

# Claircrest Golden Retrievers

Nickie Hertzog ♦ 17609 191<sup>st</sup> Street ♦ Pleasant Hill, MO 64080

Phone: (816) 318-0480 ♦ Fax: (816) 293-2903 ♦ Email: Claircrest@aol.com

## INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

### FOOD and WATER

Keep fresh water available at all times.

Your puppy has been fed **Royal Canin Golden Retriever Puppy** food 3 times daily (often mixed together). Morning and evening the puppy has been fed moistened dry food (sometimes with a bit of yogurt or canned puppy food) and the afternoon feeding is given dry. This will gradually increase to a cup or more and eventually change to feeding twice daily during 4 to 6 months of age. Most adult dogs eat 3 cups and with a lot of exercise as much as 5 cups per day. When your puppy is 6 months old switch over to **a low protein food with no more than 24% protein until they are 18 months old. DO NOT** let your puppy become fat! This is very important to your puppy's overall health. In addition, this is one of the worst things you can do to a puppy's growing bones. It certainly puts them at risk for hip dysplasia. Vitamins are not necessary when feeding a good quality dog food.

### VACCINATIONS and WORMING

Shots should be kept up-to-date. Your veterinarian may have a schedule he/she prefers or see the Health Form included in your puppy folder. Also, ask your veterinarian about vaccinating for 'kennel cough' for added protection. This vaccine is especially important if your pup will be traveling, at shows, dog training classes, or exposed to other dogs outside the home. Let your veterinarian know about your intentions and that you want any available additional protection.

Check your puppy/dog for worms frequently. If you live in an area that has heartworms, keep the dog on heartworm medication its entire life.

### POTTY TRAINING

Your puppy has been on a schedule for "grass" or "rock" training. This has started a habit/training for the puppy to eliminate outside. **Every thirty minutes** that your puppy is awake it should be taken outside to potty. Do not bring the puppy back in the house until it is "done". Praise the puppy and offer it a treat when it is successful. Around 6 in the morning the puppy should be carried outside to potty. If the puppy is allowed to walk, it will begin the bad habit of eliminating inside. Bad habits are hard to break; it is preferable not to allow the bad habit from starting. Keep your puppy confined during waking hours to an area where you can observe it. If the puppy begins to eliminate inside the house, scoop them up abruptly and take them outside. Don't hit, shake or yell at your puppy.

### GROOMING

Make the effort to cut your dogs nails every week. They may struggle with you at first, but they will become accustom to it. Feet can become splayed if nails are too long. Feet can become splayed if nails are kept too long. I recommend doing this during bath time (nails are softer) or using a grooming table. You should not hear your dog's nails click across linoleum or wood flooring. Do not hesitate to bathe your dog frequently. I bathe my dogs weekly with a mild dog shampoo. I recommend and use **F1R2** Shampoo. It enhances the health and condition of my dogs' coats and skin. **F1R2** is sold privately through dealers across the country or via their website.

# **INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION continued...**

---

## **Grooming Continued**

Golden Retrievers must be brushed frequently due to their tendency for matting, especially during seasonal shedding periods.

After a bath and as needed, ears should be cleaned with a professional ear cleaning solution. The best product I have found recently is a foaming ear cleanser sold through vet clinics.

Very, very few professional groomers are knowledgeable on how to properly groom a Golden Retriever. The majority of groomers do not care to take the time to groom a golden well; instead they want to shave their hair off. I have heard so many horror stories on professional groomers that I cannot in good faith recommend them. My advice is to learn to groom your dog yourself.

## **TOYS and TREATS**

Puppies will chew – no doubt about it! It is your job to teach your puppy what is acceptable to chew on. Some puppies love Nylabones, others prefer Kongs or bleached bones. Allow them to have special toys that are theirs. It is beneficial to have one special toy for training and rewarding your puppy with. Treats are good for training and rewarding but refrain from overdoing it.

## **TRAINING**

If this is your first puppy, I recommend that you enroll your puppy in a puppy class after 4 to 6 months of age (after their full set of shots). These are wonderful for socialization. Check with your local dog clubs and/or Parks and Recreation. In the Kansas City area I, of course I recommend 4 Paws at Camp Claircrest! Depending on the puppy's temperament, I begin more formal training between six months to a year. Different personalities require different training schedules.

## **BOOKS**

The Complete Golden Retriever by Gertrude Fischer is available at most pet stores. Both How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With by Rutherford and Neil, and Positively Obedient by Barbara Handler can be ordered from Alpine Publications at 1-800-777-7257.

## **CLUBS**

I encourage you to join a local dog club, i.e. a Golden Retriever club, an all-breed club, and/or an obedience club. Also, consider joining the Golden Retriever Club of America. They produce a bi-monthly magazine for the breed. The information you will receive is priceless. If interested, ask me for more information.

Raising a puppy can be HARD work. Good dogs have been ruined because people do not take the time to understand their dog. I do not want that to happen to your puppy! I am trusting you, so please put your best effort into this pet/owner partnership. Do not give up!! Be a responsible dog owner. Call or email me if you have any problems or questions.

## **MICROCHIP**

Every dog we breed and/or own has a microchip that is purchased directly by Claircrest. This microchip assists in identifying the dog at any time during its life. You may re-register your puppy or dog by calling PETtrac at (800)336-2843. They will answer all of your questions and/or send you an application.

# INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION continued...

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please be aware that hip dysplasia is part hereditary, part environment – as much as 82%. Some people have one dysplastic dog after another. Here are some things I have noticed:

- ❖ Slippery floors like linoleum, wood floors, and slick concrete seem to increase the chances of hip dysplasia. A radiologist in the area says that hip dysplasia is up to 82% environmental!!! I believe this. You should take the responsibility to prevent this from happening. Keep your puppy off slick surfaces, especially during play and exercise times. Try to keep your pup on carpeting, rugs, grass, and rough concrete.
- ❖ Keep them off stairs as much as you can. Carry a puppy for as long as possible.
- ❖ **DO NOT** let them become fat!!!
- ❖ Give them moderate exercise. Swimming is excellent. **Do not** jog with your dog until it is an adult and its hips have been x-rayed and determined to be free of hip dysplasia. Never let them exercise on concrete sidewalks. Keep them on grass or dirt.
- ❖ Discourage your puppy from jumping off of furniture, a grooming table or out of a car until they are two years old. This can be very damaging to their bones.
- ❖ Some breeders believe in giving additional vitamin C to help prevent hip dysplasia. Some people have had excellent success with this method. I have used the time-released kind, starting with 250 mg now and working up to 1000 mg to 1500 mg depending on their size. You can purchase the vitamin C at health food stores.

*Good luck! I have done everything possible to give your puppy a happy, healthy start to life. Now, it is your turn to continue what I began. I am happy to advise and listen to you about your puppy. I want to know your puppy through you. Keep in touch. Send pictures. I will be waiting to hear from you and worried if I don't!*

**Information Specific to the “Irish Words or Slogan” Litter – try to choose an AKC registered name that has the word Irish Words or Slogan in it. If we do not receive the registration name within sixty (60) days we will understand if you prefer not to register your puppy. This is not a requirement but rather a preference. AKC's position is the registration does not constitute ownership. The microchip is more important as it identifies the dog.**

Your puppy has been wormed with a broad spectrum wormer and Albon. Your vet should be familiar with these.

Your puppy will have their initial set of vaccines at 6-7 weeks of age. Health records are or will be included when the puppy is picked up. The next set will be due between three (3) weeks from the first set and the **last set** should be given **after** four months of age. A recent update to vaccine protocols is a blood test for titers – this may make vaccines unnecessary in some cases – please research and request more information if you are interested. Dr. Jean Dodds, DVM is the foremost specialist in vaccine protocols.

Kennel cough/bordetella is evidently at epidemic proportions in the area. I recommend vaccinating against kennel cough. Check with your vet concerning this.

When you take your puppy into the vet - DO NOT let the pup walk in. Carry the puppy (either in your arms or in a carrier). When there is an exam room ready, allow the pup to ONLY have contact with the exam table (which should have been disinfected since the previous exam). Do not sit in the waiting room with your pup. This could expose the pup to sick animals. A puppy's immune system is very immature at this age.

DO NOT take your puppy to multi-animal use areas such as; parks, training classes, etc. UNTIL they have had their full set of vaccinations.

DO NOT expose your pup to other animals (other than those that live with you) *until* they have had their full set of vaccinations.

DO NOT allow your puppy to eat food that has been left out for over an hour at room temperature. The exception to this would be dry food that has not been moistened or had canned food added to it.

Sanitize your puppy's food and water dishes daily. I use bleach or put them in the dishwasher.

Wash your puppy's rugs and bedding regularly.

Treat your puppy as you would a newborn baby! Basically, your puppy is - except as a canine!!

Remember that a house is an unnatural environment for a dog. The footing and flooring is unnatural. Grass, dirt and rock is a normal surface for dogs to play and run on. My puppies do not go up and down stairs much at all. When they play they are always on grass. We don't retrieve or throw toys in the house regularly. My dogs are not allowed to jump out of a car, table, etc. until they are adults. No rough housing in the house. Allowing dogs to do these type of activities in the house, predisposes them to hip dysplasia and/or an injury.

Be very, very careful with your puppy.

Use common sense!!