



## GOLDENS ARE NOT FOR EVERYONE

So, you think a Golden Retriever is the perfect breed for you and your family? Well we have news for you! Here are a few down and dirty truths you may not have heard about in your research:

- The Golden Retriever is a "sporting" breed, requiring daily activity as an outlet for its abounding supply of energy. (And no, a short trip to the nearest tree from the front door for a potty break does not count as exercise.)
- The Golden's size, in combination with their frolicsome playfulness, makes basic obedience training a necessity. Golden retrievers without knowledge of basic obedience commands can lead to uncontrollable playfulness, exuberant jumping, and other undesirable behaviors. This is not only annoying, irritating and rude, but also, a dangerous situation for child or elderly person; no matter how innocent their intentions.
- A Golden's thick coat in addition to a water repellent undercoat makes weekly brushing a requirement.
- The Golden is NOT for fussy or fanatical housekeepers. Goldens shed, and whether you call them fur balls, fur bunnies or tumbleweeds, they will be in plentiful supply across all floor space in your home.
- If there is water in the vicinity a Golden will find it... muddy or not!
- If your yard harbors small sticks, leaves, etc., a Golden's coat will find it, and inevitably drag it into your house.
- What their coat doesn't drag in, their mouths will. A Golden cannot resist returning to the den with treasures from great outdoors! And they do insist on sharing with you! Whether indoors or out, the urge to pick up and carry items in their mouths is a genetic trait!
- Some of the larger headed Goldens bred for conformation; tend to have a looser lip resulting in drooling. We've given this a more scientific term - "being slimed!" (It's amazing what we have learned to tolerate!)
- Being a very social breed, Goldens are NOT suited for solitary backyard living or being chained to the doghouse all day and night. Goldens tackle EVERYTHING with passion and zeal! They will not be satisfied with anything less than being part of the family. Whether it's a jaunt to the store down the road or a ten-hour excursion to the beach - it makes no difference to them...as long as they are with their family! We call them the "pocket dog"- if you can't find your Golden just turn around, he is probably in your back pocket waiting to see what you want to do next. So take your last trip to the bathroom alone, or learn to shut the door, as you will have canine companionship wherever you go!
- Goldens are NOT guard dogs! Golden Retrievers are the most sociable creature on earth and probably invented the saying "I'm a lover- not a fighter!" They have NO enemies and NOBODY is a stranger. An invitation to a burglar to "come in and help yourself" would be more rational in a Golden's point of view than anything threatening or hateful. After all, the more the merrier!



- Although Golden Retrievers are generally great around children and they enjoy each other's company, ANY dog, even a Golden, has the potential to bite, under the right circumstances. Owning a Golden does not mean that the interactions between your child and dog may go unsupervised. It is imperative that ALL interactions between your Golden and any child ALWAYS be supervised. If this is not something that your family is prepared to do, it would be in your best interest to wait until you do have the time before you add a Golden to your pack.
- One more thing, did we mention the shedding?!



Having reviewed these dark truths; for those willing to take the responsibility and commit to own a Golden Retriever you will not find a more loving, sweet, affectionate and devoted member of your family. Please promise to ask your Home Visit Volunteer about anything you see here that concerns you. Our number one priority is to find our dogs true "Forever Homes", and we want you to know what you will be getting into by letting a Golden Retriever into your life!