

## Color

*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.*

**Comment:** Color is essential in defining the breed as "Golden". The Standard includes a range, from pale gold through deep reddish gold, as the predominant body color. "Golden" requires a brilliance of hue that is definitely yellow or reddish-yellow, not dull tan, brown, or flat cream. Lighter shadings on the underbody, "pants" and tail, in varying degrees, are quite typical and acceptable. White marking on head or toes, or a noticeable patch of white on the chest are not desirable (but are of lesser importance than structural and temperamental characteristics).



*Acceptable range of color in the Golden Retriever*

Dogs whose body color is predominantly cream or off-white, or dark setter-red, are not truly "golden" and should be judged accordingly.



Graying or whitening due to age **is not** to be penalized.

The light-coated puppy which shows proper color on the ears will generally be that shade at maturity and so may be given some latitude in judging.



Black shadings or spots, or areas of other off-color, while having no effect on function or performance, are anomalies that are to be considered a serious fault in the show ring.



Two dogs showing the wide range of color within the breed. While extremes of color are undesirable, color is only one of many considerations when judging the Golden Retriever. The purpose of the breed, the importance of sound structure and movement, correct size and proportion, head type, body development, coat texture and overall condition are all significant considerations in assessing this breed.

© Golden Retriever Club of America 2010.