

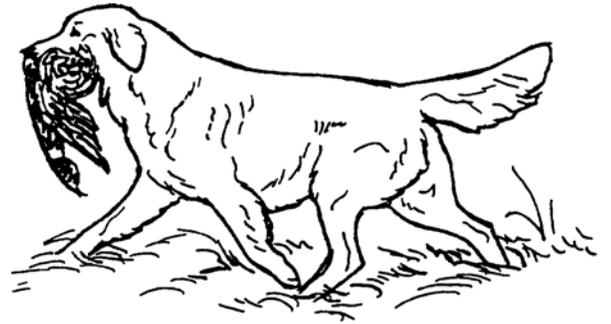
## Function and Purpose



The requirements of the breed standard regarding size, structure, coat and temperament are dictated by the demands made on retrievers in the field. The Golden Retriever was developed in Scotland and England in the late 19th Century as a practical dog to be used in retrieving shot game such as upland game birds, waterfowl, and, on occasion, small game such as hare. As a gentleman's gun-dog developed for the British style of organized shooting, qualities of steadiness, intelligence, trainability, and proper temperament were highly valued. Stamina, strength and athleticism, along with a practical, protective coat, were essential for the terrain and climate in which the dogs were used. In early years the dogs were also sometimes used in tracking wounded deer. Later, the Golden and other

retriever breeds were also used to find and flush upland game birds for the gun in the manner of a spaniel, in addition to their retrieving duties.

The breed's normal canine structure along with moderate size and substance, has proven the Golden Retriever adaptable for its original function as a hunting companion in many varying areas of the world, from the craggy mountains and broad moors and lakes of their homeland, to the farmlands and prairies, the bays and marshes of North America.



One must always keep in mind that even though any individual dog may not actually be used for such work in our modern world, it should demonstrate in the show ring or in the home all the qualities useful for work as a retriever, and the characteristics that distinguish the dog as a **Golden Retriever**. These qualities and characteristics also fit it for other types of work, such as service dog for the handicapped, guide dog for the blind, tracking/search dog, and other scenting specialists, as well as being intelligent, trainable, and sociable companions. The versatility of the breed is seen in their success in many areas of competition, from the show ring to obedience, agility, rally, tracking, hunt tests, and field trials. Golden Retrievers include a number of Dual Champions and even a Triple Champion among their ranks.

**Stamina**

**Strength**

**Athleticism**

**Agility**

