

Breeding Stock Custodian



Manual



Guide Dogs for the Blind

guidedogs.com

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Introduction

Thank you for making the decision to become a breeding stock custodian. By volunteering to care for one of these dogs, you provide an invaluable service to Guide Dogs for the Blind and to the visually impaired clientele we serve.

This manual has been designed to provide you with a source of information regarding the policies and procedures surrounding the care of our active breeding stock dogs. Please take a few minutes and familiarize yourself with its contents.

This manual is a permanent document and is designed to serve you for the entire life of the breeding stock dog that is placed with you. Periodic additions or changes to this manual will be mailed to you under separate cover. Please include any and all updates in the appropriate section(s) of this manual for future reference and use.

The Breeding Department looks forward to working with you and your family, and to a mutually long and rewarding relationship.

History of Guide Dogs for the Blind

Who we are:

Since 1942, Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) has empowered lives through exceptional partnerships between people, dogs and communities. GDB is the largest Guide Dog school in the country and is dedicated to providing high quality student training services and extensive follow-up support for graduates. Our programs are made possible through the teamwork of staff, volunteers and generous donors. Services are provided to students from the United States and Canada at no cost to them.

We operate two training facilities (one is headquartered in San Rafael, California—20 miles north of San Francisco, another in Boring, Oregon—25 miles east of Portland), and have more than 1,400 puppy raising families throughout the Western states. More than 12,500 teams have graduated since our founding, and there are approximately 2,100 active guide dog teams currently in the field.



Whom we serve:

Any person who is blind or visually impaired desiring enhanced mobility and independence can benefit from the skills a Guide Dog provides. The person must be legally blind, able to travel independently and suited to work with a dog. Typically, 6-8 students take part in each of our 2-week training classes. 97% of graduates surveyed in 2013 reported they were satisfied with our overall program and 96% would recommend our program to others.

How we are funded:

We are a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization supported entirely by private donations. We receive no government funding. Donors contribute through general contributions, bequests, grants, memorial and honor donations, charitable remainder trusts and other planned giving options.

Our Dogs:

Guide Dogs for the Blind breeds Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and Lab/Golden crosses from our own purebred stock, specially selected for excellent temperament, intelligence and health. Advances in research and technology help make it possible for us to continue to improve the quality and health of our dogs and ensure their success as guides.

Our Community:

Guide Dogs for the Blind has one of the nation's largest volunteer networks with thousands of volunteers assisting in the success of our mission. The human/animal bond creates a ripple that adds meaning and enrichment to each of our lives and strengthens our communities.



Guide dog instructor Melanie Harris gets a hug from a smiling guide dog in training (yellow Lab) in San Francisco

The Breeding Program

The breeding program at Guide Dogs was established in the late 1940s. Currently, the breeding colony consists of purebred Labrador retrievers (black and yellow), Golden Retrievers and the Labrador retriever/golden retriever cross. The Labrador retriever breed has historically enjoyed the greatest success as working guides, and therefore represents the majority of dogs we produce.

Since 1994, the Labrador Retriever/Golden Retriever cross breed has been introduced to our program. This breed has proven to be a highly successful addition to our program. The Lab/Golden cross represents approximately 10 percent of our total puppy production on an annual basis.



The organization's breeding program produces 95 percent of the puppies necessary to support both of our training facilities. In recent years, Guide Dogs has worked closely and cooperatively with other guide and service dog organizations nationally and internationally. These cooperative relationships have provided the opportunity for genetic diversity and enhanced knowledge sharing.

The selection of our breeding stock is done by our Breeding Manager with input from members of our Training and Veterinary Departments. When dogs begin their formal guidework training, they undergo complete physical examinations that include hip and elbow X-rays and eye examinations. In addition, if an individual dog is being considered as a potential breeder, the Breeding Manager reviews the dog and its littermates as to their health, temperament and trainability. Dogs that are selected for the breeding program also undergo more extensive joint x-rays, and cardiology ultrasounds.

Once a dog is added to the breeding program, it is placed by a Guide Dog staff member into a carefully screened custodial home. Our breeding stock dogs enjoy life in the custodial homes of loving families who live within a 50-mile radius of the San Rafael campus. Approximately 50 new dogs are added to the breeding program annually.

Values and Conduct

Volunteers, employees and students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that ensures Guide Dogs' mission is properly carried out and that high ethical standards are maintained throughout the organization.

As a breeding stock custodian, we ask that you accept the organization's values stated below and that these values be reflected in your actions.

We will be recognized in all that we do by our:

- Respect for the well being of people and animals
- Innovation and openness to change
- Accountability for our actions and our resources
- Teamwork and good communications
- Supportive and trusting work environment
- Honesty, integrity and fairness
- Professionalism balanced with humor

Our campuses and facilities are public places. Volunteers, employees and students are expected to conduct themselves as they would in any public area. Conduct which is not appropriate in public or which disrupts the safe and orderly operation of our business is considered inappropriate.

As a breeding stock custodian, you represent Guide Dogs for the Blind wherever you go with a breeder dog. We ask that you give proper consideration for the rights and welfare of others and demonstrate kind and humane treatment of any animal.

Social Media Guidelines for Volunteers

Social Media Channels

- Facebook – Official GDB: <https://www.facebook.com/guidedogsfortheblind>
- Facebook - GDB Puppy Central: www.facebook.com/gdbpuppycentral
- Twitter: @GDB_official
- Instagram: @GDB_official
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/guidedogsaregreat
- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/guide-dogs-for-the-blind
- Blog “No Bones About It”: <https://www.guidedogs.com/blog>
- Flickr images:
 - Group Photo Pool (uploading images) - www.flickr.com/groups/guidedogsfortheblind
 - Public GDB Galleries (accessing GDB photos) - www.flickr.com/photos/guidedogsfortheblind

Helpful Way You Can Help Strengthen Our GDB Brand on Social Media

Social media is a powerful brand-building tool and a great way to shine a light on the amazing things happening at Guide Dogs for the Blind. It’s wonderful that volunteers, employees, and other constituents connect using social media, because it ultimately creates a stronger network and community that supports the GDB mission. *This document outlines best practices for social media accounts related to your role as a volunteer for GDB.*

PROFILES

Profiles

- In your social media profiles it’s helpful to disclose that you are a volunteer for GDB.
- Please feel free to engage and be part of the GDB online community, especially when it comes to liking and sharing posts as this helps expand the GDB footprint.
- Pictures of GDB pups in their coats and/or guide dogs in harness that show GDB’s name/logo are wonderful to share (we encourage you upload any favorites to the GDB Flickr photo pool - link above).

Profile Photos

- Please do not use GDB’s primary logo or any commemorative logos (for example, the 75th anniversary logo) as your profile picture. Doing so can be confusing or potentially misleading because every time you post, the logo will appear and imply the post is being published by GDB.
- Do feel free to use any GDB-produced Facebook frames in tandem with your profile photos.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo and Video Guidelines: General

- GDB clients, employees, volunteers, and visitors to campus, as well as GDB puppies and dogs, should not be photographed, cited, or obviously referenced without the person's approval. Please do not post pictures of clients until they have completed class.
- Make sure photos and videos depict dogs being handled in an appropriate manner (e.g., don't show a puppy being held upside down or a dog looking scared or with "squishy eye" when wearing a gentle leader).
- Consider the situation/setting: avoid posting images of a dog with medical conditions, undergoing surgery, recovering from anesthesia, or wearing an e-collar, for example.
- Avoid showing things that are too graphic, polarizing, or potentially damaging to our reputation. For example, there is often poop and vomit when dogs are involved- but neither are appropriate to show in social posts.
- Avoid and/or minimize showing the bars in GDB's kennels or vehicles (including the puppy truck and trailer, and the training vans). We are accustomed to seeing certain things, but some of those images might be polarizing or upsetting. It's a good idea to think about how someone outside GDB might perceive them because we want to make the best possible impression on the public and our community.
- Do not use social media to communicate the status of program dogs (e.g., career change, passing final test) until you receive word through official GDB channels. These formal communication channels exist for the purpose of sharing information when appropriate (e.g., phase reports). Phase reports can be posted on social media as long as the update includes only dogs that have been raised by or are affiliated with the raiser or club. Please do not post the entire list of phase reports.

Photo and Video Guidelines: Breeder Custodians

- Be sure to show the dog wearing its Breeder scarf in your photos and social posts when possible.
- Do not promote any non-GDB related products (toys, dog equipment, etc.) with GDB-branded breeder dogs or with the use of hashtags (e.g., #guidedogsfortheblind), as it should not appear that GDB itself is endorsing those products. In other words, breeder dogs are not permitted to serve as brand ambassadors for any companies that are not GDB partners – even if your intent is to raise money for GDB. GDB's Development and Marketing Departments are responsible for identifying strategic corporate partners for the organization.

Photo and Video Guidelines: On Our Campuses

- GDB allows photography for personal use on our campuses (limited to the areas included on our public tours) and at our graduation ceremonies.
- Do not take photos and/or post images of people on our campuses without their explicit permission. That includes staff, volunteers, and clients.
- When taking photos of dogs on our campuses, please do not use the names of puppies, breeders, dogs in training, or dogs in the care of our vet clinics in your post.

Photo and Video Guidelines: Graduations

- We ask that you refrain from taking photos that would disrupt the graduation ceremony, or distract other attendees. Photos taken from your seat in the audience are fine (no roving photography please).
- We respectfully request that you not take or post photos of GDB puppy raisers, volunteers, clients, staff, or attendees at graduation without their explicit permission.

Photo and Video Guidelines: Commercial Photography and Media

- The sale, rental, or commercial use of GDB-related photography is prohibited (this includes photos or video of our facilities/grounds, dogs, clients, volunteers, and staff).
- Professional editorial photography or videography must be approved in advance by GDB's Marketing Department.
- Similarly, please do not provide images to media without explicit permission from GDB's Marketing Department.
- GDB's grounds are not available for staged photo shoots.
- We would greatly appreciate it if you notify GDB if you have been contacted to be part of a media opportunity, so that we can support you (provide talking points, logos, imagery, etc.).

GENERAL

Observe Copyright Laws

- It is critical to properly respect the laws governing copyright and fair use or fair dealing of copyrighted material owned by others.
- Always attribute content you share to the original author/source.
- It is good general practice to link to others' work rather than reproduce it.

Respect the Audience and Guide Dogs for the Blind

- The public in general, and GDB's volunteers, employees, and constituents, reflect a diverse set of customs, values, and points of view. Please be respectful of that diversity.
- It is important that all posts by volunteers are consistent with GDB's website, policies, or publications.
- Don't be afraid to be yourself, but do so respectfully and think about potential consequences. This includes not only the obvious (no ethnic

slurs, offensive/defamatory comments, personal insults, obscenity, etc.), but also the proper consideration of privacy and topics that may be considered objectionable or inflammatory – such as politics and religion.

Handling Controversial Issues

- Avoid online arguments relating to GDB; don't try to settle scores or bring others into inflammatory debates.
- Ensure that what you are posting is factually correct. Use your best judgment and be sure to make it clear that the views and opinions expressed are yours alone and do not represent the official views of GDB.
- Refrain from sharing medical and/or training advice regarding GDB puppies or dogs.
- GDB puts a lot of time and expertise into matching the right dogs with the right people, so it's good to remember that if/when a volunteer thinks that a certain puppy/dog might be a good match for someone, to refrain from any "matchmaking" and leave those decisions to the staff at GDB.

Posting Etiquette: Protect GDB Clients, Employees, Volunteers, Visitors, and Dogs

- Never identify a client, employee, or volunteer by name without permission.
- Please do not use the names of dogs that have not yet graduated; might have been recently career changed; are in foster care; have been removed from class, or have just retired. It's important that GDB staff communicate directly with the appropriate parties prior to this type of information being released in a public forum.
- Do not post images or use names of dogs that are in the kennels and reminder to not send photos directly to GDB constituents. It's important that GDB staff communicate directly with the appropriate parties prior to this type of information being released in a public forum.

Appropriate #s

- Hashtags can set either a positive or negative tone in a social media post. Please be mindful when using them.
- Examples of preferred hashtags; #iamGDB #raiseapuppychangealife #guidedogsfortheblind #GDBschoolspirit
- Examples of discouraged hashtags #guidedogfail #gdbdropout

Protect Your Own Privacy

- Set privacy settings to "limited access" to avoid allowing others to post information or view personal information.
- Be mindful of posting information that you would not want the public to see.

Be Honest

- Do not post or blog anonymously about GDB, using pseudonyms or false screen names, or say anything that is dishonest, untrue, or misleading.
- What you publish will be around for a long time, so consider the content carefully and also be cautious about disclosing personal details.

Be the First to Respond to Mistakes

- If you make an error, please be upfront about your mistake and correct it quickly.
- If an earlier post is modified, make that clear. Remember, you have the option to edit or delete posts.
- If someone accuses you of posting something improper (copyrighted material or a defamatory comment), deal with it quickly - better to remove it immediately to lessen the possibility of a legal action.
- It is never a bad idea to have someone proofread to catch any spelling/factual errors.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Need Help?

Contact Guide Dogs for the Blind's Marketing Department at marketing@guidedogs.com

- Social media questions or concerns
- GDB Social media policy questions
- Interesting story ideas

These guidelines are not exhaustive. Policy violations will be evaluated and potentially subject to disciplinary action.

Thank you for supporting the GDB brand in the best possible way!

Responsibilities and Requirements

Listed below are the responsibilities and requirements for breeding stock custodians:

Fifty-Mile Radius:

Breeding stock dogs are placed in homes within a 50-mile radius of our California campus. The 50-mile radius was established to ensure easy and timely transportation of the dogs to and from our facilities for veterinary, breeding and boarding purposes. The only exception is extended to puppy raising families whose dogs have been selected for inclusion in the breeding program. In those cases, families can reside within a 75-mile radius.

Yard and Housing:

Guide Dogs requires custodial families to have a fenced yard with a minimum fence height of 5 feet (6 feet is preferred), or an approved dog run. A home inspection is conducted prior to placing any dog in order to ensure the yard is safe, secure, and meets Guide Dogs' standards. Yards which contain swimming pools must have a childproof pool cover, or a separately fenced dog run area to prevent accidents.

Custodians who move to a new residence (within the 50-mile radius) are required to have their new yards inspected as well. Custodians should inform the Breeding Department as soon as possible following their move to provide the new address and phone number.

Breeding stock dogs are required to sleep inside the home at night. They must be allowed to sleep in an occupied area, preferably a bedroom. However, kitchens, living rooms or family rooms are acceptable. When home inspections are made, sleeping areas will be discussed and determined. (Garages and enclosed porches are not acceptable sleeping areas.)

Other Dogs in Household:

Any other dogs within the household must be spayed or neutered and be non-aggressive to other dogs. Guide Dogs requires that the dogs have a supervised meeting before placement.

If custodians wish to add other dogs to their household, please contact the Breeding Department prior to actually acquiring the new pet. In most cases, dogs of opposite gender are more compatible and easier to manage in a household with an intact breeding animal.

Leash Requirements:

Breeding stock dogs are required to be kept on leash at **ALL TIMES** except when in the house or a securely fenced yard or dog run. **There are no exceptions.** Breeding stock dogs are one of Guide Dogs' most valuable assets and cannot easily be replaced. Unfortunately, the most common outcome of neglecting to keep a breeder dog on leash is a fatal hit-by-car accident.

Transportation:

It is the responsibility of the custodians to provide transportation of their breeding stock dog to and from the San Rafael campus. This includes visits for veterinary care, breeding purposes and boarding privileges.

Transporting any breeding stock dog in the open bed of a pickup truck is not permitted.

Kennel Hours:

The kennels at Guide Dogs are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week, including holidays. All breeding stock dog drop-offs and pick-ups must be made during those hours of operation only. Dogs must also be checked in and out of the kennel by a Guide Dogs' staff member.

Identification:

All breeding stock dogs are issued a nylon collar with an i.d. tag. **The nylon collar must be worn AT ALL TIMES.** Breeders are also issued a head-collar for additional control and all breeders must wear a head collar while on campus. Please use the head collar as recommended by the Breeding Department.

Obedience Training:

All custodians are required to complete an approved obedience course within six months of receiving a dog. Although these dogs receive some training prior to placement, it is important that custodial families develop control and response from their new dog. This also serves to aid in the bonding process for the family and the dog.

Licensing:

Breeding stock dogs are required to be licensed in the city or county in which they reside. Custodial families are provided with copies of a rabies certificate necessary to obtain a license. Custodians are responsible for all fees incurred with licensing and any renewals.

Written Agreement:

All custodians are required to sign a breeding stock agreement. This agreement spells out the terms and responsibilities of the temporary custodianship, and must be completed prior to receiving a dog.

Safety Precautions

Breeding stock dogs represent one of the organization's most valuable assets. Because a breeding stock dog has the ability to produce many successful guides during its reproductive career, its monetary and genetic values are immeasurable.

Prevention of injury or loss to any one of our breeding stock dogs must be given the highest priority and concern. It is to that end, that we have prepared the following safety precautions for your use and implementation:

Leash and Fence Safety

- Breeding stock dogs must be kept on leash at all times when not in a securely fenced yard or dog run. No exceptions. You must walk or run the dog on leash even in remote or rural areas.
- To avoid injury or unpleasant confrontations with strange dogs, breeding stock dogs are not allowed at community "dog parks."
- When allowing the dog to swim in an unfenced area (including ponds, rivers, lakes, and the ocean), you must use a long line or flexi-lead. Dogs can be carried away with strong currents.
- Do not "tie-out" the dog and leave him unattended at any time. (A 24" tie down is an acceptable management tool when used in your home and while you are present.)
- When taking the dog to or from your car or dog run, always use your leash.
- Install self-closing, self-latching locks on your gates. Check regularly to ensure they are working properly and replace any defective latches immediately.
- Use a chain with a clip to secure kennel gates and fence gates whenever possible (in addition to a self-closing latch).
- Young children often forget to close gates and doors, and visitors may not know the rules. Whenever possible, padlock gates which are not regularly used.
- Before letting the dog outside into the yard, make sure all gates and outside exits are securely closed.
- Inspect your fence perimeters regularly and always after heavy rains or high winds. Check for holes or weak areas and repair immediately, including places where other dogs can dig into the yard.
- To prevent breeding stock dogs from "bolting" through doors, teach them to wait at all doors and gates and when exiting vehicles.

Transportation Safety

- The safest way to transport a dog by automobile is in a dog crate. You may also use a safety harness which can be attached to the seatbelts.
- Breeding stock dogs cannot be transported in the open bed of a pick-up truck.
- It is also unsafe for a dog to ride in a convertible while the top is down.
- It is recommended that a chain collar and leash **not** be left on the dog while it is riding in an automobile.
- Do not leave the dog unattended in an automobile during warm weather. This practice can be life threatening, as temperatures can quickly rise to 30 degrees above the outdoor temperature in cars even when parked in the shade.



Poisonous/Toxic Substances

Sadly, we have to report that each year there are cases where a GDB breeder dog has ingested a toxic substance. The results can be as mild as vomiting and diarrhea or as severe as death. If you have these substances in your home, please take great care in storing and securing them out of the breeder dog's reach.

The telephone number for the National Animal Poison Control Center (NAPCC) is 1-888-426-4435. This number provides access to a 24-hour veterinary hotline. There is a charge for these services.

Household Poisons:

acids	insecticides
ammonia	iodine
antifreeze	kerosene
antiseptics	mace
ant stakes	medicines (All)
aspirin	model cement
automotive products	nail polish
bleach	nail polish remover
boric acid	narcotics
bubble bath	oven cleaner
Camphophenique	pain killers
carbon tetrachloride	paint
Clinitest tablets	paint thinner
cologne	perfume
copper/brass cleaner	permanent wave solution
corn/wart remover	pesticides
cuticle conditioner	pest killers
dishwasher soap	pine oil
disinfectants	plant food
drain cleaner	rat poison
drugs	rock salts
epoxy glue	rubbing alcohol
eye makeup	shaving lotion
fertilizers	silver polish
furniture polish	snail bait
garden sprays	strychnine
gasoline	toilet bowl cleaner
gun cleaners	turpentine
hair dyes	vitamins
hair sprays	window washing solution

Poisonous Plants/Food:

Flower Garden Plants Toxic Parts

Autumn Crocus	all
Azalea	all
Bleeding Heart	all
Buttercup	all
Daphne	all
Delphinium	all
Foxglove	leaves/seeds
Hyacinth	bulb
Hydrangea	all
Iris	leaves/roots
Jessamine	flowers/berries
Larkspur	all
Laurel	all
Lily of the Valley	all
Monkshood	all
Narcissus	bulb
Peony	roots
Tulip	bulb



House Plants Toxic Parts

Castor Bean	all
Christmas Rose	all
Chrysanthemum	stem/ resin
Dieffenbachia	all
Elephant Ear	all
Holly	berries
Ivy	leaves
Mistletoe	all
Philodendron	all
Rosary Pea	all

Ornamental Plants Toxic Parts

Boxwood	all
Daffodil	bulb
English Ivy	berries/leaves
Golden Chain	seeds/pods/flower
Mountain Laurel	all
Oleander	all
Wisteria	pods/seeds

Trees	Toxic Parts
Apple	seeds (lg.amounts)
Apricot	pits
Avocado	leaves/stems
Black Locust	bark/seeds/leaves
Cherry	pits
English Holly	berries
Horse Chestnut	all
Oak	leaves/acorns
Peach	pits
Walnuts	nuts/shells
Yew	all



Vegetables Toxic Parts

Eggplant	foliage/sprouts
Onions (raw)	all
Potato	all parts except tuber
Rhubarb	leaves
Tomato	plant/leaves

Miscellaneous

Some raw fish
Chocolate
Coco beans
Coffee beans
Grapes and raisins

Introducing A Breeder To Its New Home

Now that you have acquired a new breeder, both of you will be going home to begin the process of establishing a rewarding and enjoyable relationship. It may take several months before a new breeder integrates fully into your household and lifestyle. Initially allowing the dog too much freedom or unsupervised access to your home and yard can lead not only to the development of bad house behavior, but may allow serious injury to occur. ***BE PATIENT AND PREPARED FOR PROBLEMS TO ARISE.***

Throughout this manual we address many of the health and care issues that may arise. This section has been prepared to deal specifically with issues that may occur during the transition period of introducing the dog into your home. ***The Breeding Department staff is available to assist you with any problems or concerns. Please don't hesitate to call.***

Relieving

Select practical and specific areas to relieve the dog both at home and away from home. Be consistent in using these areas whenever possible.

At the time you bring the dog home, it will have been relieving off-leash in either a concrete kennel or a concrete community run (exercise yard). Because they have had the ability to relieve frequently in a kennel environment, you will need to develop a relieving schedule.

The dog will need to be relieved at these times:

- 1) first thing in the morning;
- 2) after eating;
- 3) after periods of heavy exercise; and,
- 4) after periods of confinement.

It's our recommendation that you offer the dog frequent chances to relieve during its transition period (every couple of hours during the day).

You may allow the dog to relieve off-leash in your fenced yard. However, when allowing the dog to do so (particularly during the transition period), you need to go out with the dog to ensure that it has in fact relieved and in an area you find acceptable. Remember to praise the dog immediately after relieving in an appropriate area. As a puppy, the dog was accustomed to relieving on-leash, and this method may help the dog adapt to relieving in a particular area of your yard.

If you feel there may be times that would require you to relieve the dog while away from home, you should continue to occasionally leash-relieve the dog at home. It is not uncommon for dogs to relieve readily off-leash while at home, and NOT relieve on-leash in unfamiliar areas. It is far easier to maintain leash relieving rather than stopping the practice and then finding yourself needing to re-train the dog later.

What if an accident happens?

If the dog does have an accident, it most likely occurred due to lack of proper supervision or by not giving sufficient opportunities to relieve. A dog should never be corrected or reprimanded after an accident is found. If you catch the dog in the act of relieving indoors, verbally interrupt the action and direct the dog outdoors.

We recommend cleaning the area with the following:

- Nature's Miracle (can be purchased at any pet store)
- Simple Solution (can be purchased at any pet store)
- A solution of white vinegar mixed with water

House Behavior

The development of good house behavior began when the dog was being raised by its puppy raiser. Keep in mind that it is now your responsibility to ensure that proper house behavior is continued.

First, introduce the dog to your home by walking him around on-leash, showing him all of the rooms. Be alert to any unusual interests the dog may show in areas that could be a problem. (for example: the garbage pail, children's toys, and other animals)

If the dog tries to grab or take any object, immediately correct him by saying "No." You also may have to give the dog a leash/collar correction at the same time. Keeping the dog on-leash for the first two weeks he or she is home will give you the opportunity to observe any unwanted house behavior and make the appropriate corrections. Remember to reward and praise the dog for appropriate choices.

Examples of undesirable house behaviors:

- Jumping on counters or tables for food or objects
- Jumping on visitors when they come to the door
- Picking up or chewing any objects or clothing
- Getting up on furniture or bed
- Attempting to relieve in the house

Please remember that taking the extra time to set boundaries with the dog during its adjustment period will greatly help to alleviate inappropriate behaviors from developing in the future. It takes more time and effort to correct a bad behavior than to prevent one.

Crating

Crates serve as small, portable dog kennels. They come in a variety of sizes and styles. Some are wire mesh and others are made of fiberglass with a wire mesh door. They are often used to confine a dog when sleeping or when they must be left unattended. All Guide Dog breeding stock dogs have been introduced to crates either in their puppy raising homes or while on campus. It is essential that the dog remain comfortable using a crate as he/she may be placed in a crate while in the breeding office and will be transported in a crate during any Guide Dog transport. All breeding stock custodians are required to have a suitable crate in their home.

For most dogs, when properly introduced to a crate, it becomes their safe, secure, private den. However, a crate should never be used to punish or isolate a dog. It should be a place of security and pleasant associations. Much to the surprise of many custodians, dogs often come to spend a good deal of time in their crates by choice.

Once a breeding stock dog is placed in its new home, it is recommend that new custodians utilize a crate to assist in preventing any undesirable house behaviors, such as chewing, barking or house soiling.

The location of the crate should not isolate the dog from the family. The custodian's bedroom, family rooms or kitchens are the most suitable places for a crate. It's important to properly introduce the dog to the crate so that he or she has a positive association with its use.

When introducing you dog to the crate, open the door, have one hand on the dog's collar and a treat in the other hand. Use the command "kennel," toss a treat into the crate, and gently move the dog forward toward the crate with your hand on its collar. Once inside, close the door and praise the dog. Have the dog remain in the crate for just a few moments and then release him. Repeat the process until the dog will readily enter the crate upon the command of "kennel."

Begin using the crate for short periods to confine the dog (1-2 hours) while you are still present in the house. If the dog whines or barks ignore him. Typically, if a dog does not elicit a response from you, he will be quiet and give up trying to get your attention.

Once you are comfortable with the dog being crated quietly for a couple of hours, you can gradually lengthen the time. However, a dog with a full bowel or bladder should never be confined to a crate. Be sure that the dog has been properly exercised and watered prior to leaving it crated for any period of time.

Leaving A Dog Alone

Do not leave a dog loose in your home alone until you have followed the practice below and feel the dog is trustworthy.

Prior to starting the procedure, be sure to do the following:

- Exercise the dog well to burn off any excess energy
- Give the dog ample relieving opportunities
- Make sure there is nothing within the dog's access that could be chewed or destroyed
- Leave the dog with a SAFE chew toy
- Leave a radio or television on

You are now ready to begin introducing the dog to being home alone. Start by leaving the dog for short periods of time (15 minutes) confined either in a crate, dog run or one room of the house. If the dog whines, barks or starts chewing, you should immediately enter the area and correct the dog for his behavior. Then leave the dog again for another short period of time.

If the dog behaves well, return, release and praise the dog lavishly. Don't let one or two successful experiences leave you feeling confident that its now safe to leave te dog alone for several hours or that you will be able to turn him loose within the entire house. Some dogs may never be able to be left in your home alone for any period of time.



Safe Chew Toys for GDB Dogs

Chewing is a natural dog behavior. Providing appropriate chew toys is important for meeting a dog's chewing needs. Every chew toy has benefits and risks. GDB advises choosing the safest chew toy(s) that meet the needs of an individual dog.

Some brands of chew toys, like Nylabones and Benebones, are very durable, but they may cause tooth fractures which require dental extraction.

The following alternative toys are durable and made from material that does not cause tooth fractures.

It is possible for some dogs to break apart and ingest large pieces, so supervision is required!

Goughnuts Stick or Ring



Kong Extreme Goodie Bone



Orbee-Tuff Bone



West Paw Zogoflex Hurley Tough Dog Chew Toy



Some varieties of Kong and Goughnuts are available in the GDB Gift Shop. All of the above toys are also readily available online at Chewy, Amazon, and many other sites.

Obedience

Although a breeding stock dog may have learned basic obedience exercises while in its puppy raising home, it is required that you attend a formal obedience course within six months of having a breeder placed in your home. It is also required and important for puppy raisers applying to be custodians of the breeder they raised to attend a training course due to the new and different relationship they will have with the dog.

Once you have completed a basic obedience class, it is an excellent idea to continue practicing the basic obedience exercises on a daily basis. Obedience work is very important in gaining the dog's attention and control. It also helps to strengthen the bond and relationship between the dog and its human counterpart. Custodians may want to seek additional dog training and handling activities with the breeder dog. Guide Dogs is supportive of these endeavors as long as they can be scheduled around the dog's reproductive career.

The basic obedience commands, which are all done on leash, consist of the following:

- "SIT" – The command to have the dog place its rear haunches on the floor.
- "DOWN" – The command to have the dog lie down on the ground.
- "LET'S GO" – The command to have the dog walk on your left side on a loose leash (without pulling on the leash or straining against the collar).
- "HEEL" – The directive command to have the dog sitting or standing on the handler's left side.
- "STAND" – The command to have the dog stand quietly for grooming.
- "COME" – The command to have the dog come to you, close enough to be able to put your hands on its collar.
- "STAY" – The command that requires the dog remain in a specific spot and position until released.
- "WAIT" – The command to have the dog wait until given permission to exit or enter vehicles, doors, gates, etc.

In addition to the basic obedience commands, the dog also has an association with the following words:

- "OFF" – Used when the dog jumps up on people, furniture or other objects
- "THAT'S ENOUGH" – Used to end a behavior the dog was allowed to do. For example, releasing an item held in its mouth or ending a game of tug-o-war.
- "OK" – Used to release the dog from a prior command
- "KENNEL" – Used when putting the dog into its crate or dog run
- "DO YOUR BUSINESS" – Associated with relieving
- "NO" – Given to stop any behavior or undesirable action

Post-Placement Obligations

Well Check:

Thirty days after a dog is placed with its custodians, a well check is performed by one of the Breeding Department staff. The appointment for this evaluation is set at the time of placement, its purpose being to determine the dog's general physical condition as well as how it is adjusting to its new environment and lifestyle. Based on this evaluation, our staff may make suggestions and recommendations to aid you in the care and management of a breeding stock dog.

Graduation Ceremony:

Each new breeding stock dog is formally presented to the Guide Dog breeding program by its puppy raiser at a graduation ceremony held at the San Rafael campus. This presentation occurs at some point after the dog has already been placed in its custodial home.

The Puppy Raising Department informs new breeding stock custodians, in writing, of the graduation date selected by the raiser family (always a Saturday). Custodians are required to have the dog present at the campus at the specified date and time, whether they are planning to attend the ceremony or not. We ask that the dog be clean and well groomed for this special occasion. The dog must remain for the duration of the graduation ceremony.

Custodial families are invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony and meet the raisers. This is a very important day for a puppy raiser; the formal presentation of the breeding stock dog acknowledges the valuable contribution the puppy raiser has made to the Guide Dog mission.

Specific details regarding times and locations are provided to the custodians approximately two weeks in advance of the graduation date.

Breeding Stock Management

Brood Management

Active breeding females (broods) are bred one or two times a year through the age of 7 years. It is extremely important for a brood's physical health and well-being that she be maintained in peak physical condition. This includes a regimen of daily exercise coupled with proper diet and weight management.

It is especially important that the Breeding Department staff be able to easily contact brood custodians. Please provide the department with any changes to your mailing address, email addresses or phone numbers (work and home). Prior to departure, custodians are also required to notify the Breeding Department staff of any plans to take a breeding stock dog out of town or on a vacation.

Please Consult Your Veterinary Care Manual for Additional Information on Season Cycles

When you have determined that the brood is in season, it is the custodian's responsibility to bring the dog to our kennel within three days of the first sign of season. She will remain in the kennel for the duration of her season (approximately 21 days) whether she is being bred or not.

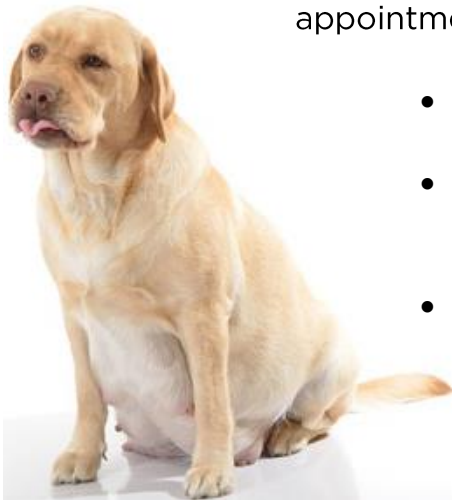
Pregnancy:

After a brood has been bred and/or is out of season, you will be notified that the dog can return home. Pregnant broods are able to remain at home for most of their pregnancy. The gestation period for broods is nine weeks, or approximately 63 days.

When the brood is ready to be picked up from our kennel facility after she has been bred, custodians will receive an email with her "pregnant brood care" instructions. These will explain the general aspects of canine pregnancy, provides the brood's due date, establishes the date range for the ultrasound pregnancy check, and scheduled the date the dog is to return to the kennel prior to whelping.

The purpose of the ultrasound pregnancy check (custodians are to schedule this appointment with a Guide Dog veterinarian) is:

- To determine pregnancy through ultrasound
- To evaluate the brood's condition and address any behavioral changes or issues
- To adjust her diet to meet the increased growth phase of developing puppies and support upcoming lactation.



Motherhood:

Brood bitches are required to arrive at the kennel five days prior to their expected whelp date. After a brood's puppies are whelped, the Breeding Department will contact the dog's custodians with details of the delivery and litter. Custodians are then given the opportunity to submit names for their brood's puppies and names must be submitted to Puppy Raising before the pups turn four weeks of age. Unfortunately, visiting the brood is not permitted while she is with her puppies and housed in our whelping kennel. This restriction minimizes the risk of exposure to disease that may jeopardize the health of the newborn pups. Within the first 48 hours of a whelp, the custodians of the brood and the stud will receive a video of the brood with her litter.

More videos are sent as time and staffing permits throughout the brood's stay in the whelping kennel. Photographs taken of the brood and litter are also available on GDB's Flickr site once the litter has been placed in raiser homes.

Once the puppies reach the age of 6 weeks and are weaned from their mother, they are moved to our puppy kennel (located at the front of the kennel complex). At that time you may schedule an appointment with the Breeding Department to visit the puppies during our visitation hours. Puppy visits are in ½ hour time slots and are available Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00pm, 2:30pm & 3:00pm. There are no visits on graduation Saturdays.

Post-Weaning

Broods are released from the kennel after their puppies are thoroughly weaned and they are determined to be in appropriate physical condition.

A brood's diet and exercise program will be thoroughly discussed with you at the time she is released from our kennel. You may notice that her coat appearance is thinner and she is shedding heavily. It can take approximately two to four months after the litter has been whelped for the coat to return to its normal condition.

You may also notice that the brood's mammary glands will be slightly enlarged and sagging. Time and exercise will eliminate most of these physical changes associated with whelping and lactation.

In addition, the brood may have a small amount of vaginal discharge that may last for several weeks following her release. It may appear red to reddish-brown in color but should continue to decrease in amount. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Veterinary Clinic.

Next Season Cycle:

A brood's season cycle is not normally affected by whelping and raising a litter. If the brood cycled approximately every six months prior to whelping, she will more than likely resume the same pattern post-whelping. (Example: In season 2/1, bred 2/11 and whelped a litter on 4/13. Next season expected approximately 8/1).

Stud Management

Active stud dogs may be bred several times within a year. Stud dogs must be maintained in peak physical condition in order to maintain stamina and fertility. This includes a regimen of daily exercise coupled with proper diet and weight management.

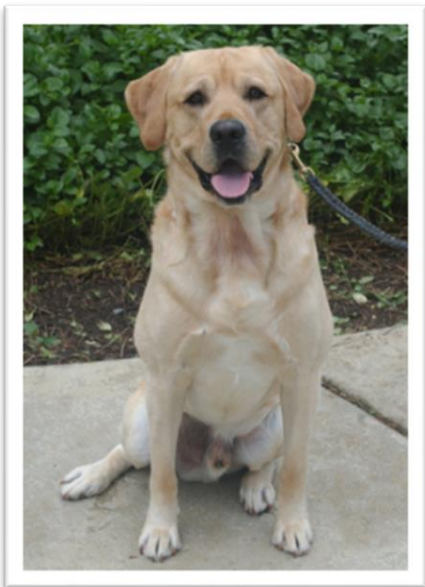
When a stud dog's services are required, the Breeding Department notifies the custodial family by telephone of the date the dog is needed in our kennel facility. Under most circumstances, at least three days notice is provided. However, on occasion, more or less notice may be given.

Because the use of stud dogs varies greatly, it is especially important that the Breeding Department staff be able to easily contact stud custodians. Please provide us with any changes to your mailing address, email address, or phone numbers (work and home). Prior to departure, breeding stock custodians are required to notify the Breeding Department staff any time they wish to take their dog out of town or on vacations.

Stud dogs are generally utilized for breeding purposes approximately 6 to 20 times per year. The average stay required is five or six days, but this can vary as a dog may be required to stay longer in order to service more than one brood.

When a stud dog's services are completed, the custodial family will be notified by telephone of the date the dog can be picked up.

Stud dogs will also be routinely required to come to campus for semen evaluations or semen collections for banking frozen semen. These visits are typically shorter than standard stud service.



Health Care

The maintenance of a breeding stock dog's health through proper care and management is one of the most critical custodial responsibilities. Proper health ensures that our breeding stock dogs will be able to perform their necessary and physically demanding breeding and whelping functions. Please consult your Veterinary Care Manual for information on health care.

Exercise

Custodians are required to provide their dogs with a minimum of 30 minutes of daily exercise. This can be in the form of walking briskly, jogging, chasing a ball or swimming. Good muscle tone is crucial to the dog's good health and performance as a breeding stock dog.

Exercise, coupled with a proper diet, will help to keep the dog fit and aid in their weight management. It has been proven that dogs kept in good physical condition live longer and healthier lives.

Privileges and Benefits

Custodial families with active breeding stock dogs are offered certain privileges and benefits.

Veterinary Services:

Veterinary services are provided for all active breeding stock at the veterinary clinic located on our San Rafael campus. The regular clinic hours are *8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday*. Our veterinary clinic requires that the breeder keeper is present at veterinary appointments. The clinic is not open for appointments on Saturday or Sunday, but is staffed with a veterinary technician for emergency consultation. The clinic's direct telephone number is (415) 499-4081.

All veterinary care and procedures for our breeding stock should be performed at this facility. However, on occasion we realize emergency care or treatment from an independent clinic or veterinarian may be necessary. Outside veterinary care typically not eligible for reimbursement is that sought for dog injury, ingestion or inhalation. Common causes of injury are being hit by a car and dog fights. Ingestion is when the dog eats a hazardous material such as snail/ant/rat bait, toys, clothing, or toxic food such as chocolate. Inhalation refers to a dog breathing in a noxious substance or a foreign body, commonly a foxtail. Such issues can be prevented with attentive dog management.

After Hours and Emergencies:

- If you encounter a need for veterinary assistance *after 5 p.m. and before 8a.m.* any day of the week, please call **415-499-4000** and follow instructions for emergencies.
- If a life-threatening emergency occurs, immediately take the dog to a local emergency veterinary clinic. If you are a local resident and the emergency occurs during the Guide Dog clinic's regular hours of operation, please call the Guide Dog Veterinary Clinic for advice as to where to take the dog for treatment.
- The Guide Dog Veterinary Clinic's regular hours are Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The clinic's direct telephone number is: **415-499-4081**.

Medication and Supplies:

All prescribed medications are dispensed from our Veterinary Clinic. For refills on all medications we request 24 hours notice before pick up will be ready in the vet clinic. Additional items including leather leashes, toys, fleece pads and flea products may be purchased at the Gift Shop, located in the San Rafael campus Volunteer Center (Hours: Monday through Friday and Graduation Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Order online for mailing or pick up - 48 hours notice required, you may request to pick up your items in the breeding department, please make a note in the comments section of your order).

Boarding Procedures:

Breeding stock dogs must remain housed solely in their approved custodial homes. Only qualified Breeder Sitters or Foster Care providers may care for a breeding stock dog in the custodian's absence and then only with the knowledge and permission of the Breeding Department. Breeding stock dogs also have boarding privileges here on the Guide Dogs campus.

The following applies when boarding a breeding stock dog.

- Boarding reservations can be made by calling the Breeding Department (415-499-4098 or 415-492-4162, Mon. - Fri.), or the Kennel Department (415-499-4087). When calling, please provide drop-off and pick-up dates.
- Please provide an emergency phone number in the event that a Guide Dogs staff member needs to contact you.
- Kennel hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. seven days a week, 365 days a year. Please drop off or pick up the breeder in the Kennel Reception office during those hours.
- Bring the breeder into the Kennel complex on leash a Gentle Leader must be used. An adult must handle the breeder and keep it under control while on campus. Please do not use retractable leads ("Flexi-leads) when bringing the breeder on campus.
- The breeder must be wearing its flat identification collar while boarding at our kennels.
- If dropping off a brood bitch in season, let our kennel staff know the date her season started.
- If the breeder is on any medications or dietary supplements, please bring them with you in the original containers for the kennel staff to dispense during the dog's stay.
- If the breeder is due for vaccinations or requires veterinary care at the time of his or her board, you must make an appointment with the Veterinary Clinic prior to dropping the dog off or after picking him or her up. **Your presence at veterinary appointments is required by our professional veterinary staff.** This enables the veterinarians to obtain detailed health and behavior information. Please pick up the dog on the pre-arranged date. If you are unable to do so, call the Breeding Department or Kennel Reception to provide an alternate pick-up date.
- When picking up the breeder, BRING YOUR LEASH AND GENTLE LEADER.
- While in the kennel complex, please remain in the main hallway. For safety reasons, do not enter or walk between individual kennel buildings.

Occasionally the kennels are closed to breeding stock for non-essential boarding. This does not happen frequently. However, it is important to make boarding reservations early.

Traveling With A Breeding Stock Dog:

If a custodian is planning to travel overnight with a breeding stock dog, the Breeding Department must be notified prior to departure. Custodians will need to provide the dates they will be gone and emergency contact information (including address and phone numbers). This is to ensure the safe and quick return of the dog should it get out or lost. The custodian will also assume financial liability if the dog requires any medical care while outside the zone of our veterinary clinic.

GDB recommends that pregnant dogs refrain from travelling with their custodial families. Airline and car travel can increase cortisol levels which may prevent the maintenance of a pregnancy. Travel of pregnant broods is prohibited in the last two weeks before she is due to check into the kennel to whelp. Custodians are welcome to call Breeding staff to discuss individual situations as they arise.

Training Assistance:

The Breeding Department staff is available to help you with training questions and/or behavior modification techniques to further ensure that your relationship with the dog is a positive one. Custodial families may also borrow videotapes and books from the Breeding Department. We will also encourage you to utilize outside experts approved by Guide Dogs for help with training and or behavior modification assistance.

It's our goal to help make the breeding stock dog an enjoyable companion and integral part of your family.

Retirement

Breeding stock dogs can be retired at any time during their reproductive careers for a variety of reasons.

Brood Bitches:

Broods are generally retired prior to age 7. In most cases, the maximum number of litters produced will be five. Early retirement of the brood may occur for any one of the following reasons:

- 1) Reproductive difficulties (problems associated with whelping, lactation or fertility);
- 2) Poor production (below average for colony and individual breed);
- 3) Development of a health defect (either genetic or non-genetic in nature).

Stud Dogs:

Studs may remain active in the breeding program for many years. Unlike the broods, there is no set age for stud retirement. Retirement of a stud dog may occur for any one of the following reasons:

- 1) Reproductive difficulties (problems associated with fertility);
- 2) Poor production (below average for colony and individual breed);
- 3) Development of a health defect (either genetic or non-genetic in nature).

Retirement Notification:

Breeding Stock Custodians are notified by telephone when it is determined the breeder is being retired. Guide Dogs also notifies the breeder's puppy raiser.

As stipulated in the terms of the Breeding Stock Agreement, the dog is to be spayed or neutered at the time of retirement. It is the custodian's responsibility to schedule the spay or neuter appointment with the Guide Dog veterinary clinic immediately upon notification of retirement.

Retired Breeding Stock:

In an effort to respect the love and commitment of all dog custodians, there are policies that guide the placement of retired breeder dogs. When a breeder is retired from that role, there are different paths they may take depending on their health, temperament, and length of time in the breeder custodian home.

Breeders who are retired *after less than one year*:

1. Guide Dog Training
2. K9 Buddy
3. GDB Strategic Placement
4. Breeder Custodian: personal adoption
5. Puppy Raiser adoption or placement with a close friend or family member

Breeders who are retired *after one year or more*:

1. Breeder Custodian: personal adoption
2. K9 Buddy
3. GDB Strategic Placement

4. Puppy Raiser adoption or placement with a close friend or family member

GDB has the discretion to make exceptions to all dog placement guidelines.

Exceptions may include but are not limited to the following:

- The dog's temperament
- The dog's health
- The dog's compatibility with people and pets in the custodial or adopter home
- The dog's possible effect on a GDB puppy in the home
- Instances of abuse or neglect in a home
- Incidents of dogs running loose at the home
- Questions regarding the raiser or breeder custodian's ability to effectively care and manage the dog
- Inadequate fencing or other housing needs
- Previous agreements between transfer homes, leaders, and CFR's
- Other determinations by GDB in consideration for the well-being of the dog and/or the household

Retirement Options for Custodians:

When a Breeding Stock Dog is retired after serving 12 months or longer in the breeding program, breeding stock custodians are given the following options:

- 1) Enter into an Agreement Confirming Gift of Dog. This agreement gives the custodian full responsibility for the care and maintenance of the dog for the remainder of its life.
- 2) Return the dog to Guide Dogs for placement and disposition. Custodians are asked to sign a Termination of Breeding Stock Agreement if the dog is returned.

The custodian is required to notify Guide Dogs of their selected option within 10 days of receiving the notice of retirement. The above-mentioned documents will be given to custodians for signature and completion at a scheduled exit interview following the dog's spay or neuter surgery.

If a dog is retired from the breeding program within its first 12 months of service, Guide Dogs may exercise the option of placing the dog back into the Guide Dogs training program. If the dog is not needed for training, the dog will be considered for the K9 Buddy program or a GDB strategic placement. If neither of those options are selected, the breeder custodian then has the option to adopt the dog.

Grooming

Grooming is an essential part of a dog's overall health care. Grooming includes bathing, regular brushing, nail trimming, ear cleaning and teeth brushing. Not only do grooming sessions help you develop a closer relationship with the dog, but short, frequent sessions keep the dog's skin and coat healthy, as well as give you the opportunity to spot any new or unusual changes in the dog's body.

Spending 10 to 20 minutes at least twice a week should enable you to maintain the dog in a well-groomed fashion. Of Guide Dog's three breeds, the Golden Retriever requires more extensive grooming. In some cases, the custodians may need to seek the services of a professional groomer to assist them. These grooming costs would be at the custodian's expense.

Guide Dogs' grooming recommendations are as follows:

Brushing:

Frequent brushing is the foundation of good canine hygiene. Brushing removes dirt and dead skin, distributes essential oils, stimulates circulation and keeps the coat from becoming matted. Brushing also promotes healthy skin and hair re-growth.

Brushing is easiest when the dog is standing on a short, sturdy table or bench. The surface of the table should not be slick, and the dog should never be left unattended while on the table. If you don't have a table for grooming, the floor works fine. You may find grooming easier if you use the dog's Gentle Leader and leash for control. Praise the dog frequently for staying still. Don't get angry or frustrated. Grooming takes time and patience.

Start by brushing the head and ears. Proceed to the neck, chest and front legs. Work your way down the length of the dog's body, finishing with the tail. Brush the coat down to the skin. Use quick, deep brush strokes and brush one small area at a time.

The type of brush you use depends on the dog's coat type. For our three breeds, either a stiff bristle or a metal slicker brush work the best. A shedding blade may be occasionally used during periods of heavy coat loss to remove the dog's dense undercoat.

For Golden Retrievers, special care and attention needs to be taken when grooming their finely feathered ears, legs and tail. A slicker brush or a metal comb can be used to gently groom and de-tangle these areas. The tufts of hair that grow between a Golden's toes should be trimmed to prevent foreign objects (like burrs and foxtails) from embedding in their feet.

Another grooming product on the market (made by the Kong Company) is called the "Zoom Groom." The Zoom Groom resembles a rubber curry comb and it

effectively removes hair from the coats of all three of our breeds. The Zoom Groom also makes for a great doggie massage tool—its soft rubber tips feel great on the dog’s skin.

After each brushing session, check the pads of the dog’s paws and in between its toes for cuts, abrasions, or irritations (like foxtails).

Ear Cleaning:

All custodians are required to clean their dog’s ears once or twice a week with an ear cleaning solution provided to you by our veterinary clinic or the Breeding Department. Please consult your Veterinary Care Manual for additional information.

Nail Trimming:

All dogs need to have their toenails trimmed at least every two to four weeks. If you can hear the dog’s toenails “clicking” across a tiled floor, it’s time for a trim. Toenails that are too long can cause serious damage to a dog’s feet and skeletal system.

To trim nails at home, you will need a pair of sturdy guillotine-style dog nail trimmers. (Resco and Twinco make this style for large breed dogs.) Also, have some styptic powder (Kwik Stop) on hand to stop bleeding in case you cut the quick (the blood vessel in the toenail). Depending on the dog, you may have an easier time if the dog sits or lies down as you trim. It’s also helpful to have another person assist by holding the dog.

To trim the nails, hold a paw firmly in one hand. Place your thumb on top of the dog’s foot and your fingers underneath so you can spread the toes. With the clippers in your other hand, clip the nails one at a time with short strokes. Don’t forget the dewclaw, the fifth nail that sits high on the leg. When cutting the nail, cut right below where the nail begins to curl. Usually, the quick is just above that area. If you do accidentally cut the quick, apply a pinch of the styptic powder to the nail and hold it there for 30 seconds or until the bleeding stops.

Nail trimming can take some time to master. If nail trimming presents a problem for you, bring the dog to the Breeding Department and we will help instruct you as to the proper technique. If you are having trouble handling a dog’s feet (due to the dog’s sensitivity in having its feet touched) try to examine the dog’s paws daily (without the clippers present!). Reinforce the dog with praise or a treat for allowing gentle handling.

Bathing:

Bathing is one of the primary responsibilities of good dog grooming. Custodians should be prepared to bathe their dog whenever necessary. We discourage custodians from bringing their dogs into our kennels strictly for bathing purposes. Guide Dogs' will always bathe a breeder after it has been boarded for several days or has been in the kennel for breeding purposes.

Bathing frequency depends strictly on an individual dog's lifestyle. If the dog is groomed regularly and spends a great deal of time indoors, it may rarely need to be bathed. Bathing too often with soap (more than once a month) can strip away a dog's natural oils from their coat, and is not healthy. (Unless a veterinarian prescribes more frequent bathing for certain medical conditions.) Consider a damp towel or plain water bath for muddy paws. However, do not hesitate to bathe a filthy or stinky dog.

Recommended Bathing Supplies:

- Rubber, non-skid mat for the bottom of the tub
- Mild, non-medicated dog shampoo (human shampoo is too harsh for a dog's skin)
- Hand-held shower attachment, a small bucket or pitcher for wetting and rinsing
- Cotton for the ears
- Washcloth for the face
- Training collar and leash
- Plenty of clean, dry towels
- Hand-held hair dryer on a cool-to-warm setting
- Able-bodied assistant

Assemble all bathing supplies prior to starting the bath. You will not be able to leave the dog unattended in the tub in order to retrieve a forgotten item.

Bathing Procedure:

- Thoroughly brush and de-mat the dog.
- Place cotton in each of the dog's ears to prevent excess water from getting into the ear canals.
- Gently lift or help the dog into the tub (this is where the able-bodied assistant comes in handy).
- Wet the dog's coat thoroughly with warm water from the shower attachment or water pitcher. Don't forget the underbelly and legs.
- Apply shampoo starting at the back of the dog's neck. Work it into a lather by massaging down to the skin. You may need to add more water to the coat during this process.
- Put some diluted shampoo on the washcloth and wash the dog's face, being careful not to get soap in the eyes.
- Rinse and then repeat the lathering process with one more application of shampoo.
- The final rinse is most important. **When you think you've rinsed enough, rinse again.** Shampoo left to dry on the coat and skin can cause irritation, itching and flaking.
- Let the dog shake excess water from its coat before towel drying. Remove the dog from the tub, then use clean, dry towels to pat and rub water from its coat.
- When the dog is thoroughly towel dry, you can attempt to use a blow dryer to further dry the coat. NEVER use the hot setting — doing so can burn the skin. As you turn on the hair dryer, keep it at a distance from the dog in order to gauge the dog's level of comfort with the noise. If the dog is comfortable, direct the airflow towards the dog's back. Keep the dryer moving rapidly above the coat. If the dog becomes frightened, turn off the dryer, and continue to towel dry only.
- Keep the dog inside in a warm area until dry. Don't forget to take the cotton out of the ears!!



Suggested Reading Material

(All available through Direct Book Service 800-776-2665)

Pet First Aid

- Pet First Aid, American Red Cross, Bobbie Mammato, DVM, MPH. To purchase the *Pet First Aid* book, contact your [local Red Cross chapter](#) or ask for it (ISBN 1-57857-000-X) at your local bookstore

Basic Training and Obedience

- Canine Good Citizen, Jack & Wendy Volhard
- Complete Idiot's Guide to Choosing Training and Raising a Dog, Hodgson
- Dog Sense, Trish King (available only at Marin Humane Society)
- Dogs for Dummies, Spadafori
- The Other End of the Leash, Patricia McConnell
- Parenting Your Dog, Trish King
- Training Your Dog Step By Step, Jack & Wendy Volhard
- Your New Baby & Bowser, Rafe
- The Invisible Leash, Myrna Maloni

Problem Solving and Additional Reading

- Catch Your Dog Doing Something Right, Krista Cantrell
- Dog Problems, the Gentle Modern Cure, Weston & Ross
- Dog Problems, Carol Lee Benjamin
- Dog's Mind, Bruce Fogle
- Don't Shoot the Dog, Karen Pryor
- How to be the Leader of the Pack, Patricia McConnell
- Management Magic, Nelson and Pivar
- Toolbox for Remodeling your Problem Dog, Terry Ryan

Breed Specific Books:

- Golden Retriever, Pepper
- The New Complete Labrador Retriever, Helen Warwick

Suggested Videos:

- Dog Training for Children (Video), Ian Dunbar
- Grooming Your Golden (Video)
- Take a Bow...Wow! Fun and Functional Dog Tricks, Boitman & Lippman
- Training Your Shelter Dog, Sue Sternberg

