

## Disadvantages of Owning a Golden Retriever

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Though initially Goldens may seem to be the ideal pet, there are **DISADVANTAGES** to owning an animal of this type. Below are many areas that need thought and consideration before you buy. A Golden Retriever is **NOT** the perfect pet for everyone!!!

1. **SIZE** – Goldens are medium-sized animals. Males range from 23-24 inches at the shoulder and weigh proportionally from 65-75 pounds. Females stand 21 ½-22 ½ inches and weigh 55-65 pounds. They normally possess extremely active tails making clean sweeps of coffee and end tables. Quite simply, they need room. Uncluttered houses and a fenced yard are **MUSTS!**
2. **EXERCISE** – Goldens were developed as a sporting breed able to handle a day's hunting routinely. They need to have hard consistent exercise daily (20-30 minutes twice a day is usually sufficient) or they may have difficulty adjusting to the "calm house pet" role expected by most owners.
3. **SHEDDING** – They are a long-coated breed and shed a minimum of twice a year. Because of the coat, grooming every other day is to your advantage. If you require a fastidiously kept house – **DON'T GET A GOLDEN**. You will always have dog hair around, especially in rugs, on furniture, and, **OH, YES**, occasionally even in your food.
4. **HEALTH & CARE** – Goldens are known to be prone to skin problems – allergies as well as dry and brittle coats. Additionally, they have varying degrees of problems with hip dysplasia and eye defects. Feeding one medium-sized dog for a year will run you between \$200-\$400 dependent upon what type of food and additional supplementation. Veterinary expenses for the first year run between \$400-\$600\* depending on veterinarian and locale. Though many of these expenses get hidden in the grocery bill (food dishes, leashes and collars, brushes, shampoos, tick/flea collars, chew toys) – **THEY ARE THERE**.
5. **TRAINING** – Many wish to make their Goldens into good canine citizens. A good beginner's obedience class costs between \$75-\$110\*. Formalized/professional field training is even higher. And let's not forget the cost of training equipment – leashes, collars, training dummies, whistles, and the gas to and from training sessions. Moreover, Goldens tend to be sensitive or soft in many training situations. They must be handled carefully with a loving, firm, but nonetheless **GENTLE** hand.
6. **GUARD DOGS** – As protective guard dogs, Goldens are **LOUSY!!!** Though they may bark and growl defensively, when it comes down to brass tacks –

they'd as soon kiss the intruder and show him to the furs and jewels as corner him with an "I'll rip you to shreds" snarl.

7. **ADDICTIVE** – Very few people own only one Golden; we simply find them habit forming. Contrary to popular opinion, they are not cheaper by the dozen.

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