



Golden Bond Rescue Adoption Packet

How to be a Successful Adopter

Welcome to the world of Golden Retriever adoption through Golden Bond Rescue of Oregon. Golden Bond has been rescuing Golden Retrievers since 1990 and with great success! The adjustment period can range from a week to months, but if you end up with a dog that is comfortable and happy with your family, it will be well worth the time and effort. Based on our experiences, we have listed some tried and true methods to help make a successful adoption happen.

Making Perfect Matches

Choosing the right Golden for your family is the first important step making that choice successful is even more important. Our primary concern is always the dog's needs. Therefore, we take great care in finding the right home for each dog and vice versa.

How Can I Help My New Golden Adjust?

There are many things to keep in mind during your new dog's adjustment period. Here are a few we would like to share with you:

- It is important to bring our new Golden pal directly home. Don't stop at the dog store to buy him a new tag, dog bed, toy or food. All those should be at home ready and waiting. Don't take him anywhere, especially not to a dog park!
- Wait a few days before inviting friends and neighbors over to your home. You and your family need to be with and bond to your new family member.
- Keep the activity level in your home to a minimum for the first month. Get a good routine going for the entire family, including your new Golden.
- Have a private area set aside for your Golden where he can go to get away and feel safe. This could be a crate or x-pen, a corner of a room or a bedroom. This is also where you can leave him when you are away from the house until you know he can be trusted. Feed your dog in this place for awhile and shower him with toys here, so it is a positive place for him to be.
- Give your dog time to feel comfortable and safe and bond with you before you go anywhere with him. Don't take him to a dog park for at least the first month.
- Start training your dog at home but wait until bonding begins before taking him to training classes.
- Bring your new dog home before a weekend, or vacation to give time to adjust to you. Also start leaving him in short intervals and gradually build up to the hours he will stay alone.
- Keep him on a leash as long as necessary until you are positive your dog will stay and not run off.
- Set your dog up for success and reward accordingly. Behaviors you don't want should be redirected. Be aware of problems and work on them immediately before they become a bad habit.
- Don't let things go because you feel sorry for him. He needs to know the rules and will be better for it.



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Be Patient

Remember patience! It may take more time than you think it should for your dog to adjust to you and your family. Remember these are rescue dogs and most have been through a lot before being allowed to unpack their bags with you.

The point we are trying to make is that there will be an adjustment period, but if you keep the first month stress free with a routine that your dog can learn to depend on, it will make this adjustment time easier for all. Again we say emphatically, please do not take your dog to a dog park for at least the first month, preferably longer, until you know your dog inside and out and he has learned that he can depend on you and feel safe. There are many dogs that should never be taken to a dog park so we ask that you know your dog well.

Goldens & Children

One misconception is that all Goldens are great with children, but in reality, our Goldens are not usually like the Goldens they see on TV and in movies. Be confident that the Adoption Team will only place dogs in homes with children if we can be sure they will be safe. However, kids should understand to treat your new Golden with respect and give him space for awhile. Teach your kids that your new Golden may need some time before he really bonds with them. Playing too rough, touching sensitive areas and giving full body restraining hugs may be uncomfortable for your new dog. It is not fair to expect a dog to have to deal with these behaviors and it should not be tolerated. If the children get too noisy or active, your dog should be able to go to his private space and this space should where the children are not allowed to bother him. Parents, be vigilant in making sure they treat the dog gently and lovingly.

What if the Adoption Isn't Working Out?

If problems or concerns arise, call your Adoption Coordinator or anyone at Golden Bond right away to get help. Please don't wait until it's harder to address. Most likely, the first few days or weeks with your Golden will not represent what life will be like in the long run so try to work through this period in a positive way. There is no set timeline for this process and it depends not only on your dog, but your family as well. Please give them that chance to get fully unpacked before deciding the adoption isn't working out.

Typically, if a dog is ever returned to Golden Bond, it happens in the first two or three weeks. For this reason, we offer a full refund of the adoption fee if returned within 14 days of adoption. A major reason dogs are returned is because they are exhibiting behavior that the new family wasn't expecting. This is also why we encourage new adopters to call at the first sign of a problem.