

# GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC. ADOPTION APPLICATION

(PLEASE READ and KEEP the following page for your reference)

Thank you for inquiring about our Golden Retrievers available for adoption. GRREAT is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, active in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Our goals are to educate the public about responsible dog ownership, particularly with Golden Retrievers, and to place homeless Golden Retrievers into new, loving homes. Please note that we do not adopt outside of our service area.

## DOG AVAILABILITY

The majority of our "orphans" were turned over to us by their owners; the rest come from cooperating shelters. As a rule they make wonderful pets and adjust well to their new families. Our dogs are first placed into foster homes where we are able to evaluate the dog's temperament and activity level in an attempt to determine the type of lifestyle and family the dog will complement. We suggest you look for a dog that matches your lifestyle and has the personality characteristics you desire, rather than limit yourself to a particular gender or age. ***The broader range you consider, the faster you will find a wonderful dog.*** We usually have about 15 dogs of all ages available for adoption, but we seldom get puppies under 6 months. Golden Retrievers are large (60 to 90 lbs.) active dogs who often display puppy-like behavior until 3 or more years old. We recommend an adult house trained dog for working couples or families with small children, since they adapt to family situations much more quickly.

## SPAY/NEUTER/MICROCHIP

All dogs adopted from GRREAT are spayed or neutered and should be microchipped. If not microchipped prior to adoption, the new family must make arrangements to bring the dog to an adoption day within three months to have this done. ***The adoption will not be considered final until this requirement is met.*** All dogs are current on vaccinations, have had fecal and heartworm tests and are on heartworm preventative. We require a minimum donation at the time of adoption to help offset our expenses, which currently average in excess of \$100.00.

Less than 4 years - \$100.00      4 through 7 years of age - \$150.00      8 years and older - \$200.00

## APPLICATION

please complete the enclosed application so we can get to know you, your family and your lifestyle. All adults in your household **MUST** sign the application, and it must be completed in full to be evaluated. We require original signatures so please do NOT send the application electronically. We require a home visit, which will be helpful in determining the compatibility of the type of dog you have requested with your lifestyle, so a volunteer will contact you to arrange an appointment. **The non-refundable application fee is \$25 and will be put towards veterinary care for our Rescued Golden Retrievers.** If your application is approved your name will be placed on our mailing list for available dogs, and you will begin receiving dog listings and adoption opportunity notices. Your application will remain active for 6 months and can be re-activated (at 6 month intervals) for up to two years from the date of original submission. After this time, a new application must be submitted.

## NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE DOGS

Available dog lists are emailed to approved applicants periodically throughout the year, and include basic information about each dog as well as the name and contact information of the foster care provider. When you inquire about a dog, the foster home may conduct a telephone interview, and if you BOTH agree, a time may be scheduled for you to meet and discuss the dog in more detail. The final adoption decision is made by the foster home, based on GRREAT's guidelines and their assessment of the needs of the dog in question. Our goal is to place

each dog in a home where the dog and new family will complement each other. *Dogs are placed with the home that best meets the dog's needs, NOT on a "first come, first served" basis.*

Additionally, we host periodic Adoption Days, where we arrange to bring multiple dogs to a central location and invite pre-approved applicants and the public to attend. *Only pre-approved applicants are eligible to adopt at these events*, but applications, which will be evaluated at a later time, may be submitted. Adoption days offer a good opportunity to see dogs of different gender, age, color and temperament. You will be notified of these events as they are scheduled, or you may visit our web site at [www.GRREAT.org](http://www.GRREAT.org) and check the Calendar page.

Some dogs require specific circumstances and the needs of each individual dog are evaluated. A fence may be required for young, active dogs or dogs who have had little or no obedience training or a tendency to roam. These dogs may need a safe, enclosed area for proper exercise and safe release of youthful energy.

### REQUIREMENT FOR FORMALIZED TRAINING

We may require some dogs to attend a formalized obedience class within 4 weeks of the adoption date. At the time of adoption we will request a \$50.00 obedience course deposit. At completion of the obedience course, please send your Certificate of Completion to GRREAT, PO Box 190, Merrifield, VA 22116. You can choose to request a refund be mailed to you, or you can donate the deposit to GRREAT and receive a donation acknowledgment letter. A good obedience course could ensure the success of your adoption experience.

### PURCHASING A PUPPY

The health and temperament of Goldens have suffered because of indiscriminate and irresponsible breeding practices, so if you decide to purchase a puppy, we encourage you to research the breeders and avoid the pitfalls and dangers of backyard breeders and the puppy mills that flourish in Pennsylvania and other areas. Although GRREAT does not have a breeder referral service, we will be happy to send you a breeder evaluation questionnaire and breeder referral sources in your area or you can visit our website, [www.GRREAT.org](http://www.GRREAT.org), for more information.

*Owning a dog is a big responsibility, one that you should be prepared to honor for the life of your dog.* Careful consideration and planning should go into choosing the correct dog for you and your lifestyle. GRREAT successfully places about 250 dogs each year, but it is difficult, if not impossible, to estimate how long it will take for you to find "just the right Golden". Many variables are involved, including availability of foster homes and the number of dogs in need. The more flexible you are to gender and age the more likely you are to quickly find the right dog for you. Please remember, our primary consideration is for the welfare of our dogs.

PLEASE ALLOW US 4 TO 6 WEEKS TO PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION

PLEASE CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS:

**MD/PA/DE** RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO:  
Chuck Johnson  
605 Old Herald Harbor Rd  
Crownsville, MD 21032-1401

**VA/DC/WV** RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO:  
Kathi Crouse  
23 Mapledale Ave  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

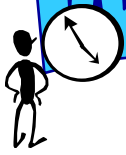
For more information on GRREAT and its activities, or to volunteer your time, call our voice mail or visit our home page at [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org)

**\*\*BECOME A MEMBER;**

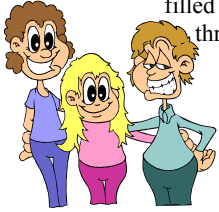
Receive our Newsletter, keep informed of our upcoming Events, and help us keep Rescuing! [www.grreat.org/membership/](http://www.grreat.org/membership/)

**GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC**  
**P.O. Box 190, Merrifield, VA 22116 ~ 703-620-6593**

# Why Does it Take so Long?



**STEP ONE (1-2 days)** An application is filled out by an interested family and sent through the mail to the Application Coordinator.



**STEP TWO (1-10 days)** The Application Coordinator reviews each application, notifies the applicant that it has been received, requests any additional information when necessary, and then notifies the Home Visit Coordinator that the family is ready for the Home Visit. GRREAT receives nearly 1000 applications each year.



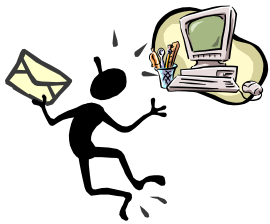
## And Why are we being so careful?

\*We do our best to slowly and carefully make good matches that will last a lifetime

\*In order to do this, we need to know as much as possible about your family as well as the dogs we Rescue and try to place

\*Each dog as well as each family has individual likes, dislikes, wants, needs, abilities, savviness level, activity level, and temperament.

\*While you are going through the application process, each dog is placed in a Foster Home where any health or behavioral issues are addressed and the most compatible type of home is determined.



**STEP EIGHT** Approval Notification received! The family is now ready to call Foster Homes and explore a possible Forever match.



**STEP SEVEN (1-3 days)** The Adoption Coordinator will review the application and home visit and determine whether GRREAT will be able to help the family make a match. If an application is approved, the Adoption Coordinator will then email (or mail if necessary) the approval letter and current list of Available Dogs with the Foster Home contact information.

Once approved, the application will be kept active for 6 months and will be available for the Foster Homes to review.



**STEP SIX (1-5 days)** The Home Visit Report is emailed or mailed back to the Application Coordinator who will review it for completeness and will then send it with the application to the Adoption Coordinator.



**STEP THREE (1-10 days)** The Home Visit Coordinator will assign the visit to an available Home Visit Volunteer who will then contact the applicant to arrange for a time to meet the whole family.



**STEP FOUR (1-2 hours)** The Home Visit Volunteer will bring a dog and visit with the applicant(s). They will explain the process of adopting through GRREAT and will also ask and answer any questions you may have.



**STEP FIVE (1-5 days)** Once the visit is complete, the Home Visit Volunteer will use a form to type up a report. This report covers family composition (kids, other pets, etc), environment details (fence, stairs, etc), dog savviness level, activity level, and interactions with the Foster's dog. All these details help our Foster Homes make good matches.



**ATTENTION RENTERS OR CONDO OWNERS: A COPY OF YOUR HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT OR YOUR LEASE, OR A NOTARIZED STATEMENT FROM YOUR LANDLORD/ASSOCIATION CONFIRMING THAT A LARGE DOG IS PERMITTED MUST BE ATTACHED OR THE APPLICATION CANNOT BE PROCESSED**

Please provide the name and phone number of your landlord:

Landlord name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you have a completely fenced yard: Yes No If no, and you intend to fence, when? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of fence do you have or intend to have: Chainlink Privacy Split rail with wire mesh Electric  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Height of Fence at lowest point \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. fenced area \_\_\_\_\_

5. How do you plan to exercise the dog and arrange for toilet duties, and who will supervise; will kids under 18 have responsibility?:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Will the dog ever be in the yard/outside the house when you are not at home: Yes No

Under what circumstances: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you currently have any of the following (check all that apply):

Dog Door Outdoor Kennel Run Tieout Stake Overhead Cable Runner Outdoor Dog House

If there is a Dog Door, will the dog have access to the yard when you are not home? If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*A home with a Dog Door must have a very secure physical fence with locking gates

8. Where will the dog stay while you are at work/out of the house? (check all that apply):

Basement Laundry Garage Crate Free in home Kitchen Yard Outdoor kennel

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Where will this pet sleep at night, please be specific: \_\_\_\_\_

10. What areas of the house or yard are off-limits to the dog: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Number of total hours dog will be alone each day: \_\_\_\_\_

Is someone available to come home mid-day? Usually Sometimes No

Is anyone home during the day: Yes No Please list who and the amount of time: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Please list all household members and the level of their responsibilities in regard to caring for a new dog:  
(include anyone that routinely cares for the dog in your home, e.g. Nanny, Housekeeper, Pet-Sitter, etc)

13. Do ALL household members want a new dog and are they willing to make a lifetime commitment: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Please describe your idea of a typical week day and week-end day in the pet's life; how do you plan to interact with your dog?:

15. Does anyone in your household have allergies to dogs or asthma: Yes No

How is this controlled: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Where will the dog stay when you travel or take vacation: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you travel regularly: Yes No If yes, how often: \_\_\_\_\_

17. If you have to move, what will you do with this dog: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Are you prepared to provide for the dog for the next 10 or more years: Yes No

19. Typical care for a healthy Golden can range from \$500 to \$2500 per year. Will you be able to budget at least this amount? \_\_\_\_\_

Our current non-refundable adoption fees range from \$500 to \$750. Will you be able to budget at least this amount? \_\_\_\_\_

20. What brand of dog food do you currently use or plan on using for this dog: \_\_\_\_\_

How many times a day do you feed or plan on feeding? Free feed Once Twice More

21. Would you be willing to attend a formal obedience class if required: Yes No

22. Have you ever crated a dog: Yes No Are you willing to do so now: Yes No

If you prefer not to crate, why: \_\_\_\_\_

23. Please list all pets that have **resided in your home** in the last 10 years:

BREED/Name (example: Golden/Ollie)	GENDER Male / Female	AGE	NEUTERED Yes / No	WHERE IS PET NOW (PLEASE EXPLAIN)	

24. Is there any additional information you would like us to know about these pets:

25. Has a dog ever been stolen, lost or died prematurely: Yes No Please explain:

26. Has it ever been necessary to sell or give a pet away, or surrender it to a shelter or Rescue: Yes No Please explain:

27. Please provide the name & phone number for two personal references (other than relatives)

**\*\*Please notify your references that they will be contacted** (home or cell numbers are better than work numbers):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

28. If you currently have a pet, or have owned a pet in the past, please provide the name and phone number for your veterinarian:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

A GRREAT representative will contact the above personal and vet references. Please be sure phone numbers are accurate and please authorize your references (particularly your vet) to release information.

**APPLICATIONS CAN NOT BE APPROVED UNTIL THE REFERENCE CHECKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED**

29. How did you hear about GRREAT: (Please check all that apply)

GRREAT website      GRREAT event      Veterinarian      Shelter      Ad      TV      Other \_\_\_\_\_

30. Have you ever applied to a shelter or rescue organization for adoption of a dog: Yes      No

If yes, please supply the name and location of the shelter or rescue, the date applied, and the result of your application:

\_\_\_\_\_

31. What are the best times and days of the week to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_

32. Is there any additional information that you would like us to know (please use the back if more space is needed) :

**\*\*Please print this form, initial and sign below in blue or black ink, and mail to the appropriate address for your state (see below)**

\_\_\_\_ (Initial) **I/We acknowledge that all information provided on this form is true and correct. I understand that any misrepresentations or omissions of fact may result in my not being approved and/or removal by GRREAT of the adopted dog from my possession.**

\_\_\_\_ (Initial) **I/We certify that any information transmitted to GRREAT by e-mail or any other means to supplement or to reactivate this application will be true and correct.**

\_\_\_\_ (Initial) **I/We certify that I have never been convicted of animal cruelty or neglect.**

**YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO SIGN THIS APPLICATION.  
ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED TO PROCESS THIS APPLICATION.**

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

CO-APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ALL OTHER ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLD MUST ALSO SIGN THIS APPLICATION:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your \$25 Application Fee which will be used to help Rescued Goldens get needed veterinary care.** I/We understand that this fee is non-refundable regardless of the outcome of this application.

**I/We wish to support Golden Retriever Rescue by becoming a member of GRREAT for the current calendar year.** I have included \$40 for membership dues. Membership privileges include the GRREAT Newsletter, notification of GRREAT events, and voting rights at the Annual Business meeting.

I/We would like to receive a packet of useful information about Golden Retrievers.

I/We have enclosed a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope for notification of application decision.

**PLEASE CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS:**

**MD/PA/DE**

Chuck Johnson  
605 Old Herald Harbor Rd  
Crownsville, MD 21032-1401

**VA/DC/WV**

Kathi Crouse  
23 Mapledale Ave  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

The application approval process may take several weeks and will include a home evaluation and reference checks. We are an all-volunteer organization so please be patient as we are often overwhelmed with the number of Golden lovers who want to adopt from us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Application or Adoption Coordinators through our website, [www.GRREAT.org](http://www.GRREAT.org).