

Princess Animal Hospital Downtown Animal Hospital

Every Pet. Every Client. Every Family. Every Time.

BREED PREDISPOSITION TO DISEASE IN ADULT GOLDEN RETRIEVER CROSSES

We all want quality of life for our pets and one way of assuring this is to be aware of genetic or inherited problems. Certain breeds are at risk for certain diseases. This doesn't mean that all dogs of a certain breed will develop these problems nor does it exclude them from other diseases, however, it does help to tailor your pet's medical needs and preventive health care program.

Many conditions simply require us as pet owners to be aware of the potential. Often simple modifications to diet, exercise and lifestyle can be made to maximize quality of life. Knowing your pets' risk for genetic or inherited diseases and what can be done to prevent or slow the progression of these disorders, can help them live the happiest and healthiest life possible.

ACL tear: A torn anterior cruciate ligament in the knee is the most common orthopedic injury of active dogs. It usually requires surgical repair and weeks of rehabilitation. Instability in a joint results in severe arthritis.

Recommendations: A high quality, large breed diet promotes strong muscles, ligaments, tendons & bones, and has been shown to reduce injury rates. Sensible exercise routines help prevent injuries. Dogs that do a lot of leaping, as with Frisbee tossing or agility work, are more vulnerable. Obesity is also a risk factor, as overweight dogs are much more likely to have injuries to joints.

Hip Dysplasia: Is a malformation of the hip joint(s) resulting in instability of the joint and subsequent arthritis. Many large and giant breeds of dogs are affected. Other related conditions occur in the elbow and hock joints.

Recommendations: X-rays of the hips should be taken when your dog is young to identify the disease early. Good X-rays are required to diagnose this condition so a short acting anesthetic is recommended to relax your pet to facilitate taking a good radiograph. A perfect time to screen young pets is at the time of spay or neuter. Older pets can take an advantage of an anesthetic for a dental cleaning and have their hips screened at that time. (OFA RECOMMENDS NOT BEFORE 2 Y/O AS CAN TAKE THIS LONG TO IDENTIFY/MANIFEST) RECOMMEND XRAY AT SPAY/NEUTER THEN AT 2 YEARS

Early detection allows us to provide appropriate supplements to slow the progression of arthritis as well as a good quality diet and exercise program tailored to your pet's lifestyle. Keeping your dog fit reduces stress on joints and will also slow the progression of arthritis, minimizing the use of medications needed to manage pain as the disease does progress. WEIGHT CONTROL, NEUTRACEUTICALS, RESTRICTED EXERCISE, SURGERY,

Atopy: Atopy is an allergy to inhaled AND DERMALLY ABSORBED substances such as pollens, mold & mildew spores or dust mites. Instead of the hay fever symptoms humans get, dogs usually get itchy with face, feet & ears being the most common locations. Symptoms typically start between the ages of 2 - 5 years. Allergies tend to gradually get worse with the itch lasting longer from year to year. Many pets eventually suffer from allergies year round.

Recommendation: Daily essential fatty acids supplementation has been shown to reduce the effects of atopy. Several antihistamines have been used with success; please consult us before treating your pet with any human products. The key to allergy management is early detection to prevent severe and sometimes chronic secondary infections. Serologic or intradermal allergy testing and Hyposensitization

Food allergies: Food allergy is an inherited problem that can start at any age but is most common in young adult dogs. Symptoms may include itchy skin and recurrent ear infections, GI problems such as chronic vomiting or diarrhea and occasionally seizures and other disorders.

Recommendations: Keep your dog's diet consistent. The more things you feed him, the more things he will have the opportunity to become allergic to. If food allergy is suspected we recommend a prescription hypoallergenic diet, which is the best way to both diagnose and treat the disorder.

Otitis: Ear infections are more common in Golden Retrievers because it is a breed that makes excess wax. They are also more likely to swim, are prone to allergies and hypothyroidism. Signs of ear infection include scratching the ears, shaking the head or pain when the ears are rubbed. There may be a foul smell from the ear and it may be red and sore. Ear infections are very painful and require attention.

Recommendations: If your pet has recurrent ear infections we need to identify any underlying causes and treat for these in order to have success. Swimmers need regular cleaning.

Hypothyroidism: Low thyroid function, is common in adult and older dogs of all breeds but Golden Retriever crosses are predisposed to developing this problem much earlier in life. Weight gain, lethargy and skin problems are the most common signs. Temperament or behavior changes can be seen as well. **Recommendation:** For Golden Retriever crosses annual thyroid testing is recommended from FOUR years of age and older.

Gastrointestinal Problems: Golden Retriever crosses certainly do have a reputation for liking to eat! They are a breed that will often over eat if given the opportunity. Sometimes they will eat not only their food but things not generally considered to be food such as rocks, pieces of balls or toys, dead animals - almost anything you can think of. Over indulging in food or treats is reason enough to get an upset stomach or diarrhea. Other objects can become lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines, and can lead to retching, vomiting, intestinal obstruction or constipation.

Recommendation: Feed your pet a measured amount of a good quality large breed diet to avoid overeating and exercise caution when offering table scraps and treats. Avoid table food and treats that are high in fat, sodium or artificial ingredients as they are most likely to induce a digestive upset. Table food and treats should not be more than 10% of the daily calories. Keep other items that a dog might find intriguing out of reach.

Cataracts: A cataract is any opacity or loss of transparency of the lens of the eye. The opacity may be confined to a small area of the lens or capsule, or it may affect the whole structure. A complete cataract affecting both eyes will result in blindness, whereas small non-progressive cataracts will not interfere with vision. Primary cataracts occur in some breeds; in other breeds the cataract may develop secondarily to another inherited disorder such as progressive retinal atrophy or glaucoma.

Recommendation: You may suspect your dog is having visual difficulties and/or you may notice discoloration of your dog's pupil(s). Your veterinarian will be able to see the cataract with an ophthalmoscope. Even when not causing visual problems, cataracts may be discovered on a routine ophthalmoscopic exam

RISK	ACTION	DATE CARE IS NEEDED
Periodontal Disease	Brush teeth and have professionally examined and cleaned once a year to prevent irreversible damage from infection.	
Hypothyroidism	Annual testing from 2 years of age	
ACL tear	Good quality Large Breed diet, sensible exercise, fit body weight	
Hip dysplasia	Hip X-rays and a good quality Large Breed diet, supplements	
Atopy-allergies	Daily essential fatty acid supplement +/- antihistamines	
Food allergies	Feed a consistent high quality large breed diet	
Otitis-ear problems	Monitor for redness, debris or pain. Regular cleaning for swimmers	
Gastrointestinal problems	Feed a measured amount, good quality food, limit quality treats	
CATARACT/PRA	Annual Ophthalmic exam	

Compassionate – as we tend to your pet’s needs.

Committed – to offering the best care for your pet.

Creative – in our use of new technology.

Connected – to our team, to our community and to the leaders in our industry.

Clean – Our hospital will be spotless and odor free.