

## Golden Retriever Health/Color Comparisons

There has been much controversy regarding the name "English Creme Golden Retriever" in the breeding world. Is there such a thing? Obviously, we believe so but first we must define what an "English Creme Golden Retriever" is.

"Creme" or "Cream"- The most common misconception is that "English Goldens" are all cream/white. On the other hand, English Goldens go from almost pure white all the way to dark red. We have chosen, just out of personal taste and nothing more, to purchase white or creamy white colored Goldens (we just think they are so much more beautiful!). The other

common misconception is that "Cream" Goldens are healthier and/or have a better temperament. Once again, that is false. The color is just aesthetic and has no bearing whatsoever on the Goldens temperament or health

benefits. Some people have also tried to state that there are health defects associated with the "cream" colored Golden Retriever. That couldn't be farther from the truth. As you will read below, there is scientific studies from the GRCA and the British Kennel Club disproving that color has any negative health defects whatsoever. In fact, the "English Golden" has been shown to be healthier and live longer than the American Golden Retriever but it has nothing to do with the color of the dog.

"English"- The most common misconception is that "English" means that the dog was imported in from England or has English origins. The truth is all Goldens have a English origin (read the History of the Golden Retriever at the bottom of this page) and most "English Cream" Goldens are not from England



at all. Why then do we call them "English" Golden Retrievers? There are 2 major breed standards in the Golden Retriever world today: The AKC (American Kennel Club) and the KC (British Kennel Club). Most of the world, outside of the US (and Canada) go by the KC (British Kennel Club) standards. So the term "English" Golden retriever is given to Goldens that has a genealogy and has been bred according to the British Kennel Clubs standards. Many times people give them the name British Goldens, European Goldens or even English-type Goldens. We personally European Goldens over English Golden but the name has already been coined and popularized. The name is of no importance...the STANDARD by which they are judged is.

Following are some major differences between the AKC Golden and the KC (English) Golden as according to their standard (Differences Between the American Golden & the English Golden).

**Health Differences:** The health differences between the English Golden and the American Golden are staggering. It is the greatest reason why a serious dog seeker will consider purchasing an English Golden over an American Golden. The money saved in purchasing an American Golden pales in comparison to the vet bills accumulated over the dog's lifespan.

Cancer was the cause of death for 61.8% of American Goldens according to a 1998 health study conducted by the Golden Retriever Club of America, making it the breed's biggest killer (CLICK HERE TO SEE THE STUDY:

<http://www.recherchegoldens.com/Documents/GRCA%20Health%20Survey.pdf>

The most common types of cancers in Goldens are hemangiosarcoma,

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemangiosarcoma>

followed by lymphosarcoma,

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lymphoma\\_in\\_animals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lymphoma_in_animals)

mast cell tumor,

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mast\\_cell\\_tumor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mast_cell_tumor)

and osteosarcoma

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osteosarcoma>

The incidence of cancer among English bloodlines is significantly lower than in the American lines. In fact the British Kennel Club (KC) did a very extensive study recently and found that cancer only caused the death of 38.8% of English Golden Retrievers (CLICK HERE TO SEE THE STUDY):

<http://www.recherchegoldens.com/Documents/>

The median age of an English Golden is 12 years and 3 months according to the study, but the median age of an American Golden is only 10 years and 8 months. This means that on average an English Golden will live 1 year and 7 months longer than an American Golden and English Golden Retrievers get cancer almost 1/2 as often as American Golden Retrievers.

## Color of Coat

**AKC:** 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.

**KC:** Any shade of gold or cream, neither red nor mahogany. A few white hairs on chest only, permissible.

The AKC may by interpretation read little different than the KC standard but the application of the AKC is that "cream" colored Golden Retrievers are considered "extremely pale" and therefore is "undesirable." The AKC penalizes for the cream colored coats and the KC does not. Therefore, you will find many World & International cream-colored Golden Retrievers in Europe but you will hardly ever find that in an AKC show. Once again, not all English Golden Retrievers are "cream" but rarely is a highly pedigreed American Golden Retriever "cream."

## History

The Golden Retriever breed was originally developed in Scotland and England at "Guisachan" near Glen Affric, the highland estate of Sir Dudley Marjoribanks, later Baron Tweedmouth. For many years, there was controversy over which breeds were originally crossed. In 1952, the publication of Majoribanks' breeding records from 1835 to 1890 dispelled the myth concerning the purchase of a whole troupe of Russian sheepdogs from a visiting circus.

Improvements in guns during the 1800s resulted in more fowl being downed during hunts at greater distances and over increasingly difficult terrain. This led to more birds being lost in the field. Because of this improvement in firearms, a need for a specialist retriever arose as training setter and pointer breeds in retrieval was found to be ineffective. Thus work began on

the breeding of the Golden Retriever to fill this role.

Some Golden Retrievers excel at retrieving in water; others only wade up to their bellies. The original cross was of a yellow-colored Retriever, Nous, with a Tweed Water Spaniel female dog, Belle. The Tweed Water Spaniel is now extinct but was then common in the border country. Majoribanks had purchased Nous in 1865 from an unregistered litter of otherwise black wavy-coated retriever pups. In 1868, this cross produced a litter that included four pups; these four became the basis of a breeding program which included the Irish Setter, the sandy-colored Bloodhound, the St. John's Water Dog of Newfoundland, and two more wavy-coated black Retrievers. The bloodline was also inbred and selected for trueness to Majoribanks' idea of the ultimate hunting dog. His vision included a more vigorous and powerful dog than previous retrievers, one that would still be gentle and trainable. Russian sheepdogs are not mentioned in these records, nor are any other working dog breeds. The ancestry of the Golden Retriever is all sporting dogs, in line with Majoribanks' goals.

Golden Retrievers were first accepted for registration by the The Kennel Club (KC) of England in 1903, as Flat Coats - Golden. They were first exhibited in 1908, and in 1911 were recognized as a breed described as Retriever (Golden and Yellow). In 1913, the Golden Retriever Club was founded. The breed name was officially changed to Golden Retriever in 1920.

The Honorable Archie Majoribanks took a Golden Retriever to Canada in 1881, and registered Lady with the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 1894. These are the first records of the breed in these two countries. The breed was first registered in Canada in 1927, and the Golden Retriever Club of Ontario, now the Golden Retriever Club of Canada, was formed in 1958. The co-founders of the GRCC were Cliff Drysdale an Englishman who had brought over an English Golden and Jutta Baker, daughter in law of Louis Baker who owned Northland Kennels, possibly Canada's first kennel dedicated to Golden Retrievers. The AKC recognized the breed in 1925, and in 1938 the Golden Retriever Club of America was formed.