or splayed feet  
Lack of full dentition

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

Deviation in height of more than 1" (3.0 cm) from standard either way.  
Undershot or overshot jaws.  
(not to be confused with misalignment of teeth)  
Trichiasis (abnormal position or direction of the eyelashes).  
Monorchid / cryptorchid (undescended testicle[s])

# The Golden Retriever

The Golden Retriever with a medium build, is a powerfully active dog. He has a kindly expression and an eager, alert and self-confident personality. Mature males weigh 65-75 lb. and females 55 -65 lb. The coat is a "double coat" - a thick, weatherproof top coat and dense, soft undercoat. There are featherings of longer hair on the back of the forelegs, on the neck, chest and tail. The adult coat colour may range from light to dark golden. Golden Retrievers have extremely active tails that can clear a coffee table with one sweep !

They need room in the house and a fenced yard is a must. As the breed was developed as a sporting dog, the Golden needs daily exercise. The Golden sheds a minimum of twice a year, with the first two years being heavier and the "spring" shed being heavier than the "fall". If you are a fastidious housekeeper, do not get a Golden !

## Some Commoner Inherited Disorders

**All** animals are predisposed to some problems and the Golden Retriever is no exception.

***There are no perfect animals !***

The following are some of the commoner hereditary problems seen in Goldens :

### HIP DYSPLASIA

The term hip dysplasia means abnormal development or growth of the hip joint. The hip is a ball and socket joint; normal function depends on a good "fit" of the ball within the socket. In hip dysplasia, the fit of the joint is loose, thus the harmony of joint movement is disturbed, producing arthritis, stiffness and pain. Hip dysplasia is not present at birth but develops as the dog matures. Hip dysplasia is an inherited trait with a polygenic [many genes] mode of inheritance. The degree of heritability is moderate and the formation of the hip joints can also be modified in susceptible dogs by environmental factors such as overfeeding/obesity, vigorous exercise and certain traumas during the rapid growth phase of puppyhood. Hip joint conformation can vary from good to bad with many degrees in between. Symptoms of hip dysplasia vary widely with most animals being entirely asymptomatic, through to those with crippling hip disease Hip dysplasia should not always be regarded as a tragedy as many dogs can and do live with no evident discomfort.

There are similar, related “dysplasia’s” in most other joints like shoulder and elbow, and even the pastern, hock & spine ! They are by multiple common genes; some studies have shown that the degree of heritable relationship of elbow dysplasia to hip dysplasia is closer than the degree of heritability of elbow dysplasia alone ! Obsessive efforts to reduce the incidence of one osteochondral disease, reduces the frequency of them all !

## **X-rays do not always show how your dog feels !**

**Many Goldens and their owners are unaware of their condition.**

***Dogs with hip dysplasia should not be used for breeding.***

## EYE DISEASE

Cataracts are a common problem in Golden Retrievers. There are several types of cataracts, some a birth defect, some nutritional and some due to injury or old age. Some cataracts do not interfere with the dog’s vision. An examination by a Board certified veterinary ophthalmologist is required to determine if the cataract is or is not an heritable one. Other inherited eye diseases such as Progressive Retinal Atrophy [PRA] and retinal dysplasia run in a few families of Goldens. All breeding stock should be examined annually.

***Dogs with inherited eye disease should not be used for breeding.***

## OTHER DISORDERS

Subacute Subvalvular Aortic Stenosis [SAS] first described in Newfoundland dogs, may be an inherited form of heart disease which is asymptomatic in most animals. The heart murmur may be heard at birth and confused with a normal "flow" murmur heard in many puppies. If the murmur persists past age six months, an echocardiogram [ultrasound] may define the condition.

There is a variety of recurrent seizure activity [first described in Springer Spaniels] which may also be inherited in Goldens. Progressive seizures occur three times as often in bitches as males, and usually occur when in "heat"; these tend to be poorly controlled.

Hypothyroid disease, a bleeding disorder called Von Willibrand's Disease [VWD], and "elbow" dysplasia may all run in a few families of Goldens. Skin disorders ["hot spots"] are seen in some Goldens, but these are not clearly inherited.

## What Should You Expect From The Breeder ?

The serious breeder strives to produce the finest animals possible. These breeders take responsibility for and stand behind every puppy they produce. He / she should belong to The Golden Retriever Club of Canada or another breed specialty club [if possible] and possibly another all-breed club as well. The breeder should be actively involved in competition in field, obedience, tracking or conformation work. The breeder should participate to "prove" how good his / her animals are and has a reputation to maintain. The breeder who never competes, never really knows how good his / her animals really are.

**Yes, dog shows and field trials are 'political' , BUT** the real reason for competition is to allow you to develop **your own opinion** about your animals when compared to others. IF you are only looking for the approval of others at a show, you will be sorely disappointed, particularly when you are winning !

The breeder should show you the proof that both sire and dam of the puppies have had their hips x-rayed and their eyes examined. The breeder should also be willing to answer questions about any other possible hereditary diseases. The puppies should be healthy, well socialized and their dam should have a good temperament

The breeder should show you a clean environment .

Is the kennel *independently* inspected ? We have been inspected by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs [OMAFRA] , by our own Veterinarians, and by the Animal Care Committee for The University of Guelph. Our inspections were necessary to maintain an independent research license for non invasive nutritional research on our dogs.

We will *meet or exceed* the care standards set out by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association [CVMA] [1994] in :

**'A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR CANADIAN KENNEL OPERATIONS'**

**and**

***The canine standards set out by The Canadian Council on Animal Care [CCAC]***

On purchasing a puppy, the breeder should provide you with a record of the dates of worming and a certificate of all inoculations given. You should be given written instructions on feeding, training and general care and be given a period of time to have the puppy examined by your own veterinarian.

Any warranty against the development of hereditary disease or disqualifications for those intended for show or breeding, should be *explicit* and *in writing*. Since all hereditary problems do not show up immediately, the warranty should be for *at least two years*. Some breeders offer a "Lifetime" warranty - the average "lifetime" of those *new* to the dog fancy is 5 years - how long has the breeder been in business? We have been in dogs for a lifetime, and breeding Golden retrievers for more than 15 years. Check with the Better Business Bureau and ask about any history of complaints. We are members in good standing of the South Central Ontario Better Business Bureau.

***If you are not comfortable with the warranty offered,  
do not purchase the puppy !***

Every person who sells a dog as 'purebred' in Canada, must identify the dog for registration purposes either by tattoo [ear or flank is common] or by microchip implant at the neck, before the animal leaves their control. The breeder must take steps to register the dog with The Canadian Kennel Club for no additional charge. If application has not been made within six months, the breeder can be charged under the federal Livestock Pedigree Act or subsequent amending legislation.

# What The Breeder Expects From You

Decide what you want in your dog, and be honest with the breeder. Tell the breeder if you are interested in a show prospect, obedience competitor, hunting dog or a loving companion. The breeder should be able to help you select an animal best suited to your purpose. Every puppy is not destined for the show ring, but a "Companion" quality pup from a well-bred litter has the potential of growing up to be a sound, healthy Golden.

The good breeder will be as concerned about you as a potential owner, as you are about them ! Prepare to answer questions about why you want a dog and why a Golden ? Are you home during the day ? How much time can you devote to the dog ? If you have children, what are you expecting from the pup ? From the children ? Is your yard fenced ? Are you prepared to deal with grooming, shedding and vacuuming ? Are you planning obedience training [which is strongly encouraged] ? Have you had experience with a medium to large dogs before ? Reputable breeders may be reluctant to sell you a puppy until they know more about you; these breeders have the puppy's best interest at heart and take pains to properly place him. The breeder does not have to sell you a puppy; they might suggest an older dog or a different breed better suited to your circumstances and lifestyle.

If selling a dog at a distance, where the breeder has not had an opportunity to meet you, they will ask for a referral letter from your veterinarian, or a dog obedience school indicating the suitability of the placement in your home. The breeder should ask you to sign a non breeding contract; this does not mean they are selling you an inferior puppy. Rather the breeder is protecting the breed by stopping the random breeding of Golden Retrievers without appropriate planning, pedigree research, and genetic screening before breeding the animal. Read the agreement carefully, since you are signing a binding agreement, registered with the Canadian Kennel Club.

Please note that dogs sold on non breeding agreements may still be shown in conformation, obedience tracking and field trials ! The only restriction is that the dog cannot be bred. Removal of the agreement by the breeder at a later date will be governed by "conditions"; ask about the requirements.

Many breeders will have a "Buy Back" clause, obligating you to sell the dog back to them if you are unable to care for the dog in the future. There are often 'hefty' financial penalties for selling or disposing of the dog without first offering the breeder the right to acquire the dog. Check for obligations under a non-breeding agreement !

# PUPPIES

A puppy is not a spur of the moment decision; he is not a toy to be enjoyed and quickly discarded. A puppy is not intended to teach children responsibility. The adults in the house must be willing to accept the responsibilities of feeding, housebreaking and training, while the children can help with grooming, walking, etc. A puppy should not be given as a gift unless the recipient is in agreement and can help make the selection. A puppy needs a lot of sleep. He will probably leave puddles on the carpets and dog hairs on the furniture. A puppy will chew on everything in sight; he is not able to accept hard training methods.

*A puppy is not an adult dog !*

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

### **General Training & Care for Companion & Obedience Dogs**

#### ***How to be Your Dog's Best Friend***

##### **The Monks of New Skete**

Little Brown & Company; c 1978; 202 pp; illus. & b/w photos;

ISBN 0316604917 The Monks share their training philosophy and techniques. First and foremost, the Monks - who breed German Shepard dogs in Upstate New York - emphasize that "understanding is the key to communication, compassion and communion" with your dog. Includes step by step obedience, collective games to reinforce behaviour, and requires no "fancy" equipment. A small volume for reading and reference.



Our #1 Pick !

#### ***The Art of Raising a Puppy***

##### **The Monks of New Skete**

As Above

A companion volume for the above book, also excellent but deals only with puppies. A terrific start preparing *before* buying that puppy !

#### ***Good Owners, Great Dogs***

Kilcommons, Brian & Wilson, Sarah & Kunkel, Paul

Warner Books; c 1995; 276 pp;

ISBN 0446516759

A student of the renowned British trainer, Barbara Woodhouse, reveals the secrets of lifetime behavioural dog training techniques and provides information on everything from canine dietary needs to temperament testing. One of the world's foremost experts on dog training and animal behaviour offers a comprehensive, practical, and innovative guide to dog ownership, care, and training. Kilcommons teaches dog owners how to master the effective training skills that will result in obedient, well-behaved pets who can accompany their owners anywhere.

#### ***Mother Knows Best: The Natural Way to Train Your Dog***

##### **Benjamin, Carol Lee & Lennard, Stephen**

Howell Book House; New York, New York; c 1985; 256 pp; ISBN 0876056664

A traditional approach to training, designed to produce a reliable obedient family pet.

#### ***What All Good Dogs Should Know***

Volhard, Jack & Bartlett, Melissa

Howell Book House; New York, New York; c 1991; 115 PP;

ISBN 0876058322

Adopted as the manual for many obedience classes !

## General Training & Care for Companion & Obedience Dogs

### ***I Just Got a Puppy : What Do I Do Now ?***

Segal, Mordecai & Margolis, Matthew

Fireside Publishers; c 1992; 194 pp; b/w photos;

ISBN 0671695711

Authors of the best seller "Good Dog, Bad Dog", unravel the mysteries of puppydom, designed to bring out the "Good Dog" from inside every unmanageable puppy. With warmth and humour, they lead from choosing a puppy to living in harmony with it.

### ***Dog Logic - Companion Obedience***

McMains, Joel M.

Howell Book House; New York, New York; c 1992; 221 pp; illus.;

ISBN 0876055102

Describes how "To Think Dog", describing how dogs interpret human mannerism, tone of voice, praise and corrections. Includes a 5 week series of training guidelines, with basic steps. Provides a week by week and lesson by lesson critique essential for new puppy owners.

### ***Dog Owners Home Veterinary Handbook***

Carlson & Giffen

Howell Book House; New York, New York; c 1992; 423 pp; illus. + b/w photos;

ISBN 0876055374

A comprehensive guide to dog care featuring illustrations, charts, tables and photos. Discusses life saving procedures, vaccinations, current vet therapies, nutrition and more.

***Any of these books should be available through your library !!! 😊***



## **All About Goldens**

***The World of the Golden Retriever: A Dog for All Seasons***

Bauer, Nona Kilgore.

TFH Publications, Inc.; Neptune City, NJ; c1993; 480pp; indexed; illus.; bibliography;  
ISBN 0-86622-694-X.

The most thorough book available to date on Golden Retrievers. Covers history, the standard, conformation, performance events (including but not limited to obedience, agility, field, tracking), working dogs (service dogs, therapy dogs, guide dogs, drug detection, arson detection, search and rescue, hearing dogs), genetic and health disorders, the breed in other countries, and Golden rescue. This book is very well illustrated and has up-to-date information on present day dogs and breeders. Well worth this high purchase price; coffee-table size with hundreds of full colour photos.

***The New Complete Golden Retriever***

Fischer, Gertrude.

Howell Book house; New York, NY; c1984 - 2nd edition; 304pp; illus.; bibliography;  
ISBN 0-87605-185-9.

A "bible" for the breed. The 2nd revised edition contains a detailed history of the breed, an analysis of the standard by Rachel Page Elliot; information on field training by Forrest Flashman and Ann Walters; British field trials by Dora Gostyn; a short history of obedience dogs from 1945-1983; novice and tracking training tips from Eith Munneke, and chapters on conformation, care, grooming, and puppies. There is also a chapter on guide dogs and children and Goldens. This book focuses on text, even though it has very nice black and white photos.

***The Golden Retriever;***

Pepper, Jeffrey,

TFH Publications, Inc. Neptune City, NJ; c1984; 320pp; illus.; indexed;  
ISBN 0-87666-668-3.

This book covers similar topics to those of Bauer and Fischer with more emphasis on specific dogs and kennels. There are very worthwhile chapters on purchasing a puppy, grooming, and breeding. Wonderful colour and black and white photos.

**All About Goldens**

***The New Golden Retriever***

Schlehr, Marcia,

Howell Dog Books; c 1996; Hardcover; b/w photo + illus; biblio; *no* index;

ISBN 0876051875

Written by a noted breeder and judge of Goldens. Diagrams and drawings by the author of good and bad dogs, also wonderful photographs of Goldens, well written. An all around must have book for the serious fancier

***Golden Retrievers Today***

Foss, Valerie.

Howell Book House; c 1994; 174 pp; Hardcover;

ISBN 0876051840

***The Book of the Golden Retriever***

Nicholas, Anna Katherine.

TFH Publications; c 1983; 476 pp;

ISBN 0876667388

Great photos of great Goldens from the past, some history on older kennels (some still existing, others not). Good for researching pedigrees.

***All About the Golden Retriever.***

Sawtell, Louise.

Pelham Books Ltd: London; Penguin Books Group; c 1980; Reprinted 3rd Ed. 1987; 160

pp;

ISBN 0720712173

Chapters on Goldens worldwide.

***The Golden Retriever***

Schneider, Evelyn M.

Denlinger's Fairfax, VA; c1986; 96pp.; illus.;

ISBN 0-87714-122-3.

Not much substance or depth; nice black and white illustrations. Recommended only for those people who have to have EVERYTHING written on the breed.

## **All About Goldens**

### ***The Golden Retriever***

Shaul, H. Edwin.

Indian Springs Press, Boston, MA; c1954; 119pp.; illus.;  
no ISBN, out of print.

The first book written on the Golden Retriever in the US. Some information on the history of the breed, but deals mostly with general dog care and training.

### ***The Golden Retriever***

Tudor, Joan.

Popular Dogs, London, England; c1974; 245pp.; few illus.; index;  
no ISBN

Written by a pillar of the breed, this text includes substantial chapters on the origin of the breed, its history from 1900-1939 and post war. Appendices include lists of postwar registrations and title holders. There are the usual chapters on breeding, showing, training, and health.

### ***The Golden Retriever Puppy Book***

Tudor, Joan.

Medea Publishing Co., Washington DC; c1986; 111pp.; illus.;  
ISBN 0-9110-08-2.

A better summary of the Golden Retriever than her previous book. Includes purchasing a puppy, raising a puppy, breeding, whelping, puppy care from birth to weaning, breed standards (British, American, Canadian); history of the breed (in England, America, Canada, and other countries). A fairly good overview.

### ***The Complete Guide to the Golden Retriever***

Twist, Michael.

Boydell Press, Suffolk, England; c1988; 183pp.; illus.;  
ISBN 0-85115-507-3.

More field oriented, there are excellent chapters on early training as well as more advanced. Chapters are also included on showing, obedience and agility, British Veterinary Association and Kennel Club, Hereditary Eye Defects, and Hip Dysplasia Schemes, epilepsy, and breeding.

## **Retriever Training**

### ***How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves***

Bailey, Joan.

Swan Valley Press; 2401 NE Cornell Rd., # 140 Hillsboro, OR. 97124 (1-800-356-9315);  
c 1993; Out of Stock - Not Yet Out of Print  
ISBN 0963012711

Good coverage of the first year in the life of versatile and pointing dogs.

### ***Training Retrievers***

Free, James Lamb.

Putnam Publishers Group; c 1991; 351 pp;  
ISBN 0399136207

A classic. It outlines the long-standing training methods for field dogs. A good book even if some of it is outdated. An excellent description of training a dog to handle.

### ***Retriever Puppy Training: The Right Start for Hunting***

Rutherford,, Clarice and Cherylon Loveland.

Alpine Publications; c 1990; paperback;  
ISBN 0931866383

Good step-by-step training methods, explained and illustrated clearly.

### ***Training Retrievers for the Marshes and Meadows***

Spencer, James B.

Alpine Publications ; prev. Denlinger Publications in Fairfax, VA.; c 1998;  
ISBN 1577790073

It starts with puppy selection and goes on up to advanced marks and blinds. It is oriented toward the amateur gundog trainer and is well written and comprehensive.

## **Retriever Training**

***Retriever Training Tests***

Spencer, James B.

Alpine Publications; prev. Prentice Hall Press; c 1997; Paperback;  
ISBN 0931866952

Helps you to set up training situations and teaches you how the dog should react to things like hills, cover, land-water-land retrieves, how the wind affects them, etc. Lots of good problem solving materials.

***Training The Hunting Retriever : The New Program***

Tarrant, William

Howell Book House; New York, New York; c1991; 227pp; illus. + b&w photo;  
ISBN 0-87605-575-7.

*Forward by Omar Driskill.* Compact, easy to read. Covers all of the “basics” including ‘forced’ retrieves. Unfortunately describes the ‘nerve-hitch’ as a means of compliance - we prefer positive reinforcement, with negative impacts only for ‘failures’ rather than as a routine. Read with some commonsense, rather than slavishly following ‘the rules’, this is a handy reference.