

What to know about health before you buy a Golden Retriever puppy

The core four health certifications should be completed on both parents

Hips



Why?

Surgical repair for both hips starts at \$7,000 with a 6-week recovery.

Over 20% of Goldens fail to evaluate with normal hips making them the 49th most risky breed out of 208.

Dysplasia is not detectable without x-ray evaluation.

Testing

X-ray evaluation at or after 24 months of age.

OFA OR **PennHIP**
Excellent or **DI of .52 or lower**
Good in both hips
Fair < .30 = Low Risk
 .30 - .49 = Mild Risk

Preliminary reports are not certifications
 .50 - .52 = Moderate Risk for Osteoarthritis

Testing

X-ray evaluation at or after 24 months of age.

OFA Normal

OFA is the only organization providing elbow evaluations in the US.

Preliminary reports are not certifications

Why?

Surgical repair costs \$1,500 - \$4,000 per elbow.

Over 11% of Goldens fail to evaluate with normal elbows making them the 41st most risky breed out of 156.

Dysplasia is not detectable without x-ray evaluation.

Elbows



Heart



Why?

Ranked 17th most risky out of 107 breeds in the OFA basic cardiac database.

Subvalvular Aortic Stenosis (SAS) affects seemingly healthy dogs.

Sudden death of young dogs can occur.

Testing

Evaluation at or after 12 months of age.

OFA Normal by Cardiologist

Practitioner and Specialist OFA certifications are not recommended.

Avoid altered or fraudulent forms by verifying through OFA's website.

Testing

OFA Normal or **Normal** with breeder's option

Must be dated within the last 12 months.

Eye certifications expire after 12 months and breeding dogs should be tested annually for life.

Avoid altered or fraudulent forms by verifying through OFA's website.

Why?

Ranked 48th most risky out of 224 breeds.

Blinding disorders exist in the Golden Retriever breed.

Pigmentary Uveitis may present at any stage of life.

Eyes



Additional DNA Screening



Why?

NCL 5 affected dogs are most often euthanized before the age of three.

DNA tests exist for a few of the blinding disorders in the Golden Retriever breed.

Golden Retrievers have two breed specific DNA testable Ichthyosis variants.

Testing

Available for a limited number of disorders.

Carrier and potentially Affected dogs can be responsibly used while not producing Affected puppies when bred to Normal status dogs.

Due to its lethality, NCL 5 is strongly recommended for all breeding dogs.

OFA offers recording services for most DNA testing.

Verify health certifications at www.OFA.org

Created by
 Anasazi Goldens
 © 2016, revised © 2023
 All rights reserved

Sources: Golden Retriever Club of America, Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Antech Imaging Services, Ohio State Vet Med Center, Embrace Pet Insurance

Illustrations: @2013/366 | Jano © Jano - 145029261 | Jano © Jano - 145029261 | Jano © Jano - 145029261 | Jano © Jano - 145029261