



GAIT

Free, smooth, powerful, well coordinated.

Good reach. Feet converge toward centerline of balance as speed increases.

Loose lead is recommended to reflect true gait.

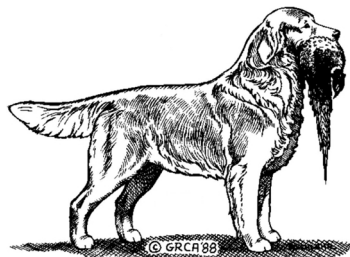
Exaggerated reach and drive, high action of the legs, and excessive speed are not indicative of the sound, efficient, endurance gait required of a hunting retriever.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Deviation in height of more than one inch above or below the standard
- Undershot or overshot bite

EXCUSALS

- Evidence of functional abnormality of the eyelids or eyelashes.



www.grca.org

The Golden Retriever Club of America Inc.



The Golden Retriever

At A Glance

A Judges' Reference

Compiled by GRCA 2006

Text GRCA 2006

* All photos © by Photographers

* Drawings © Marcia R. Schlehr

* Used with permission

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A **symmetrical**, powerful, active dog, **sound and well put together**, not clumsy nor long in leg, displaying a **kindly** expression, and with a personality that is **eager, alert, and self-confident**.

OVERALL APPEARANCE, BALANCE, GAIT, AND PURPOSE TO BE GIVEN MORE CONSIDERATION THAN ANY OF HIS COMPONENT PARTS.



Primarily a hunting dog, he should be shown in hard working condition.

The Golden is to be a versatile working retriever for varied terrain and harsh climates .

Overall suitability for purpose takes precedence over details.

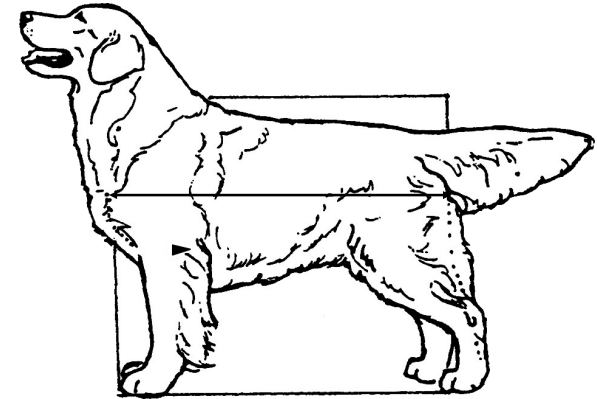
TEMPERAMENT

- Friendly, reliable, trustworthy
- Eager, alert, self-confident
- Kindly, intelligent

SIZE

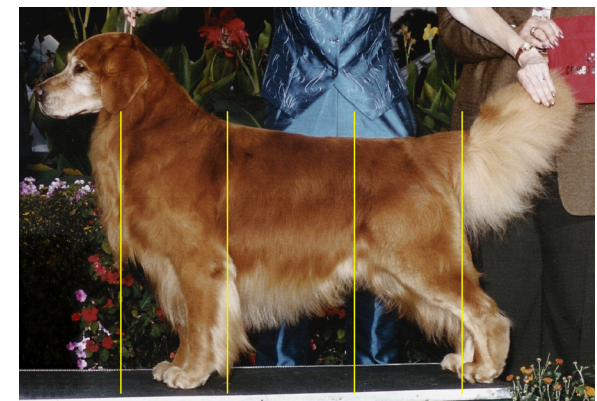
- Males: 23 - 24", 65 - 75 lbs.
- Females: 21 1/2 - 22 1/2", 55 - 65 lbs.
- Deviation of more than 1" above or below standard to be proportionately penalized.
- *See Disqualifications.*

PROPORTION



Height : length as 11:12

Length is measured from forechest to buttocks. Ground to elbow is approximately 1/2 the distance from elbow to withers. A properly constructed, proportioned and angulated dog will divide nearly into "thirds".



HEAD

Skull broad, slightly arched. **Stop** well defined but not abrupt. **Foreface** deep and wide, nearly as long as the skull. **Muzzle** straight in profile, slightly deeper and wider at stop than at tip. No heaviness in flews. Removal of **whiskers** permitted, but not preferred.

Expression friendly and intelligent.



Quality in head type is a result of harmony of structure, not of exaggeration in any part. Gender differences should be apparent.

EYES

Size medium large, set well apart, reasonably deep in sockets. **Color** preferably dark brown (medium brown is acceptable). **Rims** dark and close-fitting.

*Loose eyelids permit seeds and other debris into the eye, a hazard for a working retriever. **See Excusals.***

EARS

Size: rather short, falling close to the cheek. When pulled forward, should just cover the eye on the same side. **Placement:** attached well behind and just above the line of the eye.

TEETH

Scissors bite; full dentition. *It is not necessary to open the mouth of a Golden to check for full dentition. Lifting the lips at the side to check for obvious gaps is sufficient. **See Disqualifications.***

NOSE

Black or brownish black; fading to lighter shade in winter not serious.

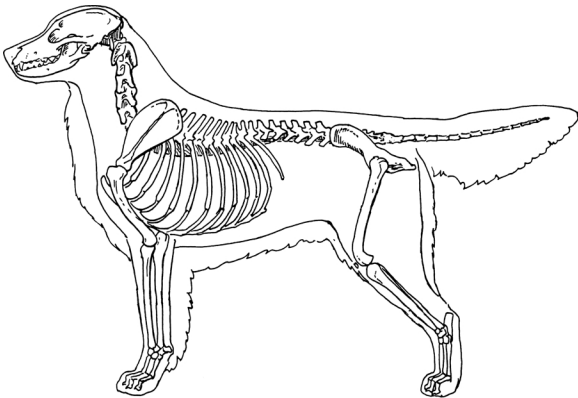
NECK AND FOREQUARTERS

Neck medium long, sturdy, muscular. **Shoulder blades** long, well laid back. **Upper arms** appear about same length as blades. **Elbows** set well back beneath upper tips of blades, close to ribs without looseness. **Legs** straight with good bone, not coarse. **Pasterns** short, strong, sloping slightly.

Correct forequarter construction enables the retriever not only to trot and carry game efficiently but also to swim with power.

BODY AND TOPLINE

Chest between forelegs at least as wide as a man’s closed hand. **Forechest** well developed. **Brisket** extends to elbow. **Ribs** long and well-sprung, extending well towards hindquarters. **Loin** short, muscular, wide, and deep; very little tuck-up.



BODY AND TOPLINE (cont.)

Back strong and level whether standing or moving. **Croup** slightly sloping. *Capacious body contributes to stamina and to buoyancy in swimming. Strong back and loin aid in working rough terrain and in carrying game.*

HINDQUARTERS

Stifles well bent. **Hocks** well let down. **Legs** straight when viewed from rear. **Pasterns** short and strong.

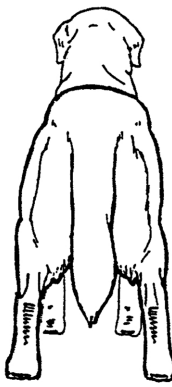
Angulation in balance with front; a line dropped from the rear of buttock should touch the toes. Well-muscled throughout for strength and power with moderate speed and great endurance.



Good Front



Good Rear



Good Rear Posed

TAIL

Tail set follows natural line of croup. **Base of tail** thick and muscular. **Tail bones** extend to, but not below, point of hock. **Carriage** level or with some **moderate** upward curve. Merry in action.

FEET

Medium size, pads thick. **Shape:** round, compact, well-knuckled.

Strong, enduring feet and nails of functional length are important to the working retriever. Dewclaws may be removed.

COAT



Dense, water repellent; outer coat firm and resilient, good undercoat. **Straight or wavy with no preference.**

***Feathering** moderate on back of forelegs and underbody, heavier on front of neck, back of thighs, and tail. **Ruff** untrimmed and natural.*



Grooming: altering natural appearance of coat or outline by cutting or clipping is undesirable.

The Golden’s coat is a protective jacket lying close to the body, not standing off. Open, soft, silky, or excessive coats are faulty. Excessive or stylized trimming is improper.

COLOR

Rich, lustrous golden of various shades. **Feathering** may be lighter than rest of coat.

The variety of golden shades and shadings is part of the breed’s appeal. Graying due to age is not to be penalized.

