



Gryffin

BRITISH-STYLE GOLDEN RETRIEVERS TODAY

by Michele Gawenka, with Marcia Schlehr



Joplin

A Golden Retriever is a Golden Retriever regardless of where it's born or whether it's called field type, British-style, or North American. All pedigrees trace back to a foundation litter bred 150 years ago in 1868 by Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks (pronounced Marshbanks), later known as Lord Tweedmouth, at his Guisachan estate in Scotland. Nous, the only yellow puppy in a litter of black Wavy-Coated retrievers, was mated to Belle, a Tweed Water spaniel. Half a century later, the golden dogs began to disperse around the world and the family tree branched into lines that can now be traced back to a relatively few popular sires.

There has always been a range of shades of color in the breed, and photos from Guisachan over almost 40 years show both dark and light Golden Retrievers.

Initially called the yellow retriever, the breed was eventually registered as the Golden Retriever. It has always been a

breed of moderation, and extremes or exaggeration of any sort are not desirable. That said, color alone is of less importance than considerations such as functionality, health, soundness, structure, temperament, and type.

In the 1920s the original UK standard stated that color should be "rich golden, must not be as dark as an Irish red setter nor cream colour." Breeders in the '20s and '30s may have interpreted this to mean without cream shading, and, in trying to breed away from light featherings, Golden Retrievers became darker overall. Then the dog Gilder came along – gold with prominent pale shadings – and a number of his offspring did very well in both show and field (including Ch Hazelgilt, who may well have become a Dual Champion if not for WWII.)

In 1936 the UK standard was changed to read "any shade of gold or cream, but neither red nor mahogany," and after WWII the eye-catching dogs of lighter shades became popu-



(Left) Fanny Spencer Churchill Marjoribanks, daughter-in-law of Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, with her Golden Retriever Crocus in 1876.

Crocus (Nous x Belle) was from the first litter of Golden Retrievers born in 1868. This, and subsequent generations of breeding, were recorded in the kennel records kept at Guisachan that are now in the Kennel Club library.

Nous and Belle's descendants were combined with wavy and flat-coated retrievers, another Tweed Water Spaniel, and a red

setter. It was primarily the yellow puppies (and a few blacks) that were kept to continue the line.

(Right) A hunting party is pictured in front of Guisachan house circa 1898, four years after the first Lord Tweedmouth's death. His daughter-in-law Lady Tweedmouth and the gamekeeper are standing by a lighter-colored Golden Retriever, and there is a darker Golden on the far left.

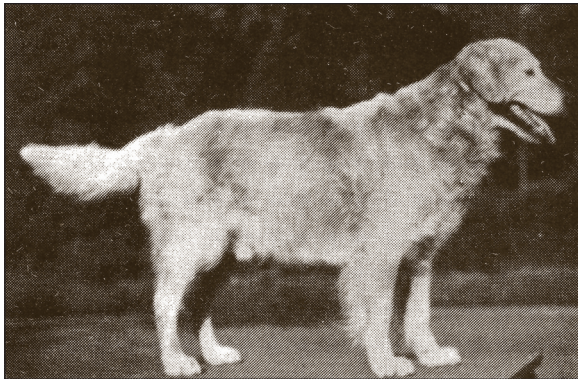
Lady Tweedmouth's obituary described her as one of the finest shots in the UK and a brilliant horsewoman.



(top left) DE VDH LU CH Xanthos Gryffindor, Breeder: Heather Morss and S Green, **UK**, (kennel Xanthos) Owner: Tamara Ignatieva-Heiremans, **Belgium** (kennel Fine Art Rudgieri) Photographer: Petra Tichner
(top right) Londonite Hairspray Queen, Breeder/Owner: Linsey op den Dries, **Netherlands**, (kennel Londonite)

lar. The Boltby kennel and others did very well at shows with their light-colored Golden Retrievers, although most were not yet what would be called “true cream.”

So how did true cream evolve? Perhaps newcomers to the breed after WWII took the phrasing of the standard to mean



Gilder (7/31/1929 – 1942) pictured at 10 years of age
KC Reg. October 1930, Sire of 9 Champions
Breeder: E. Needham Davies
Owner: Major H. Wentworth-Smith (Yelme)



Eng CH Boltby Skylon
Breeder/Owner: Mrs. R. Harrison

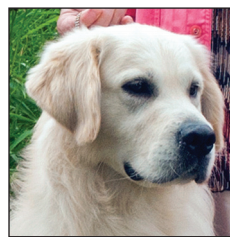


Eng CH Camrose Cabus Christopher
Breeder: Mrs. Z. Moriarty
Owner: Joan Tudor

the entire dog could be cream. Some people liked the paler dogs, they were successful at shows...and the color became associated with British-style Golden Retrievers. One source of the light color was Ch Boltby Skylon (born 1951), and another was his great-grandson Ch Camrose Cabus Christopher (born 1967).

Skylon was a popular sire in the '50s and his success and the quality of his offspring made the lighter colorations popular. The number of registered Golden Retrievers was very much smaller then, so while Skylon has 38 litters listed in k9data.com compared to 132 for Christopher – partly due to frozen semen – it is also because the registrations in the 1950s were less than 1/10 of what they were later when Christopher was popular. Proportionately, Skylon sired a larger percentage of offspring.

However, even these two sires were light gold on ears and body, with paler underparts and feathering. They were not what today would be called “true cream.” So how did “true cream” get into the Golden breed? There are several possibilities. It could have been a simple mutation. It might have been a recombination of genes. Or it could have been introduced by something behind one/some of the unregistered dogs back in old pedigrees (there were quite a few registered dogs that had sires or dams of unknown/unreported parentage). Where it came from may never be answered, and coat color is easily modified in one generation depending on the selection of sire and dam.



Scotty (sire) ex Stevie (dam) =



Scotty ex Stevie puppies

Medium gold and darker shades of coat color are found throughout the world, particularly in working lines where dogs of deeper shades are common, but also in Golden Retrievers of British style. However, the term British (or less correctly, English) style is not confined to coat coloring and may also be used to refer to dogs of heavier bone with rather blocky heads. In addition, overseas breed standards do not specify

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Scotty – AU US CH; CA GCH Fantango To The Moon And Back Can PCD RN, Breeders: Janelle Salvestrin and Paul Middleton, **Australia** (kennel *Fantango*) Owner: Ainslie Mills, **Canada** (kennel *Oriana*). Stevie – CA GCH CastleRock Edge of Seventeen, Breeder: Tiffany Waite, **Canada** (kennel *CastleRock*). Owners: Liz Russell and Tiffany Waite, **Canada** (kennel *Gowrielea*)

proportions like the AKC and CKC standards, and Golden Retrievers may be longer in body or shorter in leg than is considered ideal in North America. Generalizations aside, well-bred British-style Golden Retrievers vary from their well-bred North American cousins primarily in grooming, and sometimes color.

Today British-style Golden Retrievers are found not only in the UK but around the world – in Scandinavia, on the European continent, in Australia and New Zealand, and in Canada. An increasing number have been imported to and bred in the United States, frozen semen is more readily available, and the

MALES



Newton
RU CH Glamour Shine Ascending Star at Angelonato
Breeder: Marijana Račić, **Croatia** (kennel Glamour Shine)
Owner: Natasha Borisevich, **Belarus** (kennel Angelonato)



Marly
ES PT IB CH Back to the Future de Lar de Casanova
Breeders/Owners: Bernar Carro & Begoña Carro,
Spain (kennel Lar de Casanova)



Dempsey
IT INT SH CH Olvinglay Visionaire
Breeder/Owner: Giovanni Monteverde, **Italy**
(kennel Olvinglay)



Boris
DE CH, DK UCH, NL CH Dutch Consolidation Spy vs Spy
Breeder/Owner: Kelly Wibbelink, **Netherlands**
(kennel Dutch Consolidation)



Turbo
RU/BY/UA/LV/MD/BG INT CH Zampanzar Hemingway
Daiquiri TRIALER
Breeder: Paco Garcia Mendoza, **Spain** (kennel Zampanzar)
Owner: Natalia Rozhkova, **Russia** (kennel Right Hunter)



Teddy
CA GCH Thornywait Paparazzi
Breeder: Susanna Zubair, **UK** (kennel Thornywait)
Owners: Catharine & Grant Ross, **Canada**
(kennel Braefield)

British-Style Golden Retrievers, continued from previous page

blending of these Golden Retrievers has in many cases resulted in excellent examples of the breed. However, the term English Cream is incorrect and simply a marketing gimmick; breeding primarily for color does the breed no good.

Like so many things, “ideal” is a balancing of features to

produce what is correct for the breed and the breed’s purpose – and quality is quality wherever it may be found.

Sincere thanks to Marcia Schlehr for her historical contributions, and to Sylvia Donahey for her suggestions, formatting, and layout.

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FEMALES



BE JCH, INT CH, BE CH, EUROPASIEGER Perfect Princess by Moon of Sunshine’s Valley BW’17 – Breeders/Owners: Nathalie Vermander & Therese Adam, **Belgium** (kennel Sunshine’s Valley)



C.I.E SE(U) EE LV LT BALT CH Dewmist Duplicity
Breeder: Henric Fryckstrand, **Sweden** (kennel Dewmist)
Owners: Piia Serguskin & Marjo Jaakkola, **Finland** (kennel Benton)



HU JCW’16, HU JCH Magic Madness Love Me Like You Do
Breeder/Owner: Katalin Szilágyi, **Hungary**
(kennel Magic Madness)



ES PT CH Dancing Queen de Ria Vela
Breeders/Owners: Antonio López and Paloma Gusso, **Spain**
(kennel Ria Vela)



AU GCH Fantango Stack the Deck
Breeders/Owners: Janelle Salvestrin & Paul Middleton
Australia (kennel Fantango)



Linirgor Just Dreaming Of Braidwynn
Breeders: Linsey & Irene Dunbar, **Scotland** (kennel Linirgor)
Owner: Elma Winton, **Scotland** (kennel Braidwynn)

AKC breed standard: <https://grca.org/about-the-breed/akc-breed-standard/>

The section Color includes: “Rich, lustrous golden of various shades. Feathering may be lighter than rest of coat. Allowable light shadings are not to be confused with white markings. Predominant body color which is either extremely pale or extremely dark is undesirable. Some latitude should be given to the light puppy whose coloring shows promise of deepening with maturity.”

CKC breed standard: <https://grcc.net/index.php/canadian-golden-retriever-breed-standard/>

Approved March 2021, effective 1/1/2022, the section Color includes: “Lustrous golden of various shades, ranging from cream to darkest gold. Allowable light shadings are not to be confused with white markings.”

FCI, UK, and ANKC breed standards: <http://fci.be/Nomenclature/Standards/111g08-en.pdf>

The section Color includes: “Any shade of gold or cream, neither red nor mahogany.”

LEGEND (This article uses the two-letter ISO International Standard for country codes):

CACIB – The equivalent in French (Certificat d’Aptitude au Championnat International de Beauté) of a CC, awarded at an FCI International show.

CC – Challenge Certificate awarded to the best dog and best bitch in the breed at a championship show, with one of the two going Best of Breed and moving on to Group. A dog must receive 3 CCs under 3 different judges, with the third being awarded after 12 months of age, to become a champion. The CC winner must have beaten all the dogs of their sex including those that are already champions (which is different than earning points toward a championship in the US and Canada by going WD or WB.)

CIE – FCI International Show Champion title with CACIBs obtained under three different judges in three different countries.

FCI – The International Canine Federation (Federation Cynologique Internationale) based in Brussels, Belgium has established rules for dog shows for its members, associates, and partners in 98 countries. Several major kennel clubs including the American Kennel Club in the US, The Kennel Club in the UK, and the Canadian Kennel Club in Canada are not members. The FCI is not a registry. Its objective is to bring global uniformity to the breeding, exhibiting, and judging of purebred dogs.

AKC = American Kennel Club

ANKC = Australian National Kennel Council

AU = Australia

BALT = Baltic (all 3 Baltic countries)

BE = Belgium

BG = Bulgaria

BY = Belarus

CA = Canada

DE = Germany

DK = Denmark

EE = Estonia

ES = Spain

EUROPESIEGER = Best of Breed at the show held in Germany once a year

HU = Hungary

IB = Iberian (A dog must have earned the CACIB at mandatory point shows in Spain and Portugal, held twice a year, to be an Iberian Champion.)

IT = Italy

JCH = Junior Champion (for dogs from 9 to 18 months of age)

LT = Lithuania

LU = Luxembourg

LV = Latvia

MD = Moldova

NL = Netherlands

NO = Norway

NORD = Nordic (Champion in 3 of the Nordic countries)

PT = Portugal

RU = Russia

SE = Sweden

TRIALER = The dog must receive an Excellent rating in both a spring and fall field trial plus an Excellent rating in a conformation show.

UA = Ukraine

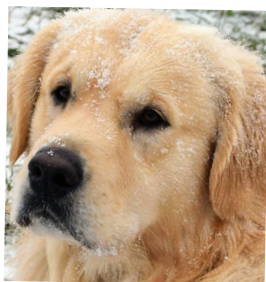
(U) = An abbreviation for the Swedish UTSTÄLLNING which translates to “show” and indicates that the dog is a Show Champion with no working trial award (as opposed to a full champion who has also earned a field/working award).

UK = United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland)

UK SH CH = A dog that is a UK Show Champion with no working trial award (compared to a CH or full champion who has also earned a field/working award).

US = United States

VDH = Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen is Germany’s Kennel Club and represents Germany in the FCI.



Rebel Klouman



Gatsby Rolph



Blue Guy