

GPGRC Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics

As a licensed Club of the American Kennel Club (AKC) and a member Club of the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA), the Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club (GPGRC) has adapted their guidelines to formulate its own individualized Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics. It is important to understand what puppy referral is and the procedures necessary to keep this service in place. There are very specific guidelines and requirements for both the Puppy Referral Chair and the Club Breeder using the Puppy Referral Service. Buying a Golden Retriever is a lifelong commitment and it is the intention of GPGRC to offer the best information possible to a potential puppy owner.

PUPPY REFERRAL

Puppy referral is a service for any Regular Club member who breeds and/or sells their puppies. This privilege is given only to members in good standing, and who will abide by all GPGRC breeding and Club participation requirements. If all requirements are met, the Puppy Referral Chair will distribute to the inquiring public, the breeder's name and phone number. As stated in GRCA's Puppy Referral Policy, GPGRC "takes no responsibility whatsoever for any puppies/dogs that are acquired through GPGRC Puppy Referral. GPGRC is not responsible for any breeder's sale practices and sales contracts, nor will GPGRC be involved in any manner with contract disputes between puppy buyers and breeders. Availability of puppies and conditions of sale are at the sole discretion of the individual breeder".

PUPPY REFERRAL CHAIR

The Puppy Referral Chair is a designated Club member who agrees to handle the following:

1. Be current with all policies and recommendations as outlined by the AKC and GRCA.
2. Keep an updated registration list of all Club members who breed.
3. Make sure all breeders have a copy of the GPGRC Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics.
4. Keep a current record of planned breeding's including dates; of confirmed pregnancies; of litter due dates; and of birth litters including date of birth, total number of males, and total number of females.
5. Must maintain copies of all Board Certified clearances for eyes, hips, elbows, and heart. Hips, elbows, and heart are only required once, while eyes are required annually. Acceptable Board Certifications are identified in the GRCA Code Of Ethics. Only puppies from dam and sires that have current clearances

will qualify for referral. Keep copies of all clearances to eliminate unnecessary duplication for repeated breeding's The AKC requires that all records be kept for 5 years. Breeders must upload current clearances to the appropriate website(s) such as OFA and K9data.

6. Keep a current list of each inquiry including the names of GPGRC breeders provided to those individuals. A monthly list of recorded breeding's including the dam and sire, clearance certifications and the litter due date, along with the status of individual inquiries must be submitted to the Secretary for the Board by the 1st day of each month.
7. Notify the breeder of any inquiries, providing the contact's name and any relevant information.
8. May recommend the AKC and the GRCA website to prospective puppy buyers seeking helpful literature. AKC literature includes; "Before You Buy a Dog" and "the Dog Listener". GRCA literature includes; "What is a Golden" and "What to Ask a Breeder".
9. Keep a current copy of GRCA's Puppy Referral contacts in the United States to assist in out-of-the-state inquiries.
10. Notify the breeder if he/she has received a complaint regarding breeding deficiencies.
11. Contact the breeder to make a check at their breeding site in an effort to help a breeder correct any deficiencies. May be accompanied by one or more Club members.
12. If breeding deficiencies are not cleared-up sufficiently, charges may be preferred against the breeder for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the breed as outlined in the GPGRC Bylaws, Article VII: Discipline.
13. Keep a record of all breeders who have met the annual Club participation requirements necessary to qualify for Puppy Referral privileges.
14. Recommend that all breeders encourage new puppy owners to consider joining the Club.
15. Publish a notice in the *Golden Gait* Newsletter two times during the membership year reminding breeders to complete their participation requirements before the March 1 deadline.

BREEDER

GPGRC Puppy Referral applies only to breeders maintaining Regular Club membership. It is expected that all breeders will adhere to the GPGRC Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics; and will fulfill all requirements necessary to qualify for the privilege of Puppy Referral.

In keeping with the GRCA Breeder Code of Ethics, “members who breed Golden Retrievers are encouraged to maintain the purpose of the breed, and are expected to demonstrate honesty and fairness in dealing with other owners and breeders, purchasers of dogs and the general public”.

“Owners of breeding animals shall provide appropriate documentation to all concerned regarding the health of dogs involved in a breeding or sale, including reports of examinations, such as those applying to hips, eyes, elbows and heart. If any such examinations have not been performed on a dog, this should be stated.”

“Breeders should understand and acknowledge that they may need to take back, or assist in finding a new home for, any dog they produce at any time in its life.” The GPGRC breeder is one who agrees to and adheres to the following requirements and responsibilities:

1. Maintain annual registration with the Club Puppy Referral Chair.
2. Remain current with all AKC, GRCA, and GPGRC policies and recommendations.
3. Must inform the Puppy Referral Chair of planned breeding’s including the dam and sire; of confirmed pregnancies; of litter due dates; and of birth litters including date of birth, total number of males and total number of females.
Must also inform the Puppy Referral Chair of the preferred method of contact such as home phone, cell phone, email, all of the above or other for dissemination to individuals making inquiries. It is the sole responsibility of the breeder to provide the Puppy Referral Chair with this information.
4. Keep a record of all contacts made in response to an inquiry to the Puppy Referral Chair. The litter must be identified by dam and sire, and note whether or not the puppy was placed as a result of that contact. A copy of this information must be submitted to the Secretary for the Board on the 1st day after the last puppy is placed.

5. Before breeding, send copies of hip/elbow clearances at or after 24 months; cardiologist heart clearances at or after 12 months; and current eye clearances within the past 12 months, to the Puppy Referral Chair. A copy of the hip and elbow examination must be sent to the Orthopedic Foundation of Animals (OFA) for grading and certification. The heart must be done at least once by a Board Certified Cardiologist. The eyes must be re-certified annually by a Board Certified Ophthalmologist. Copies will be kept, by the Puppy Referral Chair, of a first time dam and sire to eliminate unnecessary duplication of forms. A hard copy of annual updates must be sent to the Puppy referral Chair. Breeders are solely responsible for providing the Puppy Referral Chair with hard copies of current clearances. These must be on file before a name and contact information will be given to prospective buyers.
6. Provide a safe, clean area for the delivery of puppies. Take all necessary precautions in the case of an unexpected emergency.
7. Raise the puppies in a safe, clean, appropriately proportioned, and well lit area.
8. Keep puppies clean (brush, clean ears, trim nails). Bathe before going to new home.
9. Worm the puppies 1 to 2 times within 8 weeks.
10. Administer the first series of shots before puppies go to their new home.
11. Provide a larger area for the puppies during 3 to 4 weeks of age.
12. Provide exposure to the outdoors.
13. Provide proper socialization.
14. Implement the GRCA Rule of Thumb for Puppies, “7 days, 7 different surfaces”. Provide a new surface for the puppies to play on for 7 consecutive days.
15. Seek help from the Puppy Referral Chair or other reputable authority if any concerns or issues should arise.
16. Inform the Puppy Referral Chair when the entire litter of puppies is sold.
17. Keep all K9 Data up-to-date, including clearances and death notices with stated causes within 6 months of dogs death. Must upload appropriate information to the website(s) such as OFA and K9data.

18. Maintain all breeding records for 5 years as required by the AKC.
19. Open your kennel facility to the Puppy Referral Chair, who may be accompanied by one or more Club members, for a random check if a complaint has been launched. In the case of the AKC, a check can occur as a matter of routine.
20. Coordinate an effort with the Puppy Referral Chair to correct any deficiencies outlined in a complaint.
21. Attend a Board hearing if charges have been preferred regarding alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the breed as outlined in the GPGRC Bylaws, Article VII: Discipline.
22. Complete all Club participation requirements.
23. Complete the Club Participation Record Form and return to the Puppy Referral Chair by March 10 of each year.

CLUB PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

To utilize the credential of the Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club for the purposes of breeding and to enjoy the privilege of puppy referral, a breeder is required to earn 2 Club Participation Points annually. The time period to earn these Club Participation Points will begin March 1, to coincide with the payment of membership dues, and will conclude on February 28 or 29.

Point System:

- 2 Points - Chairing the Hunt Test, Specialty, Agility Trial, WC/WCX, or Pheasant Social.
- 2 Points- Holding the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer.
- 2 Points – Serving as a Director on the Board.
- 2 Points – Holding the position of Webmaster or Newsletter Editor.
- 2 Points – Chairing a Standing Committee/Job. Examples would be Accomplishment Recorder, Hospitality, Membership, and Puppy Referral.
- 2 Points – Chairing a Special Committee/Job. Examples would be a Review and Rewrite of the Bylaws Committee or the on-site Agility Trial Advisory Committee.
- 2 Point - Serving on the event committee for the Hunt Test, Specialty, Agility Trial, WC/WCX, or Pheasant social.

2 Point - Serving on a Standing Committee or a Special Committee.

2 Point - Volunteering to work at a Club event for one full day.

All breeders who want to qualify for the puppy referral service must complete the Breeder Participation Requirement Record Form and return it to the Puppy Referral Chair by March 1 of each year.

CONSEQUENCES

Any time you have requirements that must be met; you also have consequences if those requirements are not fulfilled. If a breeder does not satisfy a complaint or fails to complete the Club participation requirements, they may lose their puppy referral privileges. If a breeder with unsatisfied complaints and breeding deficiencies continues to use the Club name, they may face disciplinary action as outlined in the GPGRC Bylaws, Article VII: Discipline. Ultimately this could result in the loss of membership.

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