

RETRIEVER (GOLDEN)

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Gundog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Golden Retriever]:

The Golden Retriever was developed in Scotland in the 19th century by Sir Dudley Marjoribanks (later to become Baron Tweedmouth) from Flat-coated Retrievers judiciously crossed with Tweed Water Spaniels and some other British dog breeds. Prior to the 1952 publication of the very detailed stud book which had been meticulously maintained by Marjoribanks, a number of romantic tales were published about the origins of the breed. In the years after the First

World War its popularity increased markedly and in the 1920s and 1930s it spread through much of the Western world. The worldwide popularity of the breed meant it did not suffer the misfortunes many British dog breeds did during the Second World War due to British wartime restrictions on the breeding of larger dogs, with ample quality breeding stock available globally to ensure none of its characteristics were lost. Since the 1940s its popularity has continued to grow, and it has become one of the most recognised and most frequently registered dog breeds in the Western world.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Symmetrical, balanced, active, powerful, level mover; sound with kindly expression.

CHARACTERISTICS

Biddable, intelligent, and possessing natural working ability.

TEMPERAMENT

Kindly, friendly, and confident.

HEAD & SKULL

Balanced and well-chiselled, skull broad without coarseness; well set on neck; muzzle powerful, wide and deep. Length of foreface approximately equals length from well-defined stop to occiput. Nose preferably black.

Eyes:

Dark brown, set well apart, dark rims.

Ears:

Moderate size, set on approximate level with eyes.

Mouth:

Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Good length, clean, and muscular.

FOREQUARTERS

Forelegs straight with good bone, shoulders well laid back, long in blade with upper arm of equal length placing legs well under body. Elbows close-fitting.

BODY

Balanced, short-coupled, deep through heart. Ribs deep, well-sprung. Level topline.

HINDQUARTERS

Loin and legs strong and muscular, good second thighs, well-bent stifles. Hocks well let down, straight when viewed from rear, neither turning in nor out. Cow hocks highly undesirable.

FEET

Round and cat-like.

TAIL

Set on and carried level with back, reaching to hocks, without curl at tip.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Powerful with good drive. Straight and true in front and rear. Stride long and free with no sign of hackney action in front.

COAT

Flat or wavy with good feathering, dense water-resisting undercoat.

COLOUR

- Any shade of gold or cream, neither red nor mahogany.

* A few white hairs on chest only, permissible.

Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 56cm – 61cm (approx. 22" – 24")

Females: 51cm – 56cm (approx. 20" – 22")

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 125: GOLDEN RETRIEVER

FCI Classification: Group 8 – Retrievers, Flushing Dogs, Water Dogs

Section 1 - Retrievers

With working trial.