



Finding a Purebred Golden Retriever Puppy

Adopt a Golden Knoxville (AGK) does not often have purebred golden retriever puppies for adoption. Occasionally, a person will surrender a puppy to AGK because they realized that it was too much work for their lifestyle or schedule, or because a family member is allergic to the golden pup. Sometimes a health problem will show up in a puppy, such as hip dysplasia or other joint problems, and the owner will surrender the pup to AGK because he or she cannot afford treatment. Rarely, if ever, does AGK get purebred golden retriever puppies from a shelter.

If you have your heart set on adding a young purebred golden retriever puppy to your family, we suggest that you purchase your puppy from a responsible breeder.

How to Find a Reputable Golden Retriever Breeder

This link from the Golden Retriever Club of America explains what responsible breeders do: <https://www.grca.org/find-a-golden/about-breeders/responsible-breeders/>.

The Golden Retriever Club of America also has a service that will help you find a reputable breeder, and educate you on the questions you should ask the breeder and the questions the breeder will ask you: <https://www.grca.org/find-a-golden/where-to-find-a-golden/grca-puppy-referral/>.

We can provide you with the names and contact info for responsible breeders who AGK has worked with and can recommend. Please contact AGK at info@adoptagoldenknoxville.org for this information.

We do not recommend that you buy a puppy from a local pet store: There are many reasons that buying a puppy from a local pet store is a bad idea. Generally, these pups come from puppy mills and have lifelong health and behavior problems. In addition, these pups usually cost \$3000 or more – often more than you will pay for a pup from a responsible breeder. The pet stores have savvy marketing campaigns and allow you to handle their pups to encourage purchases based on an emotional spur-of-the-moment connection to the pup and offer payment plans. If you cannot afford to purchase a dog without a payment plan, you do not need the dog.

This site from the Humane Society of the United States summarizes the issues with buying a puppy from a pet store:

http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/puppy_mills/facts/pet_store_doublespeak.html?credit=web_id83582065

If you are not familiar with puppy mills, this link will enlighten you:

<https://www.dvgrr.org/education/puppy-mills/>.

We also do not recommend that you buy a puppy from Craigslist, Facebook trading sites, etc.:

Golden retrievers are very popular dogs because of their temperament and beauty, and often people breed and sell them who are not responsible breeders. Some of these breeders have good intentions but do not understand the need to do testing for health issues in the parent dogs, the critical importance of socialization of pups from a very early age, and the need for healthy living conditions. Without these conditions, pups from these breeders often have health and behavior problems throughout their lives. One common health problem in this breed is hip dysplasia that will cost several thousand dollars to treat. While the cost of these pups is often much lower than the cost of pups from a responsible breeder, the potential for expensive health and behavior problems is very great.

This link gives additional information about purchasing a dog off Craigslist or similar sites: <https://keepthetailwagging.com/9-things-to-know-about-a-craigslist-breeder-before-buying-a-puppy/>.

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