

SECTION 1:

The Golden Retriever in the Show Ring Today

Property of Morphhet



Am Ch Libra Malagold Coriander OS SDHF by Am Ch Malagold Summer Chant OS SDHF out of Am Ch Libra Lady Carioca CD OD, bred by C Blair owned by Dr P & T Haines and Connie Gerstner. Photo courtesy of Connie Gerstner-Miller.

1.1 – Breed Standards by Country

UK, AUSTRALIA AND EUROPE Retriever (Golden) Breed Standard

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A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance 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. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Kennel Club website for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.

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 AND 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.

SIZE: Height at withers: dogs: 56-61 cms (22-24 ins); bitches: 51-56 cms (20-22 ins).

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.

NOTE: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

Last Updated - March 1994



A lineup at Crufts 2009. Photo by RJM

An overview of the changes in the Golden Retriever (UK) Breed Standard over time.

In 1927 and for many years afterwards the General Appearance of the Golden Retriever was described as follows, “should be a symmetrical active powerful dog a good level mover sound and well put together with a kindly expression not clumsy nor long in the leg”. By 1994 this had become “Symmetrical balanced active powerful level mover sound with a kindly expression”.

There were no separate headings for characteristics and temperament in the Golden Retriever Standard for many years. In 1994 the current descriptions as previously described had been introduced for these traits.

From 1927 until at least 1970 the head and skull were described as follows “broad in skull, well set on a clean and muscular neck, muzzle powerful and wide not weak jawed good stop. Nose should be black, but a light coloured nose should not debar a dog from honours who is good in all other respects”. By 1970 this description was altered to exclude the acceptance of the light coloured nose. By 1994 the description had become that which is described above.

The description of the eyes has remained relatively unchanged since the first Standard was drawn up except that “kindly in expression” had been dropped by 1994. This is not because it was no longer a requirement for the Breed but because it was now mentioned in the General Appearance.

Until about 1970 ears were described as small and well set on. In 1970 this had become well proportioned of moderate size and well set on. By 1994 the description had changed again to “moderate size and set on approximately level with the eyes”. The Breed Standard stated an “even bite, not under or overshot” up until 1970. The description “clean and muscular neck” was introduced under its own heading with “good length” being added to this by 1994. Up until 1970 forelegs were described as “straight with good bone” Then in 1970 the following was changed from the body heading to the forequarter heading “shoulders should be well laid back and long in the blade. By 1994 descriptions of the upper arm and elbow were included that being “upper arm of equal length placing legs well under the body. Elbows close fitting”. The body description, in addition to losing the comment on shoulders after 1970, had “ribs deep and well sprung”. A “level topline” was added in 1994. Up until 1970 the hindquarters were described as “hindlegs strong and muscular, well bent stifle. Hocks well let down, not cow hocked”. In 1970 however, this was altered to “loins and legs should be strong and muscular with good second thighs and well bent stifles. Hocks well let down,

not cow hocked”. By 1994 the following was added. “Hocks straight when viewed from rear, neither turning in nor out”. The wording describing cow hocks became “cowhocks highly undesirable”.

The 1927 Standard describes the feet as “round and catlike, must not be open or splay”. By 1994 “must not be open or splay” was deleted. The tail description remained unaltered for approximately 50 years, reading “should be straight not curled at the tip or carried over the back”. In 1994 it had changed to the description described in the Standard above, there was no other description for movement apart from that which appeared in the General Appearance until sometime after 1970. The coat, prior to this time was described as “must be flat or wavy, good undercoat dense and water resisting”. It was then changed to read “should be flat or wavy, with good feathering and dense water resisting undercoat”. By 1994 this description had become slightly shortened to “flat or wavy with good feathering, dense water-resisting undercoat”.

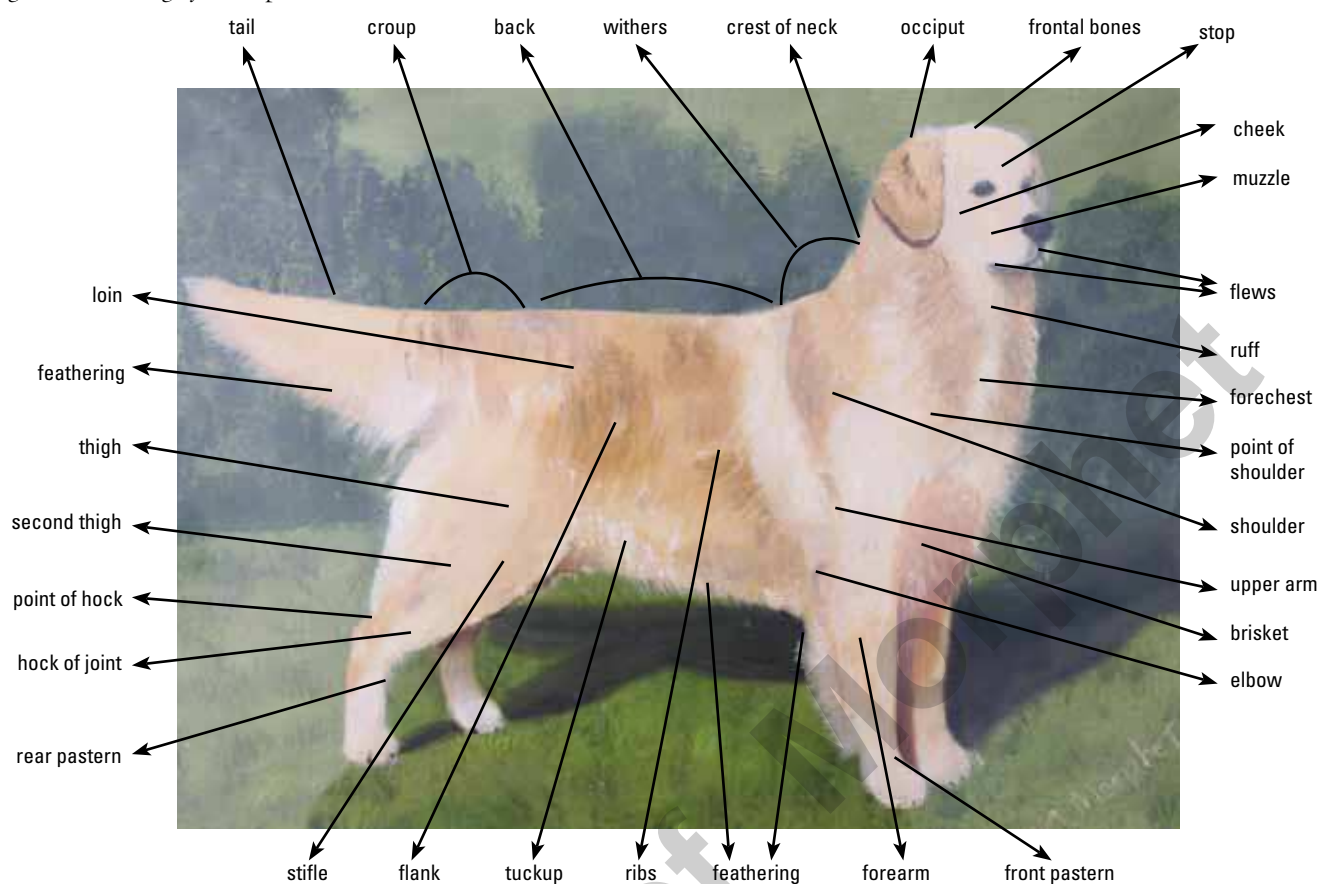
Colour prior to 1936 read as “rich golden, must not be as dark as an Irish setter or cream colour. The presence of a few white hairs on the chest or toes permissible but white collar feet or blaze should be penalised”. However, in 1936 the Golden Retriever’s acceptable colour became “any shade of gold or cream, but neither red nor mahogany. The presence of a few white hairs on chest permissible. White collar, toes or blaze should be penalised”, by 1994 the standard read “any shade of gold or cream, neither red nor mahogany. A few white hairs on chest only permissible”.

In 1927 there were no heights recorded in the Standard. By 1940 this became Dogs 23-24ins Bitches 20.5-22ins. By 1970 the acceptable range was 22-24ins for dogs and 20-22ins for bitches. As was for height, no weight appeared in the 1927 standard. The weight of the Golden Retriever males by 1940 had an acceptable range of 65-68lbs and bitches ranged from 55-60 lbs. Sometime between 1970 and 1994, (when weight was no longer included in the Breed Standard), the weights were changed from 70-80lbs for dogs and 60-70lbs for bitches.

Finally, for a number of years in the first half of the 20th century the following scale of points also appeared in the Breed Standard. Head 20, Colour 10, Coat 5, Ears 5, Feet 10, Forelegs 10, Hindlegs 10, Hocks 10, Nose 5, Tail 5, Body 25 making up a grand total of 115 points.

Golden Retriever Body Terminology

Figure 1.6. Painting by M Morphet.



NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL BREED STANDARD

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Should be of a symmetrical, active, powerful dog, a good level mover, sound and well put together, with a kindly expression, not clumsy nor long in the leg.

HEAD AND SKULL: Broad-skull, well set on a clean and muscular neck, muzzle powerful and wide, not weak-jawed, good stop.

EYES: Dark and set well apart, very kindly in expression, with dark rims.

EARS: Well proportioned, of moderate size and well set on.

MOUTH: Teeth should be sound and strong. Neither overshot nor undershot, the lower teeth just behind but touching the upper.

NECK: The neck should be clean and muscular.

FOREQUARTERS: The forelegs should be straight with good bone. Shoulders should be well laid back and long in blade.

BODY: Well-balanced, short coupled and deep through the heart. Ribs deep and well sprung.

HINDQUARTERS: The loins and legs should be strong and muscular, with good second thighs and well bent stifles. Hocks well let down, not cow-hocked.



GRC Dog CC Line-Up in Auckland New Zealand in 1994.

FEET: Round and cat-like, not open or splay.

TAIL: Should not be carried too gay or curled at the tip.

COAT: Should be flat or wavy with good feathering and dense, water-resisting undercoat.

COLOUR: Any shade of gold or cream, but neither red nor mahogany. The presence of a few white hairs on chest permissible. White collar, feet, toes or blaze should be penalised. Nose should be black.

WEIGHT AND SIZE: The average weight in good hard condition should be: Dogs: 32 - 37 kg (70 - 80 lb) Bitches: 27 - 32 kg (60 - 70 LB).

HEIGHT AT SHOULDER: Dogs: 56 - 61 cm (22 - 24 in) Bitches: 51 - 56 cm (20 - 22 in).

Note: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

USA OFFICIAL STANDARD OF THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER

Courtesy of GRCA

The Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club has approved the following revised Standard for Golden Retrievers submitted by the Golden Retriever Club of America, Inc., to be effective September 1990:

GENERAL APPEARANCE: A symmetrical, powerful, active dog, sound and well put together, not clumsy nor long in the leg, displaying a kindly expression and possessing a personality that is eager, alert and self-confident. Primarily a hunting dog, he should be shown in hard working condition. Over-all appearance, balance, gait and purpose to be given more emphasis than any of his component parts.

FAULTS: Any departure from the described ideal shall be considered faulty to the degree to which it interferes

with the Breed's purpose or is contrary to breed character.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE: Males 23-24 inches in height at withers; females 21 1/2-22 1/2 inches. Dogs up to one inch above or below Standard size should be proportionately penalized. Deviation in height of more than one inch from the standard shall disqualify.

Length from breastbone to point of buttocks slightly greater than height at withers in ratio of 12:11. Weight for dogs 65-75 pounds; bitches 55-65 pounds.

HEAD: Broad in skull, slightly arched laterally and longitudinally without prominence of frontal bones (forehead) or occipital bones. Stop well defined but not abrupt. Foreface deep and wide, nearly as long as skull. Muzzle straight in profile, blending smoothly and strongly into skull; when viewed in profile or from above, slightly deeper and wider at stop than at tip. No heaviness in flews. Removal of whiskers is permitted but not preferred.

EYES: Friendly and intelligent in expression, medium large with dark, close-fitting rims, set well apart and reasonably deep in sockets. Color preferably dark brown; medium brown acceptable. Slant eyes and narrow, triangular eyes detract from correct expression and are to be faulted. No white or haw visible when looking straight ahead. Dogs showing evidence of functional abnormality of eyelids or eyelashes (such as, but not limited to, trichiasis, entropion, ectropion, or distichiasis) are to be excused from the ring.

EARS: Rather short with front edge attached well behind and just above the eye and falling close to cheek. When pulled forward, tip of ear should just cover the eye. Low, hound-like ear set to be faulted.

NOSE: Black or brownish black, though fading to a lighter shade in cold weather not serious. Pink nose or one seriously lacking in pigmentation to be faulted.

TEETH: Scissors bite, in which the outer side of the lower incisors touches the inner side of the upper incisors. Undershot or overshot bite is a disqualification. Misalignment of teeth (irregular placement of incisors) or a level bite (incisors, meet each other edge to edge) is undesirable, but not to be confused with undershot or overshot. Full dentition, obvious gaps are serious faults.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY: Neck -- medium long, merging gradually into well laid back shoulders, giving sturdy, muscular appearance. Untrimmed natural ruff. No throatiness.



Open Dog line up Specialty in the USA in 2008.

“Hear no ill of a friend, nor speak any of any enemy.”

Benjamin Franklin

Back line -- strong and level from withers to slightly sloping croup, whether standing or moving. Sloping back line, roach or sway back, flat or steep croup to be faulted.

Body -- well-balanced, short coupled, deep through the chest.

Chest between forelegs at least as wide as a man's closed hand including thumb, with well developed forechest. Brisket extends to elbow. Ribs long and well sprung but not barrel shaped, extending well towards hindquarters. Loin short, muscular, wide and deep, with very little tuck-up. Slabsidedness, narrow chest, lack of depth in brisket, excessive tuck-up, flat or steep croup to be faulted.

TAIL: Well set on, thick and muscular at the base, following the natural line of the croup. Tail bones extend to, but not below, the point of hock. Carried with merry action, level or with some moderate upward curve; never curled over back nor between legs.

FOREQUARTERS: Muscular, well co-ordinated with hindquarters and capable of free movement. Shoulder blades long and well laid back with upper tips fairly close together at withers. Upper arms appear about the same length as the blades, setting the elbows back beneath the upper tip of the blades, close to the ribs without looseness. Legs, viewed from the front, straight with good bone, but not to the point of coarseness. Pasterns short and strong, sloping slightly with no suggestion of weakness. Dewclaws on forelegs may be removed, but are normally left on.

FEET: Medium size, round, compact and well knuckled, with thick pads. Excess hair may be trimmed to show natural size and contour. Splayed or hare feet to be faulted.

HINDQUARTERS: Broad and strongly muscled. Profile of croup slopes slightly; the pelvic bone slopes at a slightly greater angle (approximately 30 degrees from horizontal). In a natural stance, the femur joins the pelvis at approximately a 90-degree angle; stifles well bent; hocks well let down with short, strong rear pasterns. Feet as in front. Legs straight when viewed from rear. Cow-hocks, spread hocks, and sickle hocks to be faulted.

COAT: Dense and water repellent with good undercoat. Outer coat firm and resilient, neither coarse nor silky, lying close to body; may be straight or wavy. Untrimmed natural ruff; moderate feathering on back of forelegs and on under-body; heavier feathering on front of neck, back of thighs and underside of tail.

Coat on head, paws and front of legs is short and even. Excessive length, open coats and limp, soft coats are very undesirable. Feet may be trimmed and stray hairs neatened, but the natural appearance of coat or outline should not be altered by cutting or clipping.

COLOR: Rich, lustrous golden of various shades. Feathering may be lighter than rest of coat. With the exception of graying or whitening of face or body due to age, any white marking, other than a few white hairs on the chest, should be penalized according to its extent. 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. Any noticeable area of black or other off-color hair is a serious fault.

GAIT: When trotting, gait is free, smooth, powerful and well co-ordinated, showing good reach. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance. It is recommended that dogs be shown on a loose lead to reflect true gait.

TEMPERAMENT: Friendly, reliable and trustworthy. Quarrelsomeness or hostility towards other dogs or people in normal situations, or an unwarranted show of timidity or nervousness, is not in keeping with Golden Retriever character. Such actions should be penalized according to their significance.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

1. Deviation in height of more than one inch from standard either way.
2. Undershot or overshot bite.

CANADA BREED STANDARD **Canadian Kennel Club**

Courtesy of GRCC

GENERAL APPEARANCE: A symmetrical, powerful, active dog, sound and well put together, not clumsy or long in the leg, displaying a kindly expression and possessing a personality that is eager, alert and self-confident. Primarily a hunting dog, he should be shown in hard working condition. Over-all appearance, balance, gait and purpose to be given more emphasis than any of his component parts.

TEMPERAMENT: Friendly, reliable, trustworthy. Hostility or aggressiveness towards other dogs or

“Victory is sweetest when you have known defeat.”

Malcolm Forbes

people, undue timidity or nervousness in normal situations is not in keeping with the character of the Golden Retriever. Dogs displaying poor temperament should be excused from the ring.

SIZE: Males, 23-24 inches (58-62 cm.) in height at withers; females, 21 ½- 22 ½ inches (55-57 cm.). Length from breastbone to buttocks slightly greater than height at withers in ratio of 12:11.

Weight for dogs, 65-75 lb. (29-34 kg); bitches, 60-70 lb. (27-32 kg.)

COAT AND COLOUR: Dense and water repellent with good undercoat. Texture not as hard as that of a short-haired dog nor silky as that of a Setter. Lies flat against body and may be straight or wavy. Moderate feathering on back of forelegs and heavier feathering on front of neck, back of thighs and underside of tail. Feathering may be lighter than rest of coat. Excessive length, open coats or limp, soft coats are undesirable. The natural appearance of coat or outline should not be altered by cutting or clipping, other than the trimming of the feet and neatening of stray hairs. Colour lustrous golden of various shades. A few white hairs on chest permissible but not desirable. Further white markings to be faulted except for greying or whitening of the face or body due to age. Any noticeable area of black or other off-colour hair to be faulted.

HEAD: Broad in skull, slightly arched laterally and longitudinally without prominence of frontal or occiput bones. Good stop. Foreface deep and wide, nearly as long as skull. Muzzle, when viewed in profile, slightly deeper at stop than at tip; when viewed from above, slightly wider at stop than at tip. No heaviness in flews. Removal of whiskers for show purposes optional. Nose black or dark brown, though lighter shade in cold weather not serious. Teeth scissors bite with lower incisors touching inside of upper incisors. Full dentition. Obvious gaps created by missing teeth to be faulted. Eyes friendly and intelligent, medium large with dark, close-fitting rims, set well apart and reasonably deep in sockets. Colour preferably dark brown, never lighter than colour of coat. No white or haw visible when looking straight ahead. Dogs showing evidence of a functional abnormality of the eyelids or eyelashes (such as, but not limited to, trichiasis, entropion, ectropion or distichiasis) are to be excused from the ring. Ears rather short, hanging flat against head with rounded tips slightly below jaw. Forward edge attached well behind and just above eye with rear edge slightly below eye.

NECK: Medium long, sloping well back into shoulders, giving sturdy muscular appearance with untrimmed natural ruff. No throatiness.

FOREQUARTERS: Forequarters muscular, well co-ordinated with hindquarters and capable of free movement. Should blades wide, long and well laid back, showing angulation with upper arm of approximately 90 degrees. Should blade and upper arm (humerus) should be approximately equal in length, setting close fitting elbows back beneath the upper tip of the shoulder blades. Legs straight with good bone. Pastern short and strong, sloping slightly forward with no suggestion of weakness.

BODY: Topline level from withers to croup, whether standing or moving. Well balanced, short coupled, deep through the heart. Chest at least as wide and well sprung but not barrel shaped, extending well to rear of body. Loin short, muscular, wide and deep, with very little tuck-up. Croup slopes gently.

HINDQUARTERS: Well bent stifles (angulation between femur and pelvis approximately 90 degrees) with hocks well let down. Legs straight when viewed from rear. Feet medium size, round and compact with thick pads. Excessive hair may be trimmed to show natural size and contour.

TAIL: Well set on, neither too high nor too low, following natural line of croup. Length extends to hock. Carried with merry actions with some upward curve but never curled over back or between legs.

GAIT: When trotting, gait is free, smooth, powerful, and well co-ordinated. Viewed from front or rear, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet dross or interfere with each other. Increased speed causes tendency of feet to converge toward centreline of gravity.

FAULTS: White markings beyond a few hairs on chest. Dudley nose (pink without pigmentation). Low, hound-like ear-set. Slab-sidedness, narrow chest, lack of depth in brisket, excessive tuck-up, roach or sway back. Cowhocks and sickle hocks. Open or splayed feet.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

1. Deviations in height of more than 1 inch (3 cm) from standard either way.
2. Undershot or overshot jaws. This conditions not to be confused with misalignment of teeth.
3. Trichiasis (abnormal position or direction of eyelashes).

Acknowledgement: Acknowledgement is made to the Kennel Club (UK), The ANKC (Australia), The NZKC (New Zealand), The Golden Retriever Club of America and The Golden Retriever Club of Canada for their kind permission in allowing the Breed Standards to be published in this book.

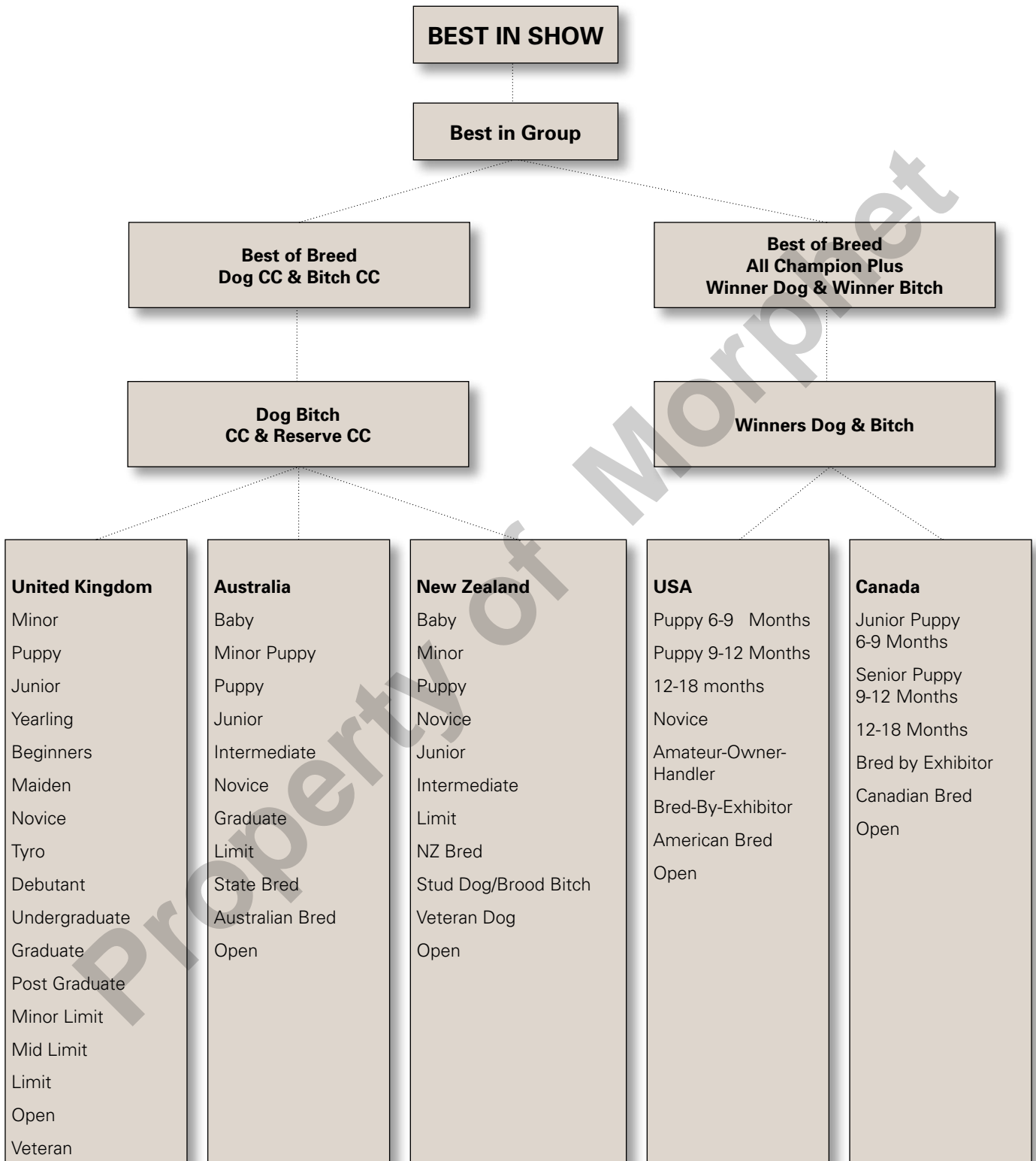
Without detailed understanding of the Standard a breeder is doomed to long term failure and I am amazed at the number of so-called authorities and self styled experts who have rarely, if ever, taken the time to learn the Standard. By learning I do not mean the ability to recite the Standard in parrot fashion, which is neither useful nor necessary, but rather the ability to see what the Standard seeks, and an understanding of how this relates to the live animal. If some breeders spent as much time and energy in understanding and applying the Standard to their own breeding operations as they do vilifying the dogs of other breeders we might not only have a better ring-side atmosphere but also better dogs within the ring.

M B Willis (1977)

The German Shepherd Dog, Its History, Development and Genetics.

Path to Glory

Figure 1.7



“Losing is not the end of the world. It is just the end of the day.”

Unknown

1.2 – Structure of Shows by Country

Organisation of Shows for Golden Retrievers in the UK

by *Christine A Morrell (Crowshott)*

Dog showing is the most popular form of canine competition in this country; taking place all year round at both indoor and outdoor venues. There are various levels of competition from the very informal village “fun show” to the prestigious “Crufts” event. The vast majority of shows are Licensed by the Kennel Club and held under KC Rules & Regulations. At the lowest level are Companion Dog shows, often run to raise funds for charity; these are open to both KC registered and unregistered dogs. Then, many shows every year are held by small, general Canine Societies, which can provide a good learning ground for both new Exhibitors and new Judges either at ‘Matches’ or ‘Limited’ shows, run for club members only; or at ‘Open’ shows, open to all exhibitors. By comparison with the Single Breed club shows, the general shows will schedule relatively few classes for each breed plus some “Any Variety” classes; whereas a Breed Club show is likely to schedule many classes either for Dogs or for Bitches; and to attract a large entry of keen and experienced competitors. At the highest level of competition, are the Championship shows where Challenge Certificates (CCs) are offered: and exhibitors of Golden Retrievers in the UK are very fortunate to be able to attend a Championship Show almost every week of the year.

Currently, in 2010, there are 45 Championship shows for Goldens: 25 general All-Breed shows; one each for the National Gundog Association, Gundog Breeds of Scotland, Gundog Society of Wales, Scottish Breeds Canine Club and the United Retriever Club; as well as Boston & District Canine Society, which from 2007 was awarded Championship status for several breeds at its Premier Open Show. Also, the 13 Golden Retriever Clubs each have their own show; and from

2009 a new additional “Joint Golden Retriever Clubs’ Championship Show” was introduced which the Clubs will take turns to host each year.

All of these shows provide the opportunity to win a coveted CC (it takes three CC wins under 3 different Judges to become a Show Champion): they are spread throughout the year and held in all regions of England, Wales, Scotland and N Ireland. Apart from just a few held beforehand, all are held after Crufts, “The Greatest Dog Show in the World”, which is held early in March and starts off the show season proper.

General Championship shows take place over 3 or 4 days and typically may draw an entry of about 220 Goldens; but you will usually find more than this at a Breed Club show, often around 350 - 400: these are held on one day only and often judged by Breed specialists - the Entry fees are significantly lower, too.

At Crufts in 2010, the entry was 260 Dogs and 229 Bitches, together making a total of 576 entries over all the classes - the biggest of all of the breeds.

It is everyone’s dream to stand on the ‘green carpet’ at Crufts; and not always easy to get there as dogs have to qualify to enter by winning 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in certain classes (*) at the other Championship shows.

(*) Minor Puppy, Puppy, Junior, Yearling, Post Graduate, Limit, Open and Veteran.

Our wonderfully unpredictable weather in the UK means that although shows in the summer are planned to be held outdoors; facilities for wet weather generally are also provided either in large marquees or in permanent buildings. Very occasionally, the temperature may be so hot that judging takes place under cover in the shade; but this is a rare event!

Those Clubs holding shows in the winter will use an indoor venue such as a sports centre or halls at a (agricultural) showground. The general Championship



Best Veteran In Show - URC Championship Show 2005.



An Open Show in Summer.

shows also provide benching areas indoors where the dogs are expected to stay unless being exhibited or exercised. Club shows, however, now are all unbenched and in general people may freely sit ringside together with their dogs.

For a Championship show, the Club first applies for "Championship Show status" and after this has been confirmed by the KC, the Licence may then be applied for. This is held in the name of the Club Secretary; but other officers, the Chairman and Treasurer and three other Committee members must agree to act as Guarantors to the KC – they are responsible for ensuring that the show is conducted in a proper manner in accordance with the KC Show Regulations.

These regulations are all set out in detail in the annual KC Year Book and cover aspects such as documentation (as well as the Licence, the Club must also have Public Liability Insurance cover); information required in the Schedule, Entry form and Catalogue; general facilities (ring sizes, gangways, benching, veterinary support); rules governing the preparation and exhibition of Dogs; Judges and judging procedures; Stewards' duties; the order in which awards should be given (and forfeit of awards if a dog is subsequently disqualified); and definitions of classes. To assist everyone concerned, the KC publishes booklets such as the Code of Best Practice for Judges; Code of Best Practice for the Selection of Judges; and a Guide for Judges & Ring Stewards. All these are available on-line on the KC website: <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk>

With just a few exceptions, at all of the Championship shows there is always one Judge for Dogs and another for Bitches, plus a third Judge appointed as Referee; and both the Judges and Referee have to be approved by the KC. In the case of a Judge being appointed to award CCs for the first time at a Championship show, then the KC consult the Breed Clubs for their opinion prior to

granting the appointment. Also, on the day, the Judge will be assessed by a senior judge in the breed who will report back to the KC on their competence in judging procedures and ring management. For a Club show, Judges usually are selected by a Ballot of the Club's members.

Some months prior to the Show, the Club will produce the Schedule which would be sent to all Club members as well as to Exhibitors at the previous shows. It also is likely to be advertised generally in the specialist dog newspapers and may be given out at other shows. These days, it is also possible to download schedules and sometimes to enter on-line via the printers' websites. Closing date for entries into a Breed Club show may be 4-5 weeks prior to the Show; whereas for major All-Breeds Championship shows it can be 8 weeks beforehand.

The Schedule must give the definitions of the classes available: for the younger dogs there are a number of Age restricted classes; and after this are the many Qualification restricted classes, where eligibility to enter depends on the awards previously won. Entry is not limited to just one class - you can enter as many classes as your dog is eligible for and that you wish to compete in. All dogs can enter the Open class regardless of age or previous wins. Kennel Club class definitions for Championship and Open shows are:

Minor Puppy: For dogs of 6 and not exceeding 9 calendar months of age on the first day of the Show.

Puppy: For dogs of 6 and not exceeding 12 calendar months of age on the first day of the Show.

Junior: For dogs of 6 and not exceeding 18 calendar months of age on the first day of the Show.

Yearling: For dogs of 12 and not exceeding 24 calendar months of age on the first day of the Show.

Beginners: For owner, handler or exhibit not having won a first prize at any Show.

Maiden: For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or a First Prize at an Open or Championship show (Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).

Novice: For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or 3 or more First Prizes at Open and Championship Shows (Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).

Tyro: For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or 5 or more First Prizes at Open and Championship Shows (Minor Puppy, Special Minor



Open Show judging.

Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).

Debutant: For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or a First Prize at a Championship Show where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed. (Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).

Under Graduate: For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or 3 or more First Prizes at Championship Shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed (Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).

Graduate: For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or 4 or more First Prizes at Championship Shows in Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open classes, whether restricted or not or where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

Post Graduate: For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or 5 or more First Prizes at Championship Shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open classes, whether restricted or not or where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

Minor Limit: For dogs which have not won 2 Challenge Certificates or 3 or more First Prizes in all at Championship Shows in Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not at Shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

Mid Limit: For dogs which have not become show Champions under Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Kennel Club or won 5 or more First Prizes in all at Championship Shows in Mid Limit, Limit or Open classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not, at shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

Limit: For dogs which have not become show Champions under Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Kennel Club or won 7 or more First Prizes in all, at Championship Shows in Limit or Open classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not, at shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

Open: For all dogs of the breed for which the class is provided and eligible for entry at the Show.

Veteran: For dogs of not less than 7 years of age on the first day of the Show.

Not all of these classes would be scheduled at a single show, but usually a selection of perhaps 4 or 5 at an Open Show and 8 or 10 for each sex at a Championship show. Breed Club shows must have at least 12 classes including Open but often schedule more such as Maiden, Novice and Under Graduate, where an exhibitor can enter a young dog as a 'repeat entry' – class wins can be used to gain points towards the 'Junior Warrant' (which gives a KC 'Stud Book number' and qualifies a dog for life to enter Crufts).

There are also a number of other classes defined by the KC; not all are appropriate for Golden Retrievers, but some of those which are, include:

Field Trial: For dogs which have won prizes, Diplomas of Merit or Certificates of Merit in actual competition at a Field Trial held under Kennel Club or Irish Kennel Club Field Trial Regulations.

Brace (and Team): For two (or three or more) exhibits (same or sex mixed) of one breed belonging to the same exhibitor, each exhibit having been entered in some class other than Brace or Team.

In addition to all of this, the official class definition may be altered and the class designated as a "Special": e.g. Special Puppy could be for dogs aged 6 -15 months. Commonly for Golden Retrievers it is "Special Veteran - for dogs over 9 years old" rather than 'Veteran' which is for 7 years and above. Although it should be noted that such changes to a 'Special' means that the class is no longer a qualifier for Crufts.

Also, there may be some 'made up' classes e.g. "Special Working" for holders of Working Test awards and/or a Show Gundog Working Certificate.

Not many 'show' Goldens are worked, so such classes will have a fairly small entry but even fewer today have won Field Trial awards and so, very often there is a zero entry in the Field Trial classes.



Judging at a Working Test.

There are many other examples, so it always pays to read the definitions in the Schedule for each Show to make sure your dog is eligible for a particular class.

On the day of the show, judging generally starts in the morning at around 9.30am or 10.00am, sometimes earlier, and continues well into the afternoon. At a Championship show with two Judges, each Judge would have their own ring for either Dogs or Bitches; judging is carried out simultaneously in both rings. Each Judge will be assisted usually by two Stewards who call the exhibitors into their classes: check those present, record the results, and generally ensure that the proceedings run smoothly.

There always are at least four class places for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Reserve. Some of the Club shows go through to 7th place in recognition of the large entries, giving awards for Very Highly Commended, Highly Commended and Commended. Prize cards would be given out to all of these winners as well as Rosettes: red for first, blue for second, yellow for third and green for fourth, being the standard colours. Especially at Club shows, there are usually many Cups and Trophies on offer to the winners and sometimes prize money too. As each class finishes, the Judge will write a critique on the first and sometimes second place winners and these reports are then published in the specialist dog newspapers a few weeks later.

Often at a Club show, judging will be suspended for ½-1 hour at lunchtime, giving everyone a chance to socialise with friends and exercise their dogs. Sometimes Clubs will have a Parade of Champions

during this break or perhaps a demonstration of Golden Retrievers performing ‘Obedience’ or ‘Heelwork to Music’ disciplines.

Some of the Clubs also hold Obedience shows and even an Agility competition in conjunction with their Breed shows.

At the end of judging at a Championship show; for both Dogs and Bitches, all “unbeaten dogs” - class winners not beaten in subsequent classes - will be called back into the ring for the “Challenge”. Lined up in Class order, the Judge may sometimes ask the dogs to be moved again before awarding the Challenge Certificate. Usually, the dog placed second behind the CC winner will then be invited into the ring to compete for the Reserve CC.

Both the Dog CC and Bitch CC winners then will be invited into the dog ring to compete for Best of Breed. Often the Referee is called in at this point to adjudicate as the Judges cannot agree which is the better of the two dogs. At Club shows, the BOB will be the “Best In Show”; and the Reserve BIS could be either the opposite sex CC winner or the Reserve CC winner to the BOB. For the puppies, the procedure is similar; Minor Puppy and Puppy class winners will compete for Best Puppy Dog (or Bitch); then the two best puppies compete for Best Puppy in Breed (or BP In Show). Often, Breed Clubs also give special awards such as Best Opposite Sex; and Best Veteran.

At a general show, the BOB winners will go forward to compete for places in the Gundog group; and the



Judging in two rings at a Championship show.



In order Bitch CC, Reserve BCC and Best Puppy Bitch at a Championship Show.



Agility display.



Winners at a Breed Obedience Open Show.

Group winners subsequently go head to head for Best in Show. Although they may do well at Open Shows, it's a rare occurrence for a Golden Retriever to achieve a Group place at an all breeds Championship show. However, in a breed with such a large number of dogs creating strong competition, any win or place is a special achievement, whatever the show.

Note: in general the term "dog" refers to either a Dog or a Bitch.

Additional explanations regarding Titles

A Golden Retriever is entitled to be described as a *Show Champion (ShCh)* when it has been awarded 3 Challenge Certificates under three different judges at 3 different Championship shows at least one of which must be after the dog is aged 12 months.

Relatively few Golden Retrievers achieve 'Full Champion' status which requires a bench (show) Champion additionally to provide credible proof of its natural working ability.

The title *Champion (Ch)* may be used by a Golden Retriever that has fulfilled the requirements of Show Champion and has obtained either an Award (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th) or Certificate of Merit at a Field Trial or a Show Gundog Working Certificate - this latter being the more usual route.

Junior Warrant (JW): is an award that can be achieved by young dogs between the ages of 6 and 18 months; but is only available to those breeds that have CCs at Championship shows. So Golden Retrievers are eligible but minority 'Rare breeds' are not. The dog must gain 25 points in total from wins in Breed classes. Currently this must include a minimum of 3 points from Championship Shows and 3 points from Open Shows. A class win at a Championship show is worth 3 points and at an Open show 1 point: points may only be won if more than three dogs are present in the class. So a promising youngster could win a number of classes at the same show and quickly gain its points - but another dog might end just 1 or 2 points short.

Dogs achieving a Junior Warrant become entitled to use "JW" letters after their name; and the big bonus is that they also are awarded a KC Stud Book number, which gives lifetime qualification to enter Crufts.

In recent years, the KC have run a competition for JW winners: with a high number of dogs achieving a JW, a series of qualifying heats are held around the country during August/September by General Canine Societies scheduling Open shows. The five dogs going through from each heat, subsequently will be invited to the semi-finals in November at the "Discover Dogs" event, with ten finalists being selected to compete at Crufts Dog Show the following March. A Golden Retriever was

crowned the Winner of the KC Junior Warrant final in 1999.

There is also another award that can be added as a suffix to a dog's title; but which is achieved through wins at Open Shows only.

Show Certificate of Merit (ShCM): is quite new and only points won on /after the 1 January 2003 may be counted towards this award. Again, a dog has to obtain 25 points which may be won at General and Group Open Shows; with a minimum of 5 points that must be won in Group Competition.

The scale of points is as follows: 5 points for Best in Show; 4 points for Single Group Best in Show or Group winner at a multi-Group show; and 3 points for second, 2 points for third, 1 point for fourth in Group at a multi-Group show. Best of Breed gets 1 point (or for minority breeds, 1 point for Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified); but Puppy Group placings do not gain points.

A number of Golden Retrievers have achieved this award since it was introduced:

Photographic credits:

Photographs supplied by the Author (1, 4, 6); and with thanks to Mr Brian Booth (2, 3, 5, 7, 8).

A word from Ms Christine Morrell (December 2010)

Christine, please tell us a little about your interest in Goldens.

I have been owned by Goldens since 1997, is a relatively short time compared with many people. Our very first dog was intended only to be a family pet; but after getting the second, I became interested in showing, going firstly to Companion Dog shows, then progressing to Open and Championship shows. The thrills of qualifying him for Crufts for the first time and gaining his Stud Book number remain with me and I won't forget his ultimate achievement of being awarded Best Veteran In Show at the United Retriever Club Championship Show in 2005, by Mrs Valerie Foss.

Currently I have two dogs aged 2½ yrs and 8 yrs; and a bitch of nearly 11 years old. With her I tried a little Obedience, Agility and Gundog work before breeding my only litter. By then I knew that I should like a good looking dog capable of doing the job for which Goldens were originally intended and am most fortunate to have bred one. He has had a successful show career starting with gaining a Junior Warrant whilst still a Puppy; winning multiple Championship Show firsts as an adult, including at Crufts; and continuing through to Best Veteran In Show at a breed club Championship Show this year. Also, he is a working gundog during

the season, picking-up on shoots; and has competed in Working Tests and Field Trials. He has his Show Gundog Working Certificate and is one of a few dogs to have completed the new KC scheme for the Working Gundog Certificate on both dummies and live game.

After having given a retirement home to a 14½ yr old bitch from Field Trial stock, it was time to bring in the next puppy. He goes back to old lines in the Breed and delighted by achieving the KC Good Citizen Scheme bronze award at just 5 mths old. Although shown only lightly so far, he has been in the cards at Championship shows and is proving to be an enthusiastic worker in the field.

Four years ago, I was elected as Secretary of the Golden Retriever Breed Council, an umbrella organisation which brings together all of the Golden Retriever Clubs in the UK to express their collective views; and for some time prior to this, had served as Secretary to one of the regional clubs, which provided invaluable experience.

New Zealand

Courtesy of Gaye Nelson (Sandlewood)

A Show Champion is made up by winning 8 Challenge Certificates under at least 5 different judges, and one of those CC's must be won after the age of 12 months so that we do not have the possibility of making up a Puppy as a Champion. It is only straight out challenges that count, no points by entry as in Australia. A Grand Champion has to win 50 challenges plus 3 ALL BREEDS Best In Show wins and those BIS wins have to be under three different judges. The title of Grand Champion was made available to us in approximately 1988.

As for shows there are the normal breed, group and all-breeds breakdown for shows at championship, open and ribbon parade levels. A Champion cannot be shown at a ribbon parade but can be shown at Open Shows. Challenges are awarded at Championship Shows only. Spayed and neutered dogs can be shown at Specialty



GRC NZ November 2009 Mother Margaret Hean and daughter Rebecca handling sister and brother. BIS NZ Ch Inniscroft Diamonds R Trumps and RUIS NZ Ch Inniscroft Sky With Diamonds by NZ & Aust Ch Kaparla Loch Invar out of Charterball Silver Rose. Bred and owned by Mrs M Kerr. Photo courtesy of Topshotz.

Breed shows although the decision to allow that is left to the discretion of the individual clubs and must be stated on the show schedule beforehand. De-sexed dogs are also shown at ribbon parades but not at Open or Championship shows except when they are over 7 years of age and then they can be shown in Stakes classes at those shows.

These classes are at Specialist's shows only.

Class No. 1: 'Baby Puppy Dog' - No. 1a 'Baby Puppy Bitch' (For dogs or bitches three calendar months and under six months of age, on the first day of the show).

Class No. 2: 'Minor Puppy Dog' - No. 2a 'Minor Puppy Bitch' (For dogs or bitches six and under nine months of age on the first day of the show).

Class No. 3: 'Puppy Dog' - No. 3a 'Puppy Bitch' (For dogs or bitches six and under twelve months of age on the first day of the show).

Class No. 4: 'Novice Dog' - No. 4a 'Novice Bitch' (For Novice dogs that have not won a first prize except in a Baby Puppy Class under six months of age at any Open or Championship Show, up to the time of closing of general entries at any Recognised Show whatsoever).

Class No. 5: 'Junior Dog' - No. 5a 'Junior Bitch' (For dogs or bitches twelve and under twenty four months of age on the first day of the show).

Class No. 6: 'Intermediate Dog' - No. 6a 'Intermediate Bitch' (For dogs or bitches twenty four months of age and under thirty six months of age on the first day of the show).

Class No. 7: 'Limit Dog' - No. 7a 'Limit Bitch' (For dogs or bitches which have not won more than four Challenge Certificates up to the time of closing of general entries at any Recognised Championship Show. Overseas Champions cannot compete in Limit Class in New Zealand).

Class No. 8: 'New Zealand Bred Dog' - 'New Zealand Bred Bitch' (For dogs or bitches born in New Zealand six months of age and over on the first day of the show).

Class No. 9: 'Stud Dog' (For dogs which have sired one or more registered litters) - No. 9a 'Brood Bitch' (For bitches which have whelped one or more registered litters).

Class No. 10: 'Veteran Dog' - No. 10a 'Veteran Bitch' (For dogs or bitches seven years or over on the first day of the show).

Class No. 11: 'Open Dog' - No 11a 'Open Bitch' (For dogs or bitches six months of age and over on the first day of the show).

At an All Breeds show they are limited to Baby Puppy Class, Puppy Class, Junior Class, Intermediate Class,

New Zealand Bred, Class, Open Class. To gain a Championship title in NZ you need to win 8 CC's under 5 different judges & must win one CC out of the puppy class. eg a puppy cannot get titled even with 8 CC's. To gain a Grand Championship title you need to win 50 CC's and 3 Best In Shows at All breeds Championship Show level under 3 different judges.

Canada

In order to attain a Canadian championship, a dog must earn 10 points under at least 3 different judges.

CKC does not require two majors like the AKC does. The winner of each class (in each sex) competes for Winners Dog (best male) or Winners Bitch (best female) and these are the only two dogs to earn championship points. The Winners Dog and Bitch both enter the ring for Best of Breed to compete with the Specials, the dogs that are already champions. The two Winners also compete for Best of Winners and can earn additional points with this award by totalling the number of dogs in class competition. Dogs placing in group can earn additional points towards their championship if they place first through fourth to a maximum of 5 points in any one show.

Australia

Male dogs of a certain breed are shown in different age classes eg. Baby Puppy (3-6 months), Minor Puppy (6-9 months), Puppy (9-12 months), Junior (9 months and under 18 months of age), Intermediate (1.5 years to 3yrs), Aust Bred (over 6 months), Open (6 months-on). All dogs over the age of 6 months which win 1st place in these classes, go in for best male dog, the best male dog in that breed is awarded a Challenge Certificate worth 5 points plus 1 point for all dogs over the age of 6 months. The same is repeated for females to obtain the Bitch Challenge winner. Once they have the Dog and Bitch Challenge winner, they go head to head to obtain the Best of Breed winner. The Best of Breed winner will win a further 1 point for each dog of the opposite sex over 6 months of age.

For example, if there are 10 male dogs entered in a show over the age of 6 months, and 5 females over the age of 6 months, the Best Male will receive 15 points and the best Bitch will get 10 points, if the male is the best of breed winner he will be awarded 20 points in total. And the bitch remains with her 10 points.

A maximum of 25 points can be won at any one show Australian Ch. – 100 points under 4 different judges with 25 points had to be won after the age of 12mths. The title of Australian Grand Champion came into being in 1998. Titles were granted to those dogs which had a tally of 1000 points. After 1 January 2010 the qualifications for an Australian Grand Championship is due to change to the following. 1000 points including

one All Breeds Best in Show or four Best Exhibit in Groups or four certificates of 25 points (Group, Best of Breed or Challenge). There are many shows held throughout the year in all states of Australia. Specialty Championship shows are held annually in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia and twice yearly in NSW. A major win at a Royal Show is also prized, especially if it is at the Melbourne or Sydney Royal.

Gaining a Championship in the USA

Winners dog and winners bitch are the awards which carry points toward the US Championship time. These points are based on the number of dogs or bitches actually in competition and points are scaled one to five (with five being the greatest number at any one show). Three, four and five points are considered majors. A dog must obtain a minimum of two majors under two different judges plus at least one point from a third judge and the additional points necessary to bring the total to fifteen. Once fifteen points have been attained the title of American Champion is awarded.

Gaining a title in Ireland: Green Star System

The classes for dogs are Puppy, Junior, Intermediate, Open, Champion, Veteran and Field Trial. All class winners will compete for the Green Star provided they have been graded excellent. The same applies to the bitches. 7 Green Stars are required to gain the title of Irish Champion. However, one Green Star must be obtained after the age of 15 months.



Rbhannon Upsall aged 14 with Aust Ch Standndeliva Devil Inside by Aust Ch Alnclair Anzac Edward out of Aust Ch Bozgold Waltzing Matilda winning BIS at GRC NSW 2010. Bred and owned by R & J Upsall. Photo courtesy of R Upsall.

1.3 – Showing and Handling Around the World

Well known breeders in several countries were asked their opinion on the following:

Goldens are shown differently around the world. How do you like to see the Golden handled?

Here are their responses:-

Mrs Sawtell (UK) On a loose lead at a moderate pace, with a controlled trot.

Mrs Foss (UK) With sympathy and understanding.

Mrs Iles (UK) On a loose lead naturally.

Mr Philpott (UK) It is up to the handler to display the dog either “stacked” or “standing free”. I prefer the latter as the dog can be “itself” and show off the good points – good handling can disguise faults.

Mrs Gilbert (UK) “I like to see a dog stand itself, without being manhandled into place, as it comes to a halt after moving. I like to see the lead totally slack when the dog is moving so that I can assess the movement of the dog as it carries its own weight on all 4 feet and see how it holds its head and topline. Otherwise, however the handler feels they can get the most out of their dog is fine with me, provided it doesn’t interfere with any one else.

Mrs Taft (USA) I like a Golden to be moved on a loose lead at a moderate speed. It is advantageous to see how they handle themselves when they stop naturally, hopefully with a happy attitude.

Mrs Pam Oxenburg (USA) LOOSE LEAD NOT with a handler artificially forcing the dog’s head up, on a two inch tight lead, to give a flashier appearance, hide a bad front with no reach, and tighten a back line from bouncing and rolling.

Jeffrey Pepper (USA) I prefer to see a Golden stand naturally so I am able to clearly assess its structure. Movement should be on a loose lead. However, I do not have a problem if people elect to pose their dogs as I understand the style and thus won’t fight it. But I do not like to see the dog yanked and cranked into position. Judges can often be fooled by this. I would say only 15% of Goldens have professional handlers and these would account for approximately 50% of the wins. It depends of course who is judging.

Karin Klouman (Canada) I prefer a Golden to be handled as naturally as possible, with the handler kneeling and presenting the dog in a relaxed stack (just holding the head and tail) . I also like to see a Golden being free-baited, in a natural stand. I would much

*Mrs Barbara Joseph with her
Aust Ch Baradav Iwoodream by
Aust Ch Goldfleece Knock On Wood
(AI) out of Aust Ch Baradav Dream
Come True. Bred and owned by
Mrs B Joseph. Photo Ingrid Matschke.*



prefer to see all Golden Retrievers moved loosely on leash, at a moderate speed. I intensely dislike the commonly seen fad of “stringing up the dog” on the stack and also on the move.

Ainslie Mills (Canada) Golden Retrievers should be shown naturally and moved easily on a loose lead. I like to see them free standing at some point, but do not object to hand stacking as long as the dog is not strung up. They should not be raced around the ring at high speed but moved easily at a natural pace for the dog.

Lynne Hennessy (UK) A question often asked. To stack or free stand? The answer is always the same and indeed quite simple, It’s the way that dogs look best! To add to this a Golden should always be handled positively and with great confidence, sympathetically and not too hands on. They are more tuned in to their handler than any other Breed.

Mr Bob Marshall (Australia) Golden Retrievers, as with any exhibit, should be handled in a way that would present the exhibit, to its best possible advantage.

Sandra Patterson (Australia) Either “head and tailed” or free standing wagging. I hate to see them strung up.

Beryl Hession (Australia) I like to see them handled on a loose lead moving around the ring at a pace showing good reach and drive. When stacked nothing looks more lovely than to see a Golden with head held up showing flowing neck into shoulders, with level topline and tail showing beautiful feathering, finalising the picture. Or, a dog free stacking, ears alert, looking intelligent and wagging its tail.

Mrs Phillipson (Australia) Golden Retrievers should be handled on a loose lead when moving and the movement should be strong and steady, calm relaxed dog, well stood without fussing and without baiting.

Mr Alan Robertson (Australia) I do not like overhandling when showing in line. When moving I prefer a moderate pace, maybe faster or slower depending on the requirement to obtain best to suit individual dogs.

Mrs Dick (New Zealand) In the English manner with a loose choker and not strung up.

Mrs Curry (New Zealand) On a loose lead, moving freely, standing freely, with tail waving softly.

Gaye Nelson (New Zealand) On a loose lead preferably and stacked as naturally as possible though I appreciate some Golden Retrievers cannot be shown like this.

Mrs Hean (New Zealand) I am happy to have Golden Retrievers either stacked or free stood for me. I do like to see them shown on a loose lead, but do understand that sometimes that is difficult if you are handling an exuberant youngster. Probably my ideal would be a dog who stacked themselves and stood happily tail wagging.



A young Jody Foulds at Brisbane Royal 1983 with Ch Leoline Golden Dorcas by Aust Ch Deremar Duke (Imp UK) out of Aust Ch Leoline Golden Crystal bred by Mrs V Reid, owned by Mrs S Sullivan and Mrs B Barbour.



Aust Ch Imatriever Imacutie by Aust Ch Alubyc Tullymorgan out of Aust Ch Alubyc Mystery Girl owned and bred by Mr & Mrs S Careless with Danny Careless (Qld). Photo courtesy of Mayfoto.



Showing in the US. Photo courtesy of Linda Willard.

Mrs Holm Hansen (Europe) As freely as possible. I prefer him to be free standing, looking devotedly at his handler (hoping for that tidbit) moving easily and happily at the side of his handler with a balanced gait. The speed with which he moves, is in my opinion of no importance.

Golden Retriever judges around the world were also asked the following :-

Please can you tell us about the differences, if any, in the Goldens you have judged in various countries? Do different countries have different problems?

Mrs Taft (USA) In America, we have many different styles of Goldens, sometimes overly presented and over groomed. Judges and exhibitors seem to favour a flashy dog, a showman. Quite often an excellent example is overlooked as they may appear “different”, the “different” one being the more correct. Good fronts are not seen often enough but rears and conditioning are superior. Long loins and short legs seem to be a problem worldwide. In NZ, the style is more consistent. Good fronts and heads are not difficult to find. Bites are better than in the US, with fewer dropped incisors. The coats are shown more naturally and therefore easier to



Judge Mrs Jill Pearson (Australia) with Aust Gr Ch & NZ Ch & Aust ET Winterlea Son of a Kiwi (Imp NZ) by NZ Ch Stanroph Super Scott (Imp UK) out of NZ Ch Winterlea Wink n Blink, bred by M Saunders owned by M Rennie and Gr Ch Imatrievier Karubian Jule by Aust Ch Alubyc Dakota out of Aust Ch Imatrievier Imacutie, bred by Mr & Mrs S Careless owned by B Kent. Two lovely handlers with two lovely dogs. Photo courtesy of Mrs Sullivan.



Winners at GRC of QLD with judge Mr Wayne Pearson (Australia). Photo courtesy of Rod Scott.

assess as being correct with proper undercoat. Handling could be improved.

Ainslie Mills (Canada) I have judged throughout North America and in Australia and New Zealand. I have attended Crufts, Windsor and the GRC Specialty in England. The major differences are between North America and overseas countries and my comments should be taken very generally. England, Europe, Australia and New Zealand seem to offer better Breed type, heads, pigment, toplines, body and coat than seen in North America. Generally, North American dogs have better movement, rear quarters, moderation, showmanship and presentation. Canada has a blend of English, Scandinavian and American influences, so we actually see a bit of both worlds. I think most places are dealing with issues of poor front assemblies and correct proportion. The dogs I placed at the Australian National in 2004 gave me an overall impression of nice Breed type with lovely heads and pigment, nice solid toplines, decent front assemblies and good coats. Many rears were close moving by North American standards. In England many of the dogs appeared longer cast to my eye and less athletic on the move. The head types there varied from lovely to somewhat overdone or coarse to my eye. Coat type and texture on overseas dogs has generally been superior to those at home, whether by nature or grooming. Many North American dogs are weak in head, front assembly and topline. Many of the overseas dogs have lovely spring of rib and depth of body which is often lacking in North American Goldens (or covered up by hair instead of substance). I have seen wonderful Goldens around the world that would succeed in any show ring in any country. They are the dogs that meet the standard in every way and are what we all should be striving to attain.

Jill Pearson (Australia) Through our judging, we have been honoured to judge numerous Golden Retriever Specialty Club Shows and have been privileged to be invited to judge in Finland, Sweden, New Zealand, South Korea and every state of Australia. Throughout these countries, we have experienced vast differences in Breed type. In Finland and Sweden, we encountered very strong English style Golden Retrievers displaying excellent Breed type with kindly expressions and correct overall balance whilst in South Korea there was a very definite American and Japanese influence on the Breed there.

Mrs Sawtell (UK) Sad to see so many cream and white Goldens in all countries.

Mrs Iles (UK) Basically they are the same. The FCI do have rigid regulations which differ from ours.

Mrs Schlehr (USA) I've only seen shows in the US, Canada, Bermuda, and the UK, read/heard about

others. Aside from differing classes and differing requirements to earn a Champion title, overall they aren't terribly different. Of course classes at Championship Shows in the UK are far larger than at most shows in North America (except a few of our Specialty shows) and generally have specialist judges, while specialist judges in the US are few and far between. As for the means by which titles are earned, each country will use what works best for them. In the US at least, having the champions compete separately from non-champions for the points works quite well, especially in breeds where much-advertised champions are competing at a hundred or more shows a year in this huge country. I like the idea of published critiques by judges, if they are intelligently written, and also the idea of rating dogs as to quality as is done on the Continent, and the written critique for each, even if brief. The US puts rather too much emphasis on grooming and presentation, rather than judging the "real dog", and the professional handlers are a huge, huge part of the dog show scene – for better and for worse.

Mr Philpott (UK) Golden Retrievers in the Scandinavian countries (I have not been to Finland) are generally of a high standard show wise. Also in Holland and a few in Belgium. Those in Germany and France less so. Some good stock in Australia, a few in New Zealand and good in South Africa.

Mr Hayton (UK) I have Judged Golden Retrievers in all 5 countries of the British Isles also Germany and Australia. The English, N.Ireland, S.Ireland, Scottish, and Welsh dogs, I found to be very similar in most respects. The dogs in Germany, although pleased with my winners, I thought were mostly poorly presented and lacked coat. The dogs in NSW Australia (Sydney

2003) were a revelation, quality was excellent and has benefited greatly from UK imports.

Mr Alan Robertson (Australia) I have judged in Australia and New Zealand with no obvious difference in the Breed.

Mr Bob Marshall (Australia) Styles of Golden Retrievers do vary from place to place. Even various kennels produce their own distinctive styles. By observation one is often able to tell the breeding and origin of a particular dog. As Golden Retrievers developed from the same gene pool the problems would be substantially similar from country to country, although there could be difference in emphasis due to countries pursuing their lineage.

Sandra Patterson (Australia) For genetic problems, it seems all countries share most of the hereditary problems in the Breed. Luckily advancements in veterinary technology over the years has helped us to keep to a minimum. Structurally, yes I think you see similar structural faults worldwide. Front construction, short upper arms and long bodies with short legs are creeping into many countries. It is up to the judges to recognise what is not correct and award what is, even if it is the minority present on the day.

When judging in the UK, Breed type was right though the Breed. Such a joy to see, I found very few dogs who could be classed as generic. Different "kennel styles" but they still have classic heads, lovely expression and oozed Breed type.

Australia – I feel could be heading towards a specialist type and an all breeds type. I am not happy to see this happening. This is mainly due to our having all rounders officiating at our shows. I hope it isn't the future direction for the Breed in this country.



Aust Ch Brygolden Oatly Tyrone by Aust Ch Balandra Delta Darius UD out of Aust Ch Brygolden Madonna Mist CD, bred by C Bright owned by M & P O'Sheehy and Aust Ch Matana Happy by Aust Ch Terravale Danny Boy out of Aust Ch Cambronze Vanessa, bred and owned by Mr and Mrs G Stephens with judge Mrs Stefanie Rickard at the GRC of Queensland Specialty. Photo courtesy of Mrs P O'Sheehy.

Beryl Hession (Australia) The Golden Retrievers I have judged in Europe are very much the same type as in Australia and seem to have the same virtues and problems, however, head types do vary somewhat but all conform to the Standard. In the Asian countries the type is different with a more wedge-shaped head, not having the kindly, soft expression that we are used to seeing. Very rarely would you see thick wavy coats, they are generally finer single coats. Coat colour is usually dark, very few creams.

Heather Morss (UK) Well the depth of quality will always be where the competition is. Scandinavia is very strong, and of course they have been at the forefront of best breeding practices so I think that proves another point. I still think that to make up a Champion in the UK is the biggest challenge because of our judging system.

Mrs Hean (New Zealand) I have found that there are as many differences within the countries as there are between the countries that I have judged in. However, I have only judged in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. I do feel that if I have judged in the US or in Asia that my comments would be different.

Mrs Holm Hansen (Europe) Except Asia and USA, I have judged all over the world. A fact that makes me feel very fortunate. Without writing a thesis on the subject, I can mention a few: why are heart conditions such a problem in some countries and not in others? Why is PRA a big problem in some places and very rarely found in others? In some countries you expect to find lots of quality Golden Retrievers and in others you don't have such high expectancies? Again, quality breeds quality. If a country possesses a handful of knowledgeable breeders, that present beautiful and sound dogs in the ring, the new and maybe inexperienced breeders have a chance to learn what types to aim for, which is the real influence in the Breed.



Mrs Melissa Andrews handling Aust Ch Fantango Shall We Dance by Aust Ch Fantango Purple Reign out of Aust Ch Goldtreve Camrose Tango, bred by J Salvestrin owned by J Aspinall & M Andrews. Photo courtesy of Mrs M Andrews.



Am Ch Highmark's Cowboy Coffee SDHF by Amberac Letz Make-A-Deal OS out of Highmark Halley's Comet OD, bred by L Willard & V Havelly owned by L Willard. Photo courtesy of DogAds.



Can Ch Swe Sh Ch N Ch Dewmist Silverinda by NUCH SUCH Inassicas Song of Songs out of NUCH Dewmist Shade of Pale, bred by H Fryckstrand owned by U Zetterfeldt, BIS Sweden 2008. Photo courtesy of Ulrika Zetterfeldt.

“Every dog has faults and the successful handlers are the ones that know their dogs faults and do what they can to hide them.”

Mrs Bolton (Queenlee Australia)