

A&K Gold Rush Retrievers

Golden Retrievers/English Cream Golden Retrievers

What to Expect: Golden Retriever Breed Information & Facts

Character- Golden Retrievers are outgoing, trustworthy, & eager-to-please family dogs, & relatively easy to train. They take a joyous & playful approach to life & maintain this puppyish behavior into adulthood. These energetic, powerful gundogs enjoy outdoor play. For a breed built to retrieve waterfowl for hours on end, swimming and fetching are natural pastimes.

Temperament- The golden retriever temperament is generally very friendly, relaxed, & even-keeled. Golden Retrievers are eager to please & easily entertained. They like to keep up with the family, & you'll often find them resting by your feet. Golden retrievers are not an aggressive breed. Although they can be police dogs or personal security dogs, they are not the best breed for providing physical protection. Golden retrievers are very loyal but not strongly defensive. Golden Retrievers are often trained as therapy dogs and support animals because they have sweet, gentle personalities! Many Golden Retrievers work with first responders to comfort victims of traumatic events. Because they are patient & tolerant, Golden Retrievers are great dogs to keep around children & people with disabilities.

Activity Level- Like most Sporting breeds, Golden Retrievers need plenty of daily exercise. A Golden who doesn't get enough exercise is likely to engage in undesirable behavior. Golden Retrievers make great companions on long runs & bike rides, although consultation with a vet is recommended before starting strenuous or high-impact activities that might cause stress to the dog's bones & joints. Many Golden Retrievers happily get their exercise on hunting trips or at field trials, as well as by participating in canine sports such as agility, obedience, & tracking.

Training Needs- As with all breeds, early socialization & puppy training classes are recommended. Gently exposing the puppy to a wide variety of people, places, & situations between the ages of seven weeks and four months will help the Golden develop into a well-adjusted, well-mannered adult. Puppy training classes serve as part of the socialization process & help the owner learn to recognize & correct any bad habits that may be developing. Obedience training strengthens the bond between dog & owner. A Golden wants nothing more than to please his human. Golden Retrievers are outgoing, loyal, & eager to do your bidding, which makes them very easy to train.

Nutrition- A high-quality dog food appropriate for the dog's age (puppy, adult, or senior) will have all the nutrients the breed needs. Some Golden Retrievers can become overweight, so watch your dog's calorie consumption and weight level. If you choose to give your dog treats, do so in moderation. Treats can be an important aid in training, but giving too many can cause obesity. Give table scraps sparingly, if at all, especially avoiding cooked bones & foods with high fat content. Learn about which human foods are safe for dogs, & which are not. Check with your vet if you have any concerns about your dog's weight or diet.

Size- The Golden retriever males are 23 to 24 inches tall and weigh about 65 to 75 pounds. Females are about 21 to 22 inches tall and weigh about 55 to 65 pounds

Grooming Needs- Golden Retrievers heavily shed their thick, water-repellant double coat once or twice a year, & they also shed more moderately on a continuous basis. Most of the time, a good brushing-out with a slicker brush once or twice a week will remove much of the dead hair before it has a chance to fall onto the furniture. During times of heavy shedding, these brushing sessions turn into daily affairs. Baths help to loosen the dead hairs, but the dog must be completely dry before brushing begins. Otherwise, Golden Retrievers only need occasional baths to keep them clean. As with all breeds, the Golden's nails should be trimmed regularly.

*** If needed, please don't wait until your dog has developed bad habits that require therapy before seeking training assistance. Instead, teach your new puppy how to be confident & enjoy learning, including how to accept grooming, from day one. In addition, age appropriate professional training (after full immunity has developed) can be both fun & rewarding for you & your puppy if you're not already familiar with raising & training a Golden Retriever. Over time, your puppy's sweet & endearing temper will repay you with a life time of love, devotion, and happiness for the time & love you share & invest in him/her.

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The Early Neurological Stimulation (ENS) exercises

Here is why we have decided to try The Early Neurological Stimulation (ENS) exercises. They are believed to be a time of rapid neurological growth & development. Even though puppies are very immature during this time frame, they are sensitive & respond to ENS.

The US Military developed this method designed to improve the performance of future military working dogs, according to the Breeding Better Dogs program developed by Dr. Carmen Battaglia, esteemed breeder, judge, seminar presenter & AKC board member.

When performed correctly, ENS is believed to impact the neurological system by kicking it into action earlier than would be normally expected, the result being an increased capacity that later will help to make the difference in its performance, according to Breeding Better Dogs. ENS is time sensitive and must be performed from the third to the 16th days of a puppy's life.

Five benefits have been observed in canines that were exposed to ENS, including improved cardio vascular performance (heart rate); stronger heart beats; stronger adrenal glands; more tolerance to stress; and greater resistance to disease.

In tests of learning, ENS stimulated pups were more active & exploratory than their non- stimulated littermates, according to Breeding Better Dogs.

There is more to living with a dog than housetraining. Socialization is a big job. You are raising a family member & teaching your dog/puppy the skills to adapt to changes that take place in his/her environment. It is these early skills that will stay with your puppy for the rest of their life. Under socialized adult dogs adjust slower to those changes. By the time a puppy is four months, he/she should have met at least 100 different types of people, walked on at least 15 different surfaces, experienced 30 new places, heard hundreds of noises, met different types of animals & be actively engaged in weekly play with other dogs & puppies. Group puppy classes are a great way to help socialize & train your puppy for adulthood. Once the puppy reaches four months, socialization needs the help of people to train dogs, to try new experiences. Reward your dog/puppy intermittently during all socialization, have strangers give treats & proceed at your dog's/puppy's pace. Be sure to note any fearful reactions such as cowering/heavy panting or hesitancy in certain situations/meeting people. If your dog/puppy shows chronic fearful or reactive behavior, consult with a trainer or animal behaviorist immediately for help with socialization.

General Health Care Sheet

Vaccines- Like children, puppies receive maternal antibodies from their mothers shortly after birth through the early milk (first 36 hours), known as colostrum. These colostrum-derived antibodies protect the puppy from foreign substances & infectious disease, but they slowly fade from birth through 12 weeks & then disappear by 14-16 weeks of -age.

Early vaccinations- are controversial because only an estimated 50% of 6 week puppies can make partial antibodies to the vaccinations they receive. In turn, this renders puppies with less residual maternal antibodies & little to no natural ability to completely fight diseases. For this reason, there are no hard & fast rules for puppy vaccinations because immunity is unique to each dam & puppy. Unless a puppy will be rehomed at an early age, our veterinarians recommend that we do vaccinations at 6 weeks of age, at which point more, but not all, puppies can make some antibodies but not full immunity. It is highly recommended that all puppies receive at least one dose of the core vaccines between 9 weeks & 12 weeks of age, & then every 3-4 weeks until 16-18 weeks of age. Restricting access to other dogs until the puppy's immune system is mature & able to respond to disease by developing antibodies & complete immunity to fight antigens is vital. Once full, natural immunity occurs, your puppy should be better able to fight disease. Until then, please avoid taking your puppy into high-risk environments, i.e., areas or places with high dog traffic (sidewalks, parks, pet supply stores) & other animals that frequent high risk areas. (I would personally like to vaccinate when they are a little older for the first set

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of shots but most the vets in this area want to do them at 6 weeks old so that the puppies will have a little protection before going to a new home) A puppy is considered fully immunized against the “core” & most common disease of hepatitis, distemper, & parvovirus when he has received a vaccination for these diseases after the age of 16 to 18 weeks. However, it’s always advised to consult with your vet about additional protection against diseases that may be specific to your area. Lastly, new research indicates the final puppy parvovirus vaccine should be given at or after 18 weeks of age.

Rabies- is another “core” vaccination that many veterinarians recommend giving after 16 weeks of age but no sooner than 4 weeks after the final core immunization to avoid unwanted reactions. A second rabies vaccine should be given a year later. For more information, visit <http://hemopet.org> for information by W. Jean Dodds. Again, please consult your veterinarian for the best vaccination program for your area.

Parasites- Worms in puppies are common. Puppies are most susceptible to worms during the growth phase of their life. Our puppies are dewormed using Pyrantel Pamoate at 2, 3, 12, 16 weeks & fenbendazole (50mg/kg PO 3 days) at 4, 6 & 8 weeks. Afterward, we recommend deworming every 4 weeks until the puppies reach 4-6 months of age. For our adults, we use Interceptor Plus for heartworm prevention. Please consult your veterinarian for the best parasite control program for your area.

Our Health Care Plan Here

Dewormed with Pyrantel Pamoate: 2, 3, 12, 16 weeks

Dewormed with Fenbendazole (50mg/kg PO 3 days): 4, 6, 8 weeks (if still going to be here 3 consecutive days)

Immunized- 7 weeks

Vet Health Check- 7 weeks

Puppies that will be shipped- need vet checked within 10 days of flight for health certificates that airline requires for them to fly

Diet & Nutrition

Type of Diet Currently Being Fed: 3 meals – Around 8am, 12pm, 5pm (sometimes they don’t eat the second meal as well). We give “Purina Pro Plan Sport All Life Stages” until 1 year of age. Adults also use “Purina Pro Plan Sport All Life Stages” and feed adults 2 times a day. The back of the bag has the amount to give them. The puppy will adjust to what works for you at your home. Just make sure after the puppy eats/drinks that he/she has time to go out to potty. Unfortunately some pups take longer than others.

We put 1 TBSP of apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water daily (the amount can be broken down since most won’t have as many dogs as us). It must be Braggs WITH the Mother to work but it will keep red stains away from everywhere (eyes, feet & mouth areas) It changes the ph of the body, can help keep ear infections away & assist in keeping away cancer as well. We honestly cannot recommend anything else that has more benefits for less cost

* Puppies that are being shipped- a few days before flight we start feeding them 2 times a day to prepare them just in case while on flight they don’t get fed if they have a layover. We do not feel this would be an issue or we wouldn’t ship but we are all human & unfortunately mistakes happen so we want puppy as prepared as they can be.

Tips and Suggestions

While we believe every puppy & dog should be crate trained but not live in a crate. We feel it’s important to use crates to train & for safety & NEVER to discipline puppies. There will be lots of crying but he/she will quickly learn. Make sure the crate is small, just big enough for the pup to stand & turn around. The goal is for the pup to learn not to potty where he/she sleeps. Take the puppy straight from the crate to outside. Small treats are great rewards for the puppy but do NOT overdo it with the treats. Make healthy choices & break them into several small pieces.

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Unless you have your eyes on the puppy do not let the puppy have free run of your home. Puppies need to be kept in a small area or his/her crate when not being watched. Once the puppy starts catching on then he/she can have more run of the home. CONSISTENCY is your best friend while the puppy is little.

Make sure your puppy knows you are the master not him/her & correct all bad behavior as soon as it starts.

Any form of training with treats is best done when the puppy/dog hasn't eaten or had anything to drink in 2 to 3 hours prior!!

Leash Training

Our Trainer had us keep our puppy/dog on a short leash in one hand & hold a treat to their nose while walking to coax them along doing short sessions 3 to 4 times a day. (He suggested hold the treat in your dominate hand) Repetition, positive reinforcement, & classes help tremendously. It takes time but your pup is smart & will figure it out. He said short leashes are better to teach them to stay at your side to walk with you & not jerking pulling you when they walk. Retractable leashes are not recommended.

Others have suggested on leash training

- * Work on watch me first, getting him/her to watch you. When you walk, short leash, start in a sit & then say let's go with a small tug on the leash and start walking. As soon as he/she starts to pull turn the other direction, tell him/her watch me, you can give a treat if he/she looks at you when practicing. You may not get down the driveway at first. Keep turning until he/she watches you & walks where you want. If you stop do a sit. It takes a lot of patience but he/she will catch on.
- * Some suggest the gentle leader leash is an excellent tool for getting them to follow you on a walk.
- * Some suggest The Double Leader Harness. Each end of the leash has a clip...one for the front, one for the back. The 'handle' slides to the center. This gives you total control.
- * Some use a halter/vest that has clip areas on the front & on the back. They train puppy that when its clipped in front we are "working"...he/she has to walk beside you & no pulling or stopping for sniffs. When the leash is moved to the back clip train them to know he/she is walking "for fun" can sniff, stop & pick up sticks...
- * Do not expect him/her to be perfect. They are still a baby & everything is new to them. Everything is like a new discovery & they learn a lot through sense of smell.
- * Give him/her adequate time to explore, while training them to walk on a leash & obey your commands.

These are just some suggestions & tips that have helped others but every person has to do what they feel is best for their puppy & what works best for their lifestyle. Something that might work great for us may not work for you & vice versa. For example when I walk the dogs I want them on my left side walking right next to me & my kids don't care which side they walk on, if they are up in front of them or right next to them but they don't want them to pull/jerk while walking. If the dogs want to run the kids will run on the walk & I won't. I let them know I am in charge & in control. It sends the dogs mixed signals but the dogs have learned our different ways & they know who they can do what with. This works for us & may not work for others. I will say that when I walk one of our dogs after the kids have then I have to work a little harder to correct them for the first few mins of the walk which is annoying but I know the kids are never going to change because I've tried correcting it for years but they still do it. The most important thing is to enjoy your new puppy & have fun with it & try not stressing over every little thing as they pick up on the stress & tension. Help them learn their world & the wonderful things in it. Enjoy this time. There will be plenty of time for training.

Owning a dog is not just a privilege; it's a responsibility. They depend on us for, at minimum, food & shelter, & deserve much more. When you take a dog into your life, you need to understand the commitment that dog ownership entails.

Thank you again for choosing A&K Gold Rush Retrievers to purchase your pet from!