

GRII-NJ Caring for Golden

Turn on the TV, pick up a magazine -- they're everywhere. The media portrays Golden as the perfect family pet -- something none of us at GRII-NJ would dispute!

Why do we love Golden? It's not only their beauty, though that's a big part of it. Mostly, we love them because they're so loving in return. Golden are highly social and intelligent creatures that delight us, make us laugh, and provide a level of four-legged companionship that is unrivaled.

But we also know that Golden, with all their wonderful qualities, have powerful needs that must be met. Not only for good nutrition and vet care, but also for positive training, regular exercise, and a home life that includes them as full and true members of the family.

If you're considering adding a Golden to your family, it's important to understand those needs and to be SURE you can meet them.

Sadly, many of the Golden entering rescue are those whose needs have NOT been met. The Golden who got too little exercise and training and who has become a handful. The Golden who was relegated to the backyard and has dug up all the landscaping out of boredom and loneliness. The Golden who was left outside unsupervised and who has wandered off and been found as a stray.

The truth is, Golden are perfect family pets ONLY when WE invest ourselves in making them so.

Thinking of adding one to your family? Following are some things to consider ...

Golden Crave Attention and Affection

Simply put, a Golden left to spend his days or nights alone in the backyard or laundry room is an unhappy Golden. Golden have very strong social needs -- and aren't shy about expressing them.

A Golden consistently excluded from the family will bark, dig, and be overwhelmingly excited by even the slightest bit of attention. And even Golden living as they should -- along side the family each and every day -- can be a little pushy about attention. Expect your Golden to follow you from room to room, to nudge your hand for pets, or to toss the ball in your lap when he wants to play.

Can you establish boundaries? Absolutely. If you don't want your Golden to plop on your lap ... or to open the bathroom door while you're in there ... don't let him! But expect him to express his need for your attention and physical closeness all the time, because

EVERY GOLDEN does this. It's just a part of their makeup.

Goldens Need Safe, Secure and Supervised Exercise With YOU Every Single Day

Goldens don't self exercise ... at least not in a way we humans find acceptable. Left to their own devices, a Golden who hasn't been properly exercised can turn a backyard into something resembling an archeological dig in no time flat, and with all that pent up energy, can make time together with you less than ideal as well.

Goldens need, on average, at least 45 minutes to an hour of exercise with you each and every day. Rain, shine, and everything in between. Just letting a Golden out in a fenced in yard to play by himself will not do it. He will be at the door barking, scratching and otherwise looking for you to come join him.

In addition, leaving a Golden unattended in a backyard is an invitation for all kinds of trouble. Goldens can destroy a garden in minutes, get stolen even in the best of neighborhoods, and find very clever ways of getting out to chase the squirrel or bird he may have spotted outside your yard.

It's also not suitable to tie a Golden outside. His access to your flowers might be restrained, but there are other risks. Tie outs break; they get tangled and choke; and if another dog enters your property with less than friendly intentions, your Golden will be unable to defend himself.

Goldens Require On-Going Training

Reinforcing the basic tenants of good dog behavior will help your Golden be a better member of the family. Be sure you are prepared to teach him the things he needs to know.

Even if you take your Golden to obedience classes -- something we strongly recommend and advise you investigate prior to adoption -- training needs to be part of the every day routine of your household, and every member (within reason) needs to be a part of the process.

The most important things to remember about training are these ...

In order to teach the dog the behaviors you want or don't want, you need to reward him (with praise and/or food) when he does something right and correct him (with a stern NO and/or a quick jerk on the collar) when he does something wrong.

It sounds simple -- and it's not rocket science -- but timing is everything! If you see the dog misbehaving and wait ten minutes before correcting him, the dog will assume he is being corrected for whatever he was doing immediately before you corrected him -- not his bad behavior ten minutes earlier.

The same principle of timing applies to praise. If the dog is doing something right, praise

him instantly.

Tone of voice is also important. Use a ferocious voice when issuing a correction, an upbeat happy voice when issuing praise.

You also need to be consistent with commands. Saying "sit" one time and "sit down" the next will only confuse the dog. Pick one word and stick with it. Keep commands short and do not repeat them over and over.

Be kind yet firm in everything you do. Dogs operate in a pack structure, and every dog needs a pack leader to establish and maintain the rules of his world. Without a leader, the dog will assume the position himself -- not a good thing for either of you!

In fact, allowing a dog to have his own way is actually cruel to the dog. Being alpha is a tough job that most dogs would rather NOT assume. And you're not doing him any favors by being overly permissive. He will only have to be corrected more sternly to break him of the habits you've allowed him to develop. You will both be happier once the dog understands that YOU are the leader.

How can you demonstrate competent pack leadership? VIOLENCE IS NOT THE ANSWER!!! Consistent behavior on YOUR part is the answer.

Make sure the dog knows he works for you. He should sit before meals and before you toss the ball for him. If the dog asks to be petted, make him sit first, and when its time to stop petting him, don't give in to the pleading eyes and paw nudges for more pets -- stop petting him! In other words, ALWAYS give the dog a job to do that is rewarded with the things he wants most -- attention, food, and play -- and always let him know that you are the decision maker.

Don't confuse permissiveness with affection. All rescues need large doses of love and affection. Many need to regain trust in people or recover from the wounds the world has inflicted on them. The very best way you can help with this is by being firm and consistent as well as kind and loving. Just be sure to always insist on obedience -- a command given is a command that must be obeyed. If the dog has trouble complying, don't repeat the command; simply physically and humanely help the dog carry it out.

BEHAVIORISTS:

Most common behavior problems can be successfully addressed with consistent training from you and the help of an experienced obedience instructor. But in some cases, extreme behavior problems can require the assistance of a Veterinary Behaviorist, a specialist who can prescribe specific medications and behavior modification programs for your Golden.

If your Golden displays any of these extreme behaviors, you should make a visit with your own vet a priority. These behaviors, especially if they are new or escalating, can sometimes suggest underlying medical problems. Once medical causes have been ruled

out, your vet can refer you to a Veterinary Behaviorist.

THUNDER PHOBIA: In most cases, the phobia presents with the dog becoming slightly agitated, fearful, and clingy. These low level reactions can best be managed by upbeat behavior from you. Turn on music to obscure the thunder, and refrain from coddling the dog.

But in other more dramatic cases, the dog may become destructive to property and ultimately to himself. Extremely phobic dogs have been known to careen through closed wooden and/or glass doors, dig furiously to get out of crates, eliminate all over the house, and otherwise cause havoc that can be expensive for you and painful for him.

One theory is that thunder phobic dogs may have a hypersensitivity to the electrostatic charge in the air preceding and during storms.

In extreme cases, drug therapy is needed to manage the phobia, and preserve the safety and well being of the dog.

SEPARATION ANXIETY: No one really knows what causes this in dogs, but speculation is that it may be due in part to inappropriate and early separation from the litter during critical social development periods and/or inadequate contact and socialization during subsequent developmental fear periods.

Separation anxiety, like extreme thunder phobia, can result in property damage and self inflicted injury to your pet. It is most often treated with a combination of drug therapy and behavior modification intended to build the dog's confidence in your absence.

AGGRESSION: A Golden should NEVER exhibit aggression toward you or your children or unprovoked aggression toward other dogs. It is quite simply uncharacteristic of the Golden temperament, unsafe for your family, and cannot be ignored or be expected to resolve on its own. If your Golden growls, snarls, snaps, or bites, you have reason to be alarmed and to seek professional help immediately.

Underlying medical causes must first be ruled out. After that, consideration must be given to the possible environmental and behavioral triggers for the aggression. But most important, the safety and well being of your human family must ALWAYS come first.

Crate Training is Effective AND Humane

Crate training offers MANY benefits to both the dog and to you -- the most important being that the dog gets a private and safe place to rest, and you and your family get secure place to house the dog when he cannot be directly supervised.

Crates aren't a punishment for dogs and shouldn't be used as such. They're a safe place for a dog to be, satisfying his natural instinct to find a den. Most dogs who've been crate trained will eventually seek out the crate on their own -- for naptime or whenever family

life gets too hectic.

That said, crates can be overused. Don't expect a dog to be happy about being crated if he spends 8-10 hours a day in one.

To teach a dog about crates, each time you want him to go in, simply say *go in your crate* and toss in a biscuit. In no time flat, he'll be dashing into the crate before you even have a chance to toss in the biscuit!

Eventually, you'll have a dog who will go in anytime you say those words, biscuit or not. It's not magic -- just training using positive rewards -- and it works like a charm!

You'll also need to teach him to stay happily in the crate. To do this, reserve his most favorite chew toy and ONLY give it to him when he's in the crate. If he whines or barks, be matter of fact, and don't let him out until he settles down. Hang tough! If you let him out while he's making a fuss, he will learn that making a fuss WORKS.

Crating your new Golden at bed time, at meal time, when you're not home, and/or when you are occupied at home and can't keep a solid eye on him is a safe is the most sensible course until your Golden has fully adjusted to the rules of your household.

Goldens Need Regular Grooming

Regular grooming of your Golden will improve not only his appearance but also his health and behavior. Benefits include teaching the dog to handle simple restraint, important for all kinds of reasons, including vet visits; allowing you to quickly recognize changes, bumps, lumps or sores on the dog, which can lead to quicker medical attention for routine injuries as well as more serious problems; and giving your dog more attention, not only via the grooming session itself, but also overall -- who wants to pet a smelly, dirty dog?

Weekly grooming works best for lots of reasons. Repeating the routine, every single week, will speed up the dogs adjustment time, and make each session easier and faster for you.

Every week, be sure to clean the ears (where infections can breed if not clean and dry); brush the coat (where skin eruptions can occur if not well brushed and free of mats); brush the teeth (where deposits can contribute to infection throughout the body); and trim the nails.

Start off slowly at first, and reward every action the dog accepts with lavish praise and a treat. In short, make it a solely positive experience for the dog.

BRUSHING/COMBING:

A brush and metal comb will do the job nicely, and a shedding rake will make fast work

of removing undercoat. You can also find mat removing rakes that can work wonders.

To prevent breaking or damaging the coat, spray the coat lightly with a mixture of water and conditioner, then brush while the coat is still damp. Give special attention to the areas that tend to mat first -- behind the ears and legs. Then brush the entire coat. Finish by combing his entire body to remove any loose hair.

NEVER shave your Golden in the summer. The outer coat, which would be removed in shaving, actually protects your Golden's skin from uv rays and acts as insulation from the heat. Instead, use an undercoat rake every week to remove the thick fuzzy undercoat. Your Golden will be cooler and healthier for it!

BATHING:

Bathing is appropriate whenever you feel the dog needs it, but in general, once a month is more than sufficient. Use a commercial dog shampoo or this homemade recipe: equal parts liquid Dial Antibacterial Soap and white vinegar

Some other bathing tips:

Always brush and comb coat before bathing.

Wet the entire body, avoiding the head. Use WARM water, not hot or cold. A dog usually won't shake until his head gets wet, so by doing the head last you can stay dry longer.

Remember that a Golden coat is designed to be waterproof, so it takes lots of water to get all the way down to the skin.

Shampoo the entire coat then rinse thoroughly! Avoid getting water in eyes and ears. If you use one hand to hold the top of the ears, squeezing lightly to keep the ears closed, you can use the other hand to rinse. You can also place your hand over the dog's eyes while rinsing the head.

If your dog is scooting on the carpeting, he may need his anal glands emptied. Ask your vet to show you this procedure. Most dogs do not need this done.

RINSE, RINSE, and RINSE. When you think you have all of the shampoo out of the dog, it's wise to rinse again to make sure. Shampoos left on the dog can cause itching and lead to hot spots.

After bathing, towel dry, then keep the dog in a warm area until thoroughly dry to avoid chills. Putting a wet dog in a crate can lead to a condition known as dead tail. This is a temporary, but painful condition for the dog that causes him to be unable to lift his tail. It can also cause skin irritations if the dog lies on a wet spot for a long period of time.

CLEANING EARS AND TRIMMING NAILS:

To clean ears, use a commercial product such as Oticlens or Nolvasan Otic, or you can make a solution of equal parts white vinegar and alcohol. Squirt the solution into the ear and then massage the whole ear lightly. Let the dog shake his head. Then take a cotton ball or a tissue around your finger and wipe the inside of the ear as far as you can reach.

To trim nails, look for the white tip just below the vein and clip it off there. If you accidentally cut into the quick and the nail bleeds, use a styptic pencil, cornstarch, or a soft bar of soap to stop the bleeding. Some dogs object strenuously, but be firm and praise for good behavior and soon you should be able to clip nails without a problem. Some dogs will be calmer if you stick a spoonful of peanut butter to the roof of their mouth before beginning. You can also smear it just above their head on the refrigerator door. The peanut butter trick generally keeps them too busy eating to notice!

BRUSHING TEETH:

An ordinary human toothbrush works fine, but only use a toothpaste formulated especially for dogs -- NOT human toothpaste.

Goldens Need Quality Diets and Weight Management

Feed a high quality food -- most grocery store brands rely on inferior ingredients that provide basic nutritional needs but little else. A trip to the pet supply store to select a higher quality brand is well worth it.

Transition to new foods slowly -- you can reduce the chances of tummy upset by gradually switching over to a new brand rather than changing over all at once.

Feed twice a day -- even an overweight dog benefits from twice a day feedings. Feeding smaller quantities at each of the two meals rather than one big meal reduces the incidence of bloat, a life threatening emergency condition.

If the dog is overweight -- keep close tabs on the amount you're feeding. Reduce the amount of dog food and replace it with lower calorie foods that will help fill him up. Frozen, uncooked vegetables are a good choice. Most dogs love the flavor and crunch.

Exercise is an important component of weight management, but be sure to use exercise that's appropriate to the particular dog -- a thin, high energy Golden will thrive on LOTS of high energy exercise (like endless games of fetch); but a fat, low energy Golden will need to work up to the strenuous exercise he needs to become fit.

Golden Health Care

If you don't already have a vet, it's important to find one before you search for your new Golden. Asking other local pet owners for referrals is the very best way to locate one in

your area.

Like all dogs, Goldens are susceptible to common dog illnesses. In addition, Goldens are especially prone to certain conditions that are believed to be inheritable.

This list is intended to provide only a cursory guide to the most common ailments; please speak to your own vet about any medical problems you experience with your Golden.

EAR INFECTIONS:

Many Goldens suffer from ear infections, which usually present with the dog scratching or digging at his ear, shaking his head, and/or with a foul odor (a healthy ear shouldn't smell). The vet will prescribe medication and show you how to administer it. Chronic ear infections can often be a symptom of allergies and/or thyroid imbalances.

SKIN PROBLEMS:

Another common problem with Goldens is skin irritations. The dog will scratch himself raw, or the skin may have a scaly or scabbed appearance. As with chronic ear infections, allergies, thyroid imbalances and other underlying problems can be the cause of chronic skin problems. A visit to the vet is required to rule out these causes.

One of the most common skin problems for Goldens are hot spots. These are moist, oozing, infectious areas of the skin that are painful and quick to enlarge. It's not unusual for a hot spot to be dime sized at bed time ... and fist sized the next morning! If you see a hot spot forming, you **MUST** treat it promptly -- either at home, or under the supervision of a vet.

To treat a hot spot at home: Clip the fur away from the area. Clean the area well with antibacterial soap. Apply a Domeboro solution (a powder available over the counter at the pharmacy -- ask the pharmacist if you don't find it on the shelf) at double strength with a wash cloth. The dog will find it soothing. Continue the application for a few minutes. Then dry the area well. Dust with Gold Bond Medicated Powder. Don't let the dog lick off the powder!! An Elizabethan Collar can be **VERY** helpful for this. Repeat several times a day until a scab forms.

If you are treating the hot spot at home and it is continuing to enlarge, or the dog is not cooperating and leaving the spot alone, see a vet!

HIP DYSPLASIA:

If your Golden has difficulty getting up, a rear limp, a "bunny hop" gait, or a very swayed gait, hip dysplasia may be the cause.

X-rays are required for a firm diagnosis of hip dysplasia, but the diagnosis itself is not automatically a reason for alarm. Many cases can be treated effectively without surgical

intervention.

To treat acute pain, you can give your Golden buffered aspirin (one 5-grain tablet per 30 lbs, every 6 hours) -- but for many health reasons, this should not be used long term.

For long term use, many have seen great improvement with supplements such as glucosamine and chondroitin. For a Golden, the standard dosage is 1500 mgs per day of glucosamine and 1200 mgs per day of chondroitin, spread across two doses. It's easiest to administer with each meal. It generally takes about 8 weeks for these supplements to have an impact, but they DO work!

Diet and exercise are also critical. Excess weight can severely impact the dysplastic dog, so make sure the dog isn't carrying any extra pounds. Exercise that builds compensating muscles is also very helpful. Long walks (building up endurance as you go), playing fetch on soft ground, and most especially swimming, are all very useful ways to encourage strong muscles. However, any exercise that includes jumping or running on hard pavement or ground should be avoided at all costs. These exercises produce excess stress on the joints -- the very last thing a dysplastic dog needs!

ELBOW DYSPLASIA:

Elbow dysplasia is a broad term for three developmental disorders of the elbow joint; in most cases, affected dogs will have more than one of these developmental anomalies. As with hip dysplasia, diagnosis requires X-rays.

Elbow dysplasia presents with an obvious limp in the front leg(s) and pain. The dog may also hold his leg out from his body, or withhold using it at all. Some dogs can be helped with surgery but for many it's a lifelong problem that can be difficult to manage effectively since the elbow joint is a complicated mechanism and the condition escalates over time into degenerative arthritis.

HYPOTHYROIDISM:

This is another common problem in Golden Retrievers. The typical presentation is an overweight dog with a poor coat, as well as skin problems, ear problems, constipation, and/or lethargy. Your vet can run a simple blood test to diagnose a thyroid imbalance, and replacement therapy is inexpensive and highly successful.

ALLERGIES:

If your Golden experiences recurrent skin problems, ear infections, or is chewing at his paws, allergies may be the underlying cause. Just as with humans, a Golden can be allergic to anything -- food, seasonal pollens, household cleansers, dust mites, molds, etc. If the problem recurs only at certain times of the year, suspect seasonal allergens. Ongoing problems suggest a daily environmental or dietary allergy.

Steroidal creams, pills, or injections (such as prednisone) administered by your vet can provide quick and useful short term relief for a dog suffering from allergies, but they do nothing to address the underlying allergy and can be unhealthy when used frequently. A Benedryl tablet used according to package directions can also provide short term relief.

The most common food allergy is to protein sources; this is the basis of the commonly held misconception that lamb and rice diets are hypoallergenic. Food trials with alternative protein sources that have otherwise been absent from your dog's diet (lamb, venison, fish, etc.) CAN be helpful -- but they are time intensive and may not be effective if it turns out the Golden is allergic to another ingredient in the food.

The only way to directly identify any allergen(s) is via allergy testing at a veterinary dermatologist. Blood tests and scratch tests will be administered, and if the problem can't be eliminated (pollens, dust, molds, etc.) from the dog's environment, the vet can prescribe desensitization injections that, over time, ARE effective.

CANCER:

According to a recent survey conducted by the Golden Retriever Club of America, a Golden has a 50/50 chance of getting cancer in his lifetime, the most common types being Hemangiosarcoma and Lymphoma. As in human medicine, determining causes, designing treatments and weighing outlooks is ever changing, but for most Golden's with cancer, the prognosis is ultimately unfavorable.

EPILEPSY:

Seizure conditions, while not exactly common in the breed, do occur with some frequency. They can be brought on by toxins (such as antifreeze), metabolic problems (such as kidney or liver dysfunction), cancer, and can also be idiopathic, or without known cause.

If your Golden has a seizure, you should try to remain calm and note the following items for discussion with your vet: duration of the seizure and the areas of the body involved. If you have a video camera handy, tape it! Then call your vet IMMEDIATELY. If seizures repeat, also make note of the elapsed time between them and the total number of seizures your dog experienced.

Your vet can run tests that can rule out or in some cases identify the root causes of seizures. In many cases, seizures can be managed effectively with drugs prescribed by your veterinarian.

HORNER'S SYNDROME:

Horner's Syndrome is a neurological disorder that effects the nerves of the eye. Middle aged Golden's are the most common sufferers.

Horner's presents with a sunken eyeball, a paralyzed raised inner eyelid, and a dilated pupil. Although it looks dreadful, it's not a painful condition.

In most cases, the cause is idiopathic -- or without known cause. In others, it can be the result of head, neck or chest trauma. In still others, tumors along the neural pathway are the underlying cause. A simple test performed by your veterinarian can offer some indication of the locus of the problem; chest x-rays can identify and/or rule out tumors.

Treatment for idiopathic Horner's is either steroidal drops, or patience. In either case, it can take months for the condition to resolve.

KENNEL COUGH OR BORDATELLA:

Kennel cough is a highly contagious (to dogs) viral disease that presents with a harsh, dry, hacking cough. In most dogs it will run its course in a matter of weeks, but in some cases, it can become complicated by a secondary bacterial infection.

Treatment includes humidifying the air and giving cough suppressants as needed. For a Golden, you can give Robitussin DM every 6 hours. You will also need to monitor the dog's temperature, as a fever indicates a secondary infection that requires prompt medical attention.

INTERNAL PARASITES:

Internal parasites go with the territory of dog ownership. That's why whenever you take your dog to the vet, you should bring along a stool sample. Simply slip a sample of the most recent stool into a plastic bag and store in the refrigerator until you go to the vet.

TAPEWORMS: Body segments of the tapeworm are passed in the stool. They are about a quarter inch long. You may see them adhering to the fur under the tail. When dried, they resemble grains of rice. Tapes are spread when the dog eats an infected flea. They are not serious but are expensive to treat. To control, fleas must be eradicated.

ROUNDWORMS: These are seen primarily in young puppies but may be seen in an older dog that has just had a litter, or who has been under severe stress. They resemble white earthworms or moving strands of spaghetti. Roundworm infestation can be serious in puppies, who may have a potbellied, unthrifty appearance. They may also vomit or have diarrhea. Roundworms may be treated with over the counter preparations such as Strongid T or Nemex II.

HOOKWORMS: Hooks attach themselves to the intestinal wall where they feed on the dog's blood. A severe hookworm infestation will make the dog anemic. You should suspect hooks if the dog has very pale gums, or bloody, black or tarry stool. Hooks are acquired from contaminated soil or feces. This is a serious problem that needs veterinary attention.

WHIPWORMS: Whips are 2 - 3 inches long and threadlike. Even a light infestation can cause problems and they are frequently undetected in a single stool sample. Symptoms include weight loss and diarrhea. If whips contaminate the soil, there is nothing that will remove them. This is why it is important to clean up immediately after your dogs!!

GIARDIA: Giardia is not a parasite but rather a protozoa that is fairly common in dogs, especially those that have been drinking from open streams. The principle sign is diarrhea, possibly mixed with mucus or blood. Giardia is contagious to humans. You need to wash your hands thoroughly after any contact with infected feces.

COCCIDIA: Coccidia is a protozoa that causes diarrhea. It's associated with lowered resistance. If you have a dog with coccidia, you must disinfect the dog's living quarters thoroughly.

HEARTWORM: Heartworms are transmitted to the dog via mosquito bites, and then invade the heart where, if left untreated, they can cause death. Heartworm infestations are expensive and dangerous -- dogs can die DURING treatment! That's why the only course is prevention -- an annual blood test, followed by monthly Heartworm preventative tablets prescribed by your veterinarian.

BASIC FIRST AID

This is just a quick overview -- when in doubt seek veterinary attention!

TAKING A DOGS TEMPERATURE: Using a rectal thermometer lubricated with Vaseline or other lubricant, have someone hold the dog in a standing position, lift the dog's tail and insert the thermometer 1 to 3 inches, depending on the size of the dog. Leave in place 3 minutes, remove and read. (Do not allow the dog to sit down while you are taking his temp! If the thermometer is lost or broken while in the dog's rectum, immediately call the vet for further instructions!) Normal temps vary, but average for adult dogs is 100 to 102 F.

HEART RATE AND CIRCULATION: To take a dog's pulse you can place your hand directly over the heart on the left side of the chest or you can feel the femoral artery on the inside of the dog's leg, close to where it meets the groin. Count the number of beats for 15 seconds, and multiply by four. Pulse rate varies from 70 to 120 beats per minute at rest, higher during or immediately after exercise. Looking at the dog's gums can assess circulation. Pink gums mean healthy circulation. If gums are white or if you press on them and they stay white for more than an instant, the dog needs to be evaluated by a professional.

IF THE DOG HAS STOPPED BREATHING AND THERE IS NO PULSE YOU SHOULD CALL FOR VETERINARY HELP AND IMMEDIATELY BEGIN CPR: Lay the dog on its right side on a hard surface. Give mouth to nose respiration - hold mouth together and blow gently into nostrils. Watch for the rise and fall of the chest. To perform chest compressions, place heel of hand on the left chest, just behind the elbow (use two

hands if dog weighs more than 40 lbs.) Rapidly compress chest 6 times, allowing 1-2 seconds between each compression. Give 3 breaths, repeat cycle. Check for return of respiration and pulse every few minutes.

HOW TO QUICKLY MUZZLE A DOG: For a quick muzzle if a dog is hurt and may snap, tie a leash or a piece of gauze around the muzzle with the knot under the chin and then tie again around the back of the head. NEVER muzzle a dog that is overheated or struggling to breathe!

HOW TO GIVE MEDICINE: Pills are best disguised in food; cheese or bread work well. Liquid medicine should be squirted slowly into a pouch made by pulling the side of the dog's mouth out and down.

POISONING AND INDUCING VOMITING: If you suspect a dog has been poisoned, contact your vet immediately or call the ASPCA Pet Poison Hotline at 1-888-426-4435. If you are told to induce vomiting, give syrup of ipecac (1t. per 10-lbs. body weight) or hydrogen peroxide (1-3t. every 10 minutes).

CONTROLLING BLEEDING: Apply pressure with a clean cloth to the wound. Keep steady pressure on for several minutes. DO NOT lift cloth to check on wound. This will restart the bleeding. If bleeding stops, remove cloth and bandage wound with sterile dressing. If blood is spurting or cannot be stopped in 30 minutes, seek immediate help. Do not use peroxide on a wound that has stopped bleeding, as it will interfere with clotting.

VOMITING: If your dog vomits, note the amount, contents, and frequency. A single episode of vomiting is usually not a cause for alarm unless it contains large amounts of blood. Frequent episodes require withholding food and water for 24 hours to rest the stomach. Feeding can be resumed with a bland diet of boiled chicken or hamburger and rice. If the vomiting continues, seek veterinary attention.

DIARRHEA: Simple cases of diarrhea may be explained by changes in diet or dietary indiscretions. If the dog continues to show interest in eating, remains bright and alert and is not vomiting, remove food for 24 hours to give his system a chance to settle down. When reintroduced, food should be bland. For anything more severe consult your vet.

Rescued Goldens are Resilient, but Adjustment Requires Planning and Patience from YOU

No matter what his home or foster life may have been before you adopted him, going to a new home is stressful for a dog. He is now in a brand new place ... all of his senses are on high alert, and he is more easily excitable than when he is comfortable with his

surroundings.

For the first few days, it's important that you keep things as calm as possible and not introduce any new people or experiences that aren't essential to his basic care. That means you should refrain from having parties, inviting company over to meet the dog, bringing the dog to the dog run at the park, taking him to Petsmart, etc. Keep things simple and give him time to adjust.

Plan to spend as much time with your new Golden as possible at first. Adopt on a weekend, or plan to take a few days off from work. Bonding is important for you and the dog.

Treat him with firm, consistent kindness and be sure to teach him the rules of your household in the very same way. It will help to get things off to a good start!

KIDS AND YOUR NEW DOG:

The key ingredients here are supervision, caution, and education.

ALWAYS supervise your kids and use common sense in reinforcing even the most basic Do's and Don't's ...

DO's:

Treat the dog nicely and kindly and gently at all times.

Give the dog time and space to be alone when he or she wants to be, like meal time and sleep time.

DON'T's:

Never take food or toys away from the dog. That's Mom and/or Dad's job.

Never pull at the dog's skin, ears, tail, or face. Your new dog may think you are trying to hurt him.

Never touch the dog while he is sleeping, eating or playing with a toy. Your new dog may think you are trying to hurt him.

Never squeal loudly or flap your arms around the dog. Your new dog might think you are trying to hurt him.

MEETING YOUR PETS:

You cannot bring a new dog into your home and simply turn him loose with your other pets!! This is an invitation to disaster!

No matter how sweet your resident dog is, or how well he plays with other dogs in the park, he may resent the new intruder. In addition, when adding a new dog, the hierarchy in the household may shift ... and may not shift smoothly!

First rule: establish a positive environment for resident animals and the new dog from the start.

DOGS:

Introduce the dogs on neutral territory -- out of your house and off your property.

Let the dogs meet on loose leads. Allow them to approach each other, sniff, etc. If you see signs of aggression, correct the dogs immediately. Then try to repeat the loose lead greeting. If you see signs that they want to play (happy ears, wagging tails, play bows, etc.) let them play ... but keep them on leash so you have control in case tempers flair.

Toys should be put away and only after you have seen that the dogs have established a good relationship can you start reintroducing toys back into the house. Start with your resident dog's LEAST favorite toy first.

Always feed your new dog in his crate. Then gradually begin feeding with bowls at opposite ends of the room. Over time, bring the bowls closer together. If you encounter problems, revert to the previous bowl locations and then gradually try again.

If a dog fight breaks out at any time (it may take as much as a week or so for the dogs to engage in something like this), keep YOURSELF safe, but follow these steps to try and break up the fight:

Two people can do more than one to break up a fight. But NEVER allow your kids to do this, even if your child is the only second person around. If that's the case, do your best on your own.

If you can squirt the dogs with a hose, the surprise of the water may startle them enough to break up the fight.

A spray bottle filled with vinegar and water may also work. Keep one on hand.

If you need to physically get involved in breaking them apart, throw a blanket over their heads, grab the REAR legs of the dog closest to you, and flip the dog over on his back. If he is still snapping snarling and growling do NOT attempt to grab his collar. It is better

for the fight to continue than for you to get bitten.

Make sure you speak as you do this so the dogs know who is getting involved and don't think it is another dog joining the fight. Be firm but not aggressive! The dogs are already feeling threatened and will protect themselves against anything they consider an attack.

After the fight, isolate the dogs from one another for a few days, and then try re-introducing them, in the VERY same way you introduced them the first day, i.e., neutral location, loose leads, etc.

CATS:

Choose a meeting place that gives your cat multiple escape routes.

Allow your cat to be where he wants (but don't hold him in your arms) while the dog is on a loose lead.

Don't force things -- cats and dogs often work things out on their own in time.

If the dog shows signs of aggression, correct him.

We hope the information presented in this article has been a helpful introduction to the requirements of Golden ownership.

GRRI-NJ is committed to finding the very best homes for our Goldens, and to helping the public become more informed about quality care for the Goldens they have or are considering adding to their families. If you feel confident in exploring adoption further with us, please visit our website at grrinj.org, or call our hotline at 973-208-7414. Thank You!