

Goldens Need Companionship

Consider your schedule. Do you travel frequently? Do you work long hours away from home? Are you busy with other activities that limit your free time? In other words, do you have time to give the attention and love a Golden needs? Golden Retrievers are social, outgoing dogs. They thrive on love and attention, and need to be with humans. In rescued Goldens, this need is often even more evident. Because of their previous situations, rescued Goldens may appear timid and afraid at first and may take some time to warm to their new surroundings. Goldens cannot be maintained as outdoor dogs; they are indoor companions.

Goldens Need Regular Exercise

Golden Retrievers need regular exercise (20-30 minutes twice a day, such as a brisk walk, retrieving tennis balls in the yard, etc.). If exercise is not provided, they may have difficulty adjusting to the calm role expected by most owners. As with all dogs, Goldens who do not get enough exercise and stimulation can exhibit behavioral problems such as barking, inappropriate chewing, unruly behavior or digging. Fenced areas often are a must for rescued Goldens, as some have been loose as strays in their past lives.

Goldens Need Regular Grooming

Golden Retrievers are a double coated breed. They should be brushed regularly, preferably every other day. Professional grooming for a Golden costs \$30-\$50 every 8 weeks. Goldens also need to have their ears cleaned, their teeth brushed and their toenails trimmed regularly. All of these tasks are simple for an owner to learn.

Goldens Need Quality Food and Veterinary Care

Feeding a Golden Retriever can cost around \$300; routine veterinary expenses (check ups, vaccinations and heartworm preventative medication) can cost \$200 or more annually. Though most Goldens are healthy, the breed (like all breeds) has certain common and hereditary conditions. These include hip and eye problems, hypothyroidism, and allergies, hot spots and ear infections. Finally, though many expenses such as grooming aids, food, dishes and toys are hidden in the grocery bill, they do affect the bottom line of the family budget!

Goldens Are:

- Typically very tolerant of children. BUT, like any dog, if teased, frustrated or physically harmed, a Golden may defend itself by growling or even biting. NO dog should be unsupervised with young children, particularly if the children are not acclimated to dogs.
- Medium to large dogs. The breed standard for males is about 24” inches in height and about 70 pounds; for females height standard is about 22” inches and weight about 60 pounds. However, in reality Goldens often weigh 85 to 105 pounds.
- Often dogs that live 12-13 years, but can live to be as old as 16. Consider what your plans may be in 5, 10 or even 12 years. Will you still welcome the responsibility of a highly social dog when you have a young family, an “empty nest” or retire and wish to travel?

Goldens are NOT for you if:

- You are a fastidious housekeeper. Goldens are a long haired, double coated breed; they shed constantly. Dog hair collects on rugs, furniture, clothes and in your car. Goldens’ paws can track in dirt, mud and snow. And, their beautiful tails can make a clean sweep of the contents of a coffee table!
- You object to a dog having your personal articles in his mouth. Goldens are retrievers and are genetically programmed to carry things---laundry, shoes, toys---in their mouths.
- You want a guard dog. Though they may bark defensively, Golden Retrievers are most likely to give an intruder sloppy kisses and ask for a belly rub.