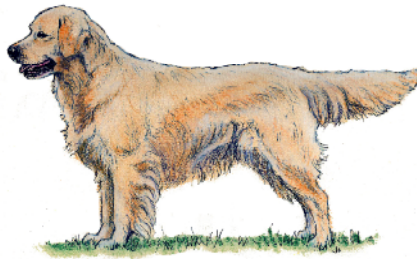


Retriever (Golden)



One of the most popular dogs in the world. Bred as its name suggests to retrieve game in the shooting field, the breed has adapted to so many roles that there is virtually nothing he doesn't do, with the obvious exception of being a professional guard dog - a task for which his friendly temperament makes him quite unsuited. He has been a guide dog, a drug and explosives detecting dog, a tracker, an obedience competitor, in addition to the job he does so universally and well, simply being an energetic, fun-loving member of the family. Easy to train to basic obedience or higher standards; rarely a choosy feeder; a thick coat which is reasonably easy to keep clean; it is no surprise that the breed has risen in popularity over the decades. He often has the largest entry at Championship Shows. For many years there was confusion over the origin of the breed but nowadays it is accepted as an undeniable fact that it was the first Lord Tweedmouth who began Golden Retrievers as a definite breed. 'Yellow' Retrievers had existed for many years in the Border Country between England and Scotland and at first Goldens were registered and shown as Flatcoats, being defined only by colour until 1913. They took their present name in 1920.

What about Health Issues?

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:
www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

And what health screening is relevant for the Golden Retriever?

Kennel Club Accredited Breeders must use, or are strongly recommended to use, the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams:

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme

This list is not necessarily comprehensive and you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.