

## What to Expect When Caring for a Golden Retriever

### Grooming:

Goldens heavily shed their thick, water-repellant double coat once or twice a year, and they also shed more moderately on a continuous basis. Most of the time, a good brushing-out with a slicker brush once or twice a week will remove much of the dead hair before it has a chance to fall onto the furniture. During times of heavy shedding, these brushing sessions turn into daily affairs. Baths help to loosen the dead hairs, but the dog must be completely dry before brushing begins. Otherwise, Goldens only need occasional baths to keep them clean. As with all breeds, the Golden's nails should be trimmed regularly. ([AKC](#))

We found this description very accurate for Lucy and her shedding! We bathe her once a month unless she really needs it sooner. Lucy has sensitive skin, so we have found that Burt's Bee's shampoo has been the best for her. Feel free to experiment with different dog shampoos and find what works for you and your puppy! ([Katie's Canine Corner](#))



### Exercise:



Like most Sporting breeds, Goldens need plenty of daily exercise. A Golden who doesn't get enough exercise is likely to engage in undesirable behavior. Goldens make great companions on long runs and bike rides, although consultation with a vet is recommended before starting strenuous or high-impact activities that might cause stress to the dog's bones and joints. Many Goldens happily get their exercise on hunting trips or at field trials, as well as by participating in canine sports such as agility, obedience, and tracking. ([AKC](#))

Lucy is versatile in her activities! She really tends to want to do what we are doing. But she does need exercise. Otherwise, she may destroy her toys to get rid of excess energy. So, when we notice this behavior, we know we need more activity. She does love to run, swim, and play fetch most! As you get to know your puppy's temperament you will find what activity level works best for him/her and works with your lifestyle! ([Katie's Canine Corner](#))

### Training:

As with all breeds, early socialization and puppy training classes are recommended. Gently exposing the puppy to a wide variety of people, places, and situations between the ages of seven weeks and four months will help the Golden develop into a well-adjusted, well-mannered adult. Puppy training classes serve as part of the socialization process and help the owner learn to recognize and correct any bad habits that may be developing. Obedience training strengthens the bond between dog and owner, a Golden want nothing more than to

please his human. Golden Retrievers are outgoing, loyal, and eager to do your bidding, which makes them very easy to train. ([AKC](#))

Nearby classes for puppy and dog training are available at Petco. Here is a link to the website to look and see which locations offer what classes.

[Petco Link](#)

I have not done these specific training courses. I have spoken to other dog owners in the past and they have found them to be helpful. Another way is to teach yourself how to do obedience training. Many different YouTubers give wonderful training videos. Some that I like to reference are below:

[AKC Trick Dog YouTube Channel Link](#)

[Upstate Canine Academy YouTube Channel Link](#)

If you look up the trick you are looking to train on YouTube, you will get many different methods and training techniques.

Here are some articles from AKC that I have found on the following topics:

[Potty Training](#)

[Crate Training](#)

### **Nutrition:**

A high-quality dog food appropriate for the dog's age (puppy, adult, or senior) will have all the nutrients the breed needs. Some Goldens can become overweight, so watch your dog's calorie consumption and weight level. If you choose to give your dog treats, do so in moderation. Treats can be an important aid in training, but giving too many can cause obesity. Give table scraps sparingly, if at all, especially avoiding cooked bones and foods with high fat content. Learn about which human foods are safe for dogs, and which are not. Check with your vet if you have any concerns about your dog's weight or diet. ([AKC](#))

There are so many different types of dog food out there! I have researched these three different dog foods that I have used at different times with my dogs. I'll list them below. You just want to make sure that the food is a complete and balanced food. Here are some I recommend. ([Katie's Canine Corner](#))

Members Mark - Lucy switched to this during pregnancy and the puppies have loved this so far! But you will have to have a Sam's Club membership to get it. There are many flavors, we just found the chicken to be popular among our dogs.



Puppy and Adult Formula

Iams - Lucy loves this brand, and we may go back if she still likes it when she stops nursing!



Puppy Formula



Adult Formula

Purina - My first dog loved this type!



Puppy Formula



Adult Formula

### Other Resources I have found Helpful:

The First-Aid Companion for Dogs and Cats ([Book Amazon](#))

Golden Retrievers ([Book Amazon](#))

Golden Retriever Club of America ([Website](#))

I hope this is a helpful guide! Online version with the links is available at the bottom of the page:

<https://goldenpups.haase.house/puppies/>