

# Claircrest Golden Retrievers

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Included is information pertaining to adoption and the application process. The application asks many questions about owning a dog that helps us select good homes for the puppies. It also provides information that will help select just the right puppy for you. Please read through the information I have sent. If you may be interested in adoption a puppy, please fill out and return the application. Upon receipt of your application you will be placed on the list for upcoming litters, and I will be informed when there are puppies available.

Owning a dog is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. It is a very enjoyable experience, but also a time consuming project that takes a lot of effort on an owner's part – if done properly! Correctly raising a puppy can be a great deal of work. It is extremely important to me that the puppies I sell are placed in homes that intend to commit to that puppy for the rest the of the puppy's life. I encourage puppy buyers to be responsible dog owners and educate themselves about how much time, money, and effort raising a puppy is.

A few books recommended for reading:

- How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With by Rutherford and Neil can be ordered from Alpine Publications at 1-800-777-7257.
- The Complete Golden Retriever by Gertrude Fischer is available at most pet shops, bookstores, etc.
- People, Pooches and Problems by Job Michael Evans, Publisher – Howell Book House

Now, let me tell you about *Claircrest Golden Retrievers*. We have owned Golden Retrievers for about thirty+ years. Training and showing in various areas with the main focus being conformation (dogs are judged on their looks and structure). We live in a rural area, so the dogs are run on a daily basis in the field. This serves a dual purpose of exercising and learning to use their natural instincts. The dogs are raised inside and outside. We have some helpers and family that love and assist in caring for the dogs and puppies. The dogs are a source of enjoyment for us.

In breeding Golden Retrievers, the intention is to continue improving the breed. My goal is to produce the type of dog we love to look at commonly referred to as "type", has a happy disposition that makes a great pet, while conforming to the breed standard. We believe most Golden Retrievers can be trained to be successful in obedience, hunting, and tracking, and still be pleasing to the eye. My preference and goal is to breed dogs that are of the quality to achieve a championship title.

The following are some expressions and terms I use when selling puppies:

- ❖ **\*Certain puppies that are selected to be placed in a "pet home"**. "Pets" are **not** intended to be shown or bred. Pets will be under an adoption contract that includes a spay/neuter contract and AKC **limited** registration papers. This means the pup/dog cannot be bred or shown without the breeder(s) lifting the limited registration status of the dog. This limitation is for the protection of the breed, our particular line of Golden Retrievers, and the individual dog that was sold. The price for this type of puppy is \$1,500-\$2,000.
- ❖ **\*Certain puppies that are selected to be placed in a "show or competition home"**. "Show" homes are expected to follow through with showing the dog to the best of the dog's ability, especially if the owners intend for the dog to be bred. With very few exceptions, every puppy placed in a show home will have an agreement to this effect, and our name(s) will be required to stay on the registration papers of the dog. This means we have have some control over the breeding of the dogs from the line. The price for a show puppy is several hundred dollars more than the price of a pet puppy, depending on the sire and dam of the litter.

**\*We choose the puppy that I feel best suits the pet/show home by evaluating the puppies at six weeks old.**

## ⇒ INFORMATION ON GOLDEN RETRIEVERS ←

So, you think you want a GOLDEN RETRIEVER!! GOLDEN RETRIEVERS ARE GREAT, but did you know:

- ✓ Males are 22 – 25 inches tall, 75 – 90 lbs.
- ✓ Females are 20 ½ - 23 ½ inches tall, 60 – 75 lbs.
- ✓ They have a lot of hair and tend to lose it seasonally.
- ✓ They have a lot of energy and they need a place to run and play.
- ✓ They chew a lot as puppies.
- ✓ They usually need for you to obedience train them.
- ✓ They want to **PLEASE**, but you must show them how.
- ✓ They require lots of time and attention.

They have some health problems (some hereditary, some environmental), such as but not limited to:

- ✓ Ears – infections caused by a fungus or bacteria
- ✓ Eyes – cataracts, entropion
- ✓ Hip dysplasia – a malformation of the hip joints
- ✓ Hypo-Thyroidism – a low functioning thyroid
- ✓ OCD – bone problem with the shoulder or hocks which causes lameness
- ✓ Panosteotitis – inflammation of the bone
- ✓ SAS – a malformed heart that can lead to death
- ✓ Skin – allergies, staph infections, “hot spots”
- ✓ Various types of cancer

The average life span of Golden Retrievers is 9 to 12 years of age, sometimes longer.

Golden Retrievers need to be groomed by being brushed often, and bathed every week or two. A knowledgeable groomer should trim the hair on the feet, ears, and tail occasionally. Nails should be clipped WEEKLY.

Not every Golden Retriever should be bred!!! Golden Retrievers should be bred by knowledgeable breeders who know the breed standard, check for hereditary problems (hip, eye and heart clearances), and prove that the dog is good quality by competing successfully. Responsible breeders are breeding to achieve a goal in their breeding program, NOT for financial gain. Golden Retrievers should be bred only if they fit the breed standard, have appropriate health clearances, and are of good quality so that they will, ideally, improve the breed.

Thank you for inquiring about *Claircrest Golden Retrievers*. Please submit the adoption application if you would like to be placed on the list for upcoming litters. Feel free to email if you have any further questions. I invite you to come and visit my dogs. Visiting times are normally scheduled in the late afternoon or early evening on the Fridays that I am not leaving for the weekend to go to a show.

*Nickie Hertzog*