

# QUESTIONS TO ASK THE BREEDER

## Looking For a Pet?

The following is a list of questions you might find helpful in your search for a good breeder of English-type Golden Retrievers. You should READ and acquaint yourself with the GRCA booklet "Acquiring a Golden Retriever" [http://www.grca.org/allabout/a\\_find.html](http://www.grca.org/allabout/a_find.html) and review the Health Section on the EGNA Website before you begin your search.

- Why have you chosen to use English/European bloodlines?
- Do you primarily breed light colored dogs or do you incorporate all shades?
- How many litters do you routinely produce in a year?
- At what age do you start to breed your dogs and bitches?
- How often do you breed your bitches?
- How many litters has this particular bitch had and what is her current age?
- Do the parents of your litters have their final health clearances for hips, elbows and heart in addition to a current yearly eye exam?
- Can you provide a 4 or 5-generation pedigree for this litter?
- Are your puppies sold with a written contract?
- Can you provide references to previous clients and other breeders that I am free to contact?
- Do you provide registration papers with your puppies?
- Do you sell puppies on AKC Limited registration or CKC Non-breeding agreements?
- Do you require a spay/neuter policy?
- What is your policy about refunds and/or replacements if something should go wrong?
- Are you willing to take the puppy back at any time and for any reason?
- Where are your puppies born and raised? Socialization methods?
- How long have you been breeding dogs?
- Why did you decide to breed this particular pair of dogs?
- Do you breed your bitches strictly to your own stud dogs?
- Can you provide links to or copies of current health clearances on the parents?
- How long did each of the dogs in the 3 generation pedigree live?

SIRE	DAM
_____ hips	_____ hips
_____ heart	_____ heart
_____ elbows	_____ elbows
_____ eyes*	_____ eyes*

\* Eyes should be done annually

- Please describe the health, temperament and longevity of the sire and dam's pedigree for at least 3 generations.

## Health Issues – Additional Concerns

Experienced, reputable breeders have likely encountered several genetic disorders over the years and have made great efforts to minimize them. However, each time they breed to a different dog from other lines, they can encounter new issues, or discover undesirable

recessive genes lurking in their own stock, which the new combination reveals. Breeders who claim to have no problems in the dogs they breed are likely not being forthright, or are simply inexperienced and began breeding without proper research of the breed or in the genetics behind the dogs they purchased. Ask breeders about the health issues below in the first 3 generations of the litter's pedigree. Unless they owned all those dogs themselves, they may not know the entire history of each, but an unwillingness to discuss these issues should cause concern. If the dam in question has had previous litters, ask if any health issues have developed in those litters.

- Do/did any relatives within three generations have any of the following conditions, and to what degree?

- Cancer
- Temperament issues
- Skin disorders, including allergies
- Epilepsy
- Hypothyroidism
- Orthopedic disorders, such as OCD of the shoulder or hock, spondylosis, Others?

### **Further Information that may be beneficial would include**

- Are you a member of the Golden Retriever Club of America and /or the Golden Retriever Club of Canada?

- Do you follow their suggested Code of Ethics?

- Are you an active member of any other dog clubs or therapy organizations?

- Do you participate in any of the following?

- Breed/Conformation
- Tracking Tests
- Hunting Tests
- Agility Trials
- Field Trials
- Working Certificate Tests
- Obedience Trials
- Therapy Work
- Other

### **AND the FINAL Questions for the Breeder**

- How much do you charge for your puppies?

- Do you require a deposit and under what conditions is that refundable?