

# BACKYARD BLITZ

## Golden Retriever

<b>Breed:</b>	Golden Retriever
<b>Temperament:</b>	friendly, trusting
<b>Cost:</b>	\$500+
<b>Lifespan:</b>	average 13 years
<b>Maintenance:</b>	medium
<b>Recommended for:</b>	families



## History

Originally developed as a gun dog in Britain, the Golden Retriever appears to be a mixture of many breeds, including water spaniels, the Newfoundland and the Irish Setter. The similarities to Labradors are probably not coincidental and a shared ancestry is likely.

The Golden Retriever is one of the world's favourite pets. And, with the Labrador and German Shepherd, rates in the top three most popular dogs in Australia.

## **Appearance**

Golden Retrievers are medium to large dogs, never bigger than a German Shepherd. A male stands about 56-61cm (22-24"), while females are smaller at 51-56cm (20-22"). Weight ranges between 27-37kg (60-80lb), males being heavier.

The double coat is wavy and water-resistant; ideal for those not uncommon plunges into any body of water the dog may encounter. Colours range from shades of cream to

deep gold.  
While pups  
are quite pale,  
the shades of  
the tips of the  
ears can  
indicate its  
final adult  
colouring.

## **Temperament**

Breeders say  
that the  
Golden  
Retriever is  
placid and  
friendly, will  
get along with  
other dogs  
and is a real a  
joy to be with.  
Described as  
an ideal family  
pet, the  
Golden  
Retriever is  
eager to  
please and  
easy to train.  
They are  
intelligent,  
docile and  
should never  
be aggressive.  
Check the  
adults before  
purchasing a  
pup. There are  
plenty of  
breeders to  
choose from.  
A snappy dog,  
no matter how  
cute, is not a  
viable pet.  
Golden  
Retrievers  
thrive on  
structured  
training  
programs and  
are consistent  
top

performers in obedience and agility trials.

## **Health**

Two debilitating bone diseases - hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia, are not uncommon to the breed and cardiac and eye problems can occur.

These conditions can be tested for and pups should only be bought from those reputable breeders who hold current testing certificates.

Golden Retrievers love food, so obesity can be a problem and may aggravate hip problems if they are overfed.

## **Maintenance**

The coat is medium to long and does shed.

Particularly at the change of season. Many pet owners find a

thorough 10  
minute  
brushing once  
a week is  
adequate. The  
breed is  
happiest when  
inside with its  
family, but  
young dogs  
may chew  
furniture.

### **Ideal owner**

A great dog  
suited to the  
family. Be  
mindful of the  
dog's size  
around small  
children, but a  
well trained  
Golden  
Retriever will  
know its place  
around all  
humans, large  
and small.  
They make  
wonderful  
companions  
and are  
deservedly  
regarded as  
one of the  
best all round  
family dogs.

Not a breed  
for  
apartments or  
terraces,  
these dogs do  
like to romp  
and explore a  
backyard. A  
daily walk will  
benefit the  
dog and keep  
its weight in  
check.

## Further information

We filmed this segment in the picturesque town of Yass, New South Wales with the help of Golden Retriever breeder Lesley Scroope and many other happy Golden Retriever breeders. Lesley can be contacted on (02) 6226 1105.

### QLD

Golden Retriever Club of Qld.  
Sec. Sherry Downs  
Phone: (07) 3879 8941

### SA

Golden Retriever Club of SA  
Sec. Mrs. Jan Williams  
Phone: (08) 8298 3198

### TAS

The Golden Retriever Club of Tas.  
Sec. J. Wadsley  
Phone: (03) 6247 9386

### VIC

Golden Retriever Club of Vic.  
Sec. Mrs. Carol Stafford  
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### WA

Golden Retriever Club of WA  
Sec. Jessica Brown  
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