

# A&K Gold Rush Retrievers

Dakota Sport Retrievers & English Cream Golden Retrievers

## **What to Expect: Dakota Sport Retriever Breed Information and Facts**

The Dakota Sport Retriever is a crossbreed that is 50% Golden Retriever with a mix of the Spanish and English Cocker Spaniel making up the rest.

**Origin-** The crossbreed was named the Dakota Sport Retriever because “Dakota” means “Friend”.

**Size-** The Dakota Sport Retriever is a lot smaller than the Golden Retriever. The crossbreed usually weighs 35 to 50 pounds, and stands about 15 to 17 inches tall.

**Grooming Needs-** The long-haired crossbreed does shed, but not as much as the Golden Retriever. Grooming should be done regularly, preferably using a slicker brush so that the undercoat is also healthy. The Dakota Sport Retriever may inherit a proneness to ear infection from the Cocker Spaniel. To prevent this, clean and dry the ears thoroughly and gently after every bath. Though completely optional, some people like to trim the Dakota Sport Retriever every year.

**Character-** Friendly and affectionate, the Dakota Sport Retriever is always people-oriented and is very outgoing. The crossbreed loves spending time and playing with its family. It is active, playful and very energetic, never boring. The Dakota Sport Retriever is charming and affectionate, making it a good companion for young children and other dogs. Some Dakotas are more energetic than others - keep in mind that extremely high-energy dogs may not get along well with cats, who like more quiet time. The crossbreed is obedient, though, and is able to behave and to stay calm in the house.

**Temperament-** The Dakota Sport Retriever is gentle and patient. It is always sweet-natured and friendly towards anyone. The crossbreed is great with children and is easy to bond with. It enjoys being the center of attention, so be affectionate and spend enough time with your dog. The Dakota may be a bit nervous or simply lonely when left alone for a long time. Let your Dakota know that it is an important part of the family and truly loved.

**Activity Level-** The Dakota Sport Retriever is active and energetic, and can even be trained to hunt! The breed likes to play in water, play fetch, and running outside. However, especially if trained well and given enough daily exercises, the crossbreed is calm and well-behaved when indoors. The Dakota can be an apartment pet, but with its love for the outdoor and hunting background, it would be a very happy country dog. Make sure there is a toy in the house to play with, though, or your Dakota Sport Retriever can get bored and start playing with items that are not safe as toys.

**Training Needs-** Moderately intelligent and always eager to please, the Dakota Sport Retriever is easy to train and capable of working. Dog door train your Dakota Sport Retriever while he is still a puppy. After the dog gets comfortable with the dog door, he is ready for housetraining. The Dakota Sport Retriever learns basic commands fast and adjusts to new situations easily, especially when still young. Teach your dog tricks so it can entertain you. A true people-pleaser, the Dakota would really enjoy making its family happy. Because the Dakota is extremely people-oriented and soft-tempered, do not be harsh in training. Kind words and rewards work much better than yelling or physical punishments.

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\*\*\* 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 and 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 and rewarding for you and your puppy if you're not already familiar with raising and training a Dakota Sport Retriever. Over time, your puppy's sweet and endearing temper will repay you with a life time of love, devotion, and happiness for the time and love you share and invest in him/her.

## **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 and development. Even though puppies are very immature during this time frame, they are sensitive and 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 and 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 and 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 and 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 and be actively engaged in weekly play with other dogs and puppies. Group puppy classes are a great way to help socialize and 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 and 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.

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## **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 and infectious disease, but they slowly fade from birth through 12 weeks and 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 and little to no natural ability to completely fight diseases. For this reason, there are no hard and fast rules for puppy vaccinations because immunity is unique to each dam and puppy. Unless a puppy will be rehomed at any 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 and 12 weeks of age, and then every 3-4 weeks until 16-18 weeks of age. Restricting access to other dogs until the puppy's immune system is mature and able to respond to disease by developing antibodies and 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) and other animals that frequent high risk areas. (I would personally like to vaccinate when they are a little older for the first set 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" and most common disease of hepatitis, distemper, and 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 Promote at 2, 3, 12, 16 weeks and fenbendazole (50mg/kg PO 3 days) at 4, 6 and 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.

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## **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 and mouth areas) It changes the ph of the body, can help keep ear infections away and 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 and unfortunately mistakes happen so we want puppy as prepared as they can be.

## **Tips and Suggestions**

While we believe every puppy and dog should be crate trained but not live in a crate. We feel it's important to use crates to train and for safety and 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 and 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 and break them into several small pieces.

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 and 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!!

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## **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 and 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 and 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 and on the back. They train puppy that when its clipped in front we are "working" .....he/she has to walk beside you and 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" and can sniff and stop and 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.

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