

ADOPTION FEES, PLACEMENT METHOD, APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Fee Schedule

\$350 for Golden Retrievers ranging in age from puppyhood to age eight

\$200 for senior Golden Retrievers, age eight and older

Placement Method

We do not place our dogs with applicants on a first come, first served basis. Our Adoption Coordinator reviews all approved applications and contacts the applicant who best meets the individual needs of each Rescue Golden. We try to find a match that not only considers the best interests of the dog but those of the people as well.

Priority is given to applicants who:

- Have realistic expectations about the types and characteristics of Golden Retrievers that are available
- Are open-minded about size, color, gender, head size, behaviors, traits
- Understand that most second-hand dogs need education and training and do not expect to adopt a trained dog
- Will give the dog time to adapt to its new home and family
- Will provide the dog with lots of exercise and attention
- Will consider adopting a special needs dog

Application Procedure

The procedure for applying for a Rescue Golden is as follows:

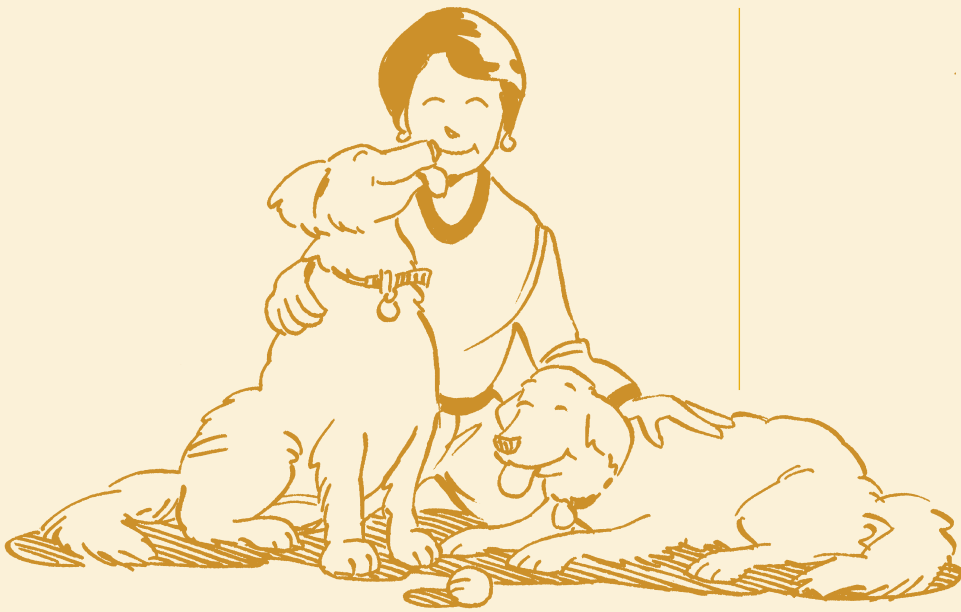
1. Please complete and sign the application and send it to YGRR. If, in addition, you would like to write a letter about your present (or former) Rescue Golden (if applicable), your life-style, your dog experience and your expectations of a new Rescue Golden, we would love to have it. The more you tell us, the better!
2. Applicants are interviewed in their own homes by Rescue volunteers to ensure that they understand the responsibility of owning and caring for a Golden Retriever and the special needs of a second-hand dog. A volunteer will call you and, by appointment, visit your home with a dog to follow up on your written application and to tell you about how YGRR operates. This will give our adoption staff the information to become thoroughly acquainted with you (on paper.)

Applicants who are willing to install a fence must obtain a cost estimate prior to a home visit. We will then conduct a preliminary home visit. If your application is approved, subject to fence installation, please be aware that it will be necessary for our home visitor to return to inspect the fence when it is installed. If the fence meets our requirements, your approved application will be sent to the Adoption Coordinator who will begin to look for suitable dogs for you. If your fence is not installed within six months of our preliminary home visit, we will retire your application.

3. We reserve the right to refuse an application if the home or environment is incompatible with the needs of a Rescue Golden.
4. Some applicants are approved, and some are denied. All applicants will be notified of their status. If your application is approved, you will be contacted by the Adoption Coordinator who will schedule your visit to our kennel in Hudson, Massachusetts when we have an appropriate Golden(s) for you. This part of the process could take some time depending on your particular requirements and the Golden Retrievers available. As a Rescue, we cannot control the types of Golden Retrievers who need our services at any given time. Be prepared to bring your new Rescue Golden home the day you visit our kennel.
5. We require a non-refundable \$5 application processing fee to help defray our non-profit organization's expenses. Please make check payable to YGRR, Inc. and send application and fee to YGRR Adopter Relations, P.O. Box 808, Hudson, MA 01749-0808.

Special Note to our Repeat Adopters

Welcome back! We are very pleased that you have chosen to return to us for another family member. In order to thoroughly familiarize our adoption personnel with all applicants equally, we now require a home visit for all adoption applicants, even repeat adopters. This should not be interpreted as any sort of reflection on our previous adopters. The useful information in the home visit report helps our Adoption Coordinator make a match for each Rescue Golden. This requirement may be waived by the Adoption Coordinator if you have adopted recently or she is familiar with your circumstances.



A Second Dog?

Owning two dogs is a doubling of every aspect of dog care. Think about doubling your veterinary bills, boarding and grooming fees, food cost, couch and car space, and above all, your love and attention. Are you ready? Make sure that all family members have enough time and love for all the dogs in the household and are prepared for the additional responsibilities of a new dog. Older dogs may need just as much time as puppies to learn appropriate household skills and manners. Be certain that you have enough time to fully incorporate a new dog into your home.

Equally important is to understand why you want an additional dog. Don't bring another dog into the household because you think your dog would like a canine companion to play with or because you feel guilty about not spending enough time with the original dog. If you don't have enough time for the first dog, you certainly won't have enough time for the second. Get another dog because YOU want one—not just for your dog.

People generally consider a second dog when their first dog becomes settled. They have a dog who is healthy, polite around company, and who enjoys the company of other dogs. Many times, however, these same people do not remember all the work, time and training that it took to settle the first dog. If you did not have enough time to accomplish these things with your first dog, and he is isolated because of his

behavior, do not use a second dog in an attempt to exercise him, occupy him, or tire him out. Invest your time and energy in training your first dog so that he can be a happier, well-behaved family member.

How do you safely maintain your current dog? Is he a house dog with access to a fully fenced yard? Fencing is the best way to keep a dog safe and secure, and it is an absolute must for multiple dogs. If the first dog is tied and you tie out the second dog, the result will be increased noise due to the dogs' frustration at being unable to interact. Isn't interaction a big part of the reason why you want another dog? Two dogs run-

ning loose is unacceptable. Apart from the risk of the dogs being lost or injured, neighbors may not enjoy the company of your dogs. Many dog owners are now installing invisible fencing. Be aware that although the first dog may respect the invisible fence, the added energy of a second dog could cause both dogs to ignore the warnings and run through the fence.

Take an objective look at your current dog in order to be able to find a dog that will be an appropriate companion for him. A second younger dog is most inclined to follow the behavioral lead of the first dog. So if your first dog is shy of people and growls or barks at them, a new dog is likely to follow his example. If your first dog behaves aggressively towards children, dogs or cats, there is the possibility that he could be encouraged by the presence of a second dog to behave even more aggressively. If, however, your current dog is happy and friendly, and able to settle down easily, chances are the new dog will readily learn the household rules with a good influence at his side.

The physical health of your current dog should also be considered. If the first dog is older, less active or has medical issues that prevent him from being more active, a slightly younger dog might perk him up and keep him company. A much younger dog, however, may irritate or even hurt him. An older, calmer, more predictable dog might be a better addition in this situation.

If you have taken an objective, unbiased look at your family situation and current dog, and you've found that you're ready, willing and able to love, train and care for another dog—great!



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Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc.
 P.O. Box 808



Is a Golden Retriever THE RIGHT DOG FOR YOU?

Goldens Need

YOUR TIME & COMPANIONSHIP:

Goldens are outgoing “people” dogs. They need to be with, around, near, on the lap or underfoot of humans because they thrive on love and attention. In second hand Goldens these traits are often exaggerated. Goldens cannot be maintained as outside-dogs, they are indoor companions. Consider your life-style and household schedule—do you travel a lot, do you work long hours, are you busy with your children’s activities? In other words, do you have time to give the love and attention a Golden needs?

EXERCISE:

Goldens need to have hard, consistent exercise daily (20-30 minutes twice a day) or they may have trouble adjusting to the calm house-pet role expected by most owners. Dogs will not exercise by themselves. Their owners must interact with them. Goldens that do not get enough exercise can exhibit behavior problems such as inappropriate chewing, excessive barking, unruly behavior and digging. Fenced areas for safe exercise are a must! Senior Goldens also require daily walks and play-time in order to stay healthy.

TRAINING:

Goldens are active, exuberant, inquisitive, busy, nosy, large, energetic dogs that need structure, consistency and clear rules to become well-behaved. We highly recommend obedience classes or private lessons to teach your dog the skills needed so he/she can participate in family activities. A good beginner’s course costs between \$100 and \$150. Training is an essential investment for a fulfilling relationship.

GROOMING:

Goldens should be brushed every other day and professional grooming costs \$45 to \$65 every 6-8 weeks. Goldens need to have their toenails cut regularly and most Goldens need to have their ears cleaned frequently; both tasks are simple for the dog owner to learn to do.

FOOD AND VETERINARY CARE:

Feeding one medium-sized dog for a year will cost about \$300-400. Routine veterinary expenses run between \$300-500 a year. Goldens, like all breeds, have certain hereditary conditions. They are prone to skin allergies, hot spots and ear infections, and occasionally have hypothyroidism (underproduction by the thyroid gland which is easily treated with daily oral medication) or hip and eye problems. Though many expenses are hidden in the grocery bill (food, dishes, leashes, collars, brushes, shampoos, toys, etc.), they do affect the family budget!



Goldens Are

Extremely tolerant of children but, like any other dog teased, frustrated or physically harmed Goldens will growl and can bite. Goldens can be good family dogs but no dog should be left alone with young children.

Medium to large sized dogs. The breed standard is 23’-24’ in height for males, 21 1/2’-22 1/2’ in height for females and weight 65-75 pounds for males and 55-65 pounds for females. In our experience with Rescue Goldens, males can range between 23’-26’ at the shoulder and weigh between 75-105 pounds. Females can stand between 21”-23” and weigh between 55-85 pounds.

Goldens have an average life span of twelve to thirteen years although fifteen year-olds are not unknown. Consider what your plans might be in five to twelve years. Will you still welcome the responsibility of a highly social dog when you have a family, go back to work, have an “empty nest” when the kids go to college or when you retire and want to travel?

Don't Get a Golden if:

You want a fastidiously kept home. Goldens are a long double-coated breed and they shed constantly. You will always find some dog hair around, especially on rugs, furniture, nicest clothes and, oh yes, occasionally in your food. Like any other dog, Goldens can get ticks and fleas and their paws will track dirt, mud and snow into the house. Goldens possess active tails, making clean sweeps of coffee tables.

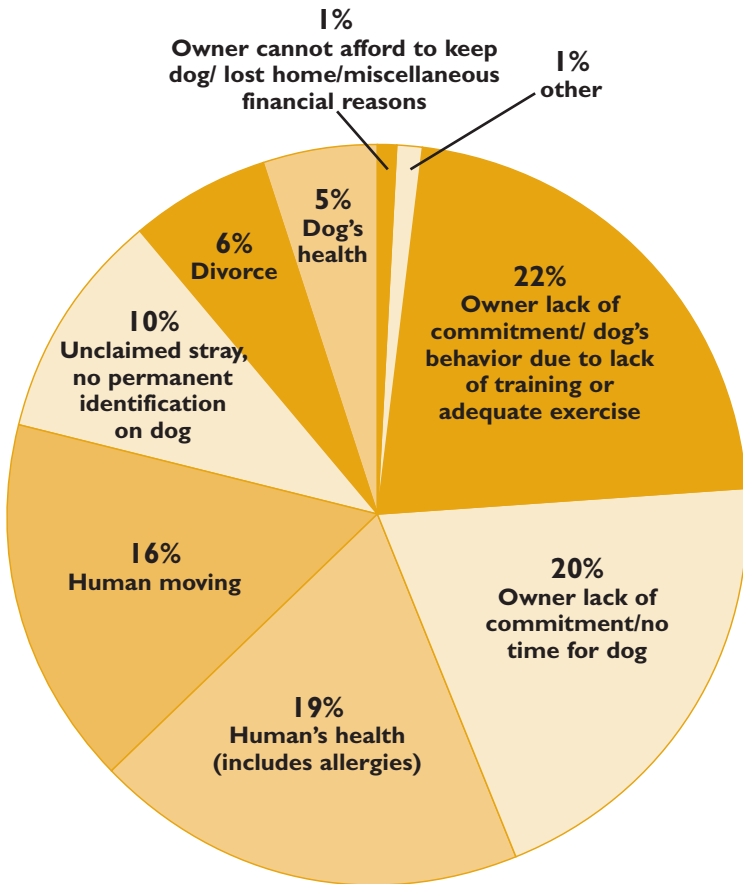
You object to a dog having your personal or household articles in his mouth. Goldens are retrievers—genetically programmed to carry laundry, shoes, kids’ toys, etc. in their mouths!

You want a guard dog. Though they may bark and growl defensively, when it comes to brass tacks, they’d just as soon kiss the intruder and show him to the silver.

Goldens Become Rescue Dogs Because:

“The biggest problem for dogs is [their] owners’ inability to make lifelong commitments.”

—Phil Arkow
Animal Welfare Association



Senior Rescue Goldens (age eight and older) Are:

- ▶ **Adaptable** and will settle into your home with less training and supervision than younger dogs
- ▶ **Perfect for busy life-styles** because they are less demanding but they may need frequent toileting—If your schedule requires you to be absent from home for long periods of time, hire a dog walker so your dog doesn't have any accidents in the house.
- ▶ **Quiet and easy going companions** that do not require intense, hard exercise daily,
- ▶ **Energetic and playful**, some could easily be mistaken for much younger dogs while others have begun to slow down and are less active
- ▶ **Prone to health issues**, due to the aging process
- ▶ **Sweet!** There's nothing like the gentle wag of a senior Golden's tail to welcome you home!

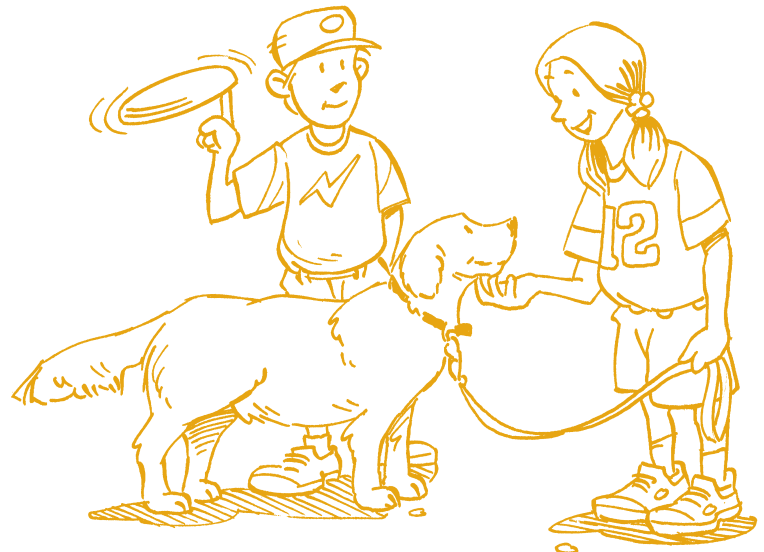
Special Needs Rescue Goldens Are:

- ▶ Dogs whose physical packages may not be perfect, but who are Golden in temperament! They may have medical conditions that are under control or may be physically challenged. Others may have special behavioral needs such as extreme shyness
- ▶ 20% of the Goldens admitted to YGRR in a recent year:
- ▶ Of the 20%:
 - 1/3 had hip dysplasia/secondary arthritis
 - 1/4 had epilepsy
 - 1/4 had allergies/skin problems requiring continuing care
 - The rest were dogs that either had treatable cancer, diabetes, were three legged or were blind.

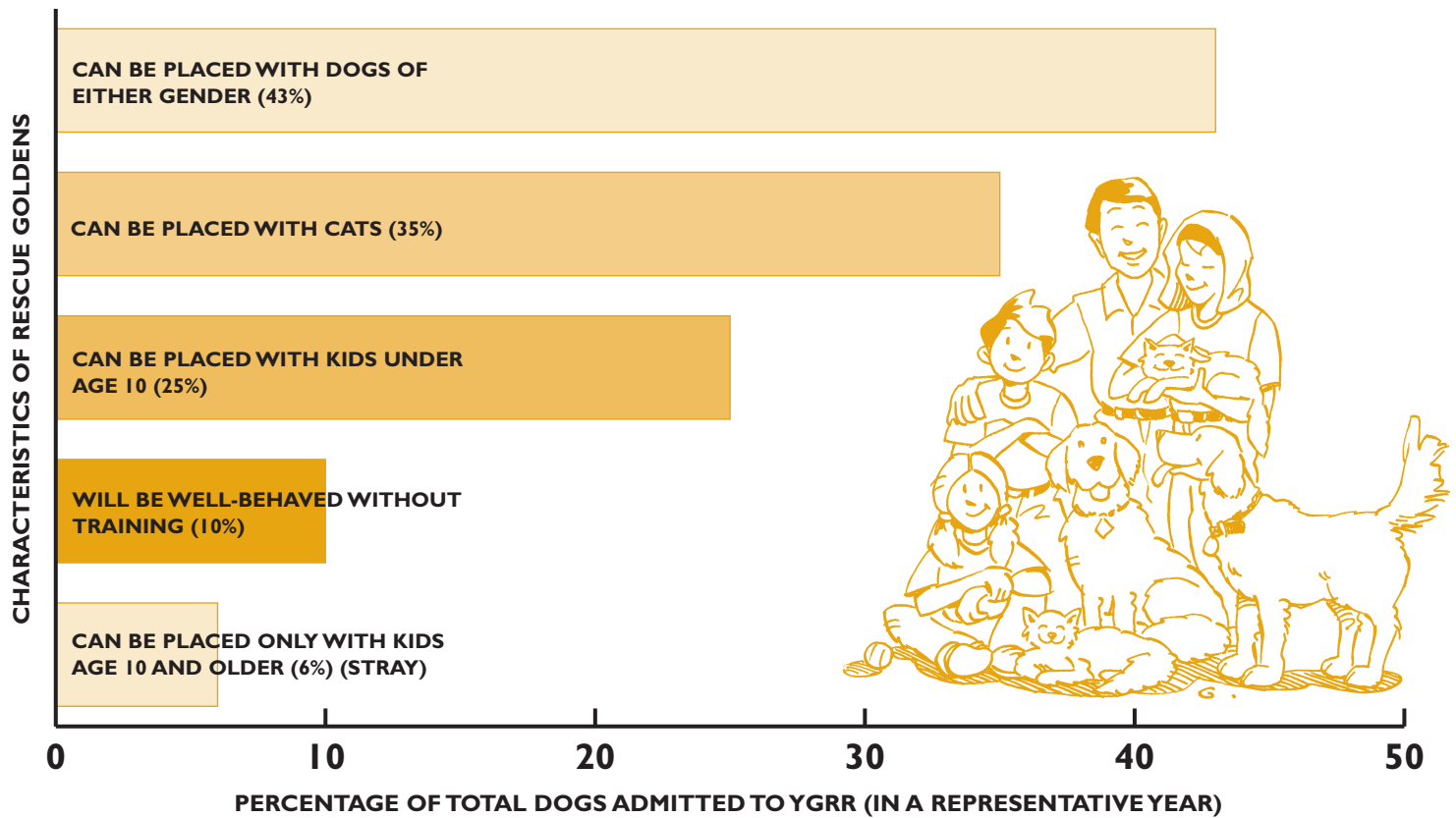
Goldens & Children

- ▶ Can be wonderful companions, with proper supervision and training
- ▶ Because of our emphasis on safety we will not place into families with children under the age of 10
 - Goldens who have had no exposure to children
 - Goldens who were given up because of characteristics that are incompatible with children
 - Goldens who have no documented history (stray Goldens)

Special Note to Applicants with Children 5 and under in the Household - Due to YGRR's emphasis on safety, we take great care in placing Rescue Goldens into homes with young children. Goldens who are strays, Goldens who have had no exposure to children, or Goldens who were given up due to characteristics that are incompatible with young children cannot be placed into these homes. As a result, the number of Goldens available to go into these homes is low while the demand for them is high. Therefore we have found it necessary to decline applications from applicants with children 5 and under in the household. Repeat Adopters will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



General Characteristics of Rescue Golden Retrievers Admitted to YGRR (in a Representative Year)

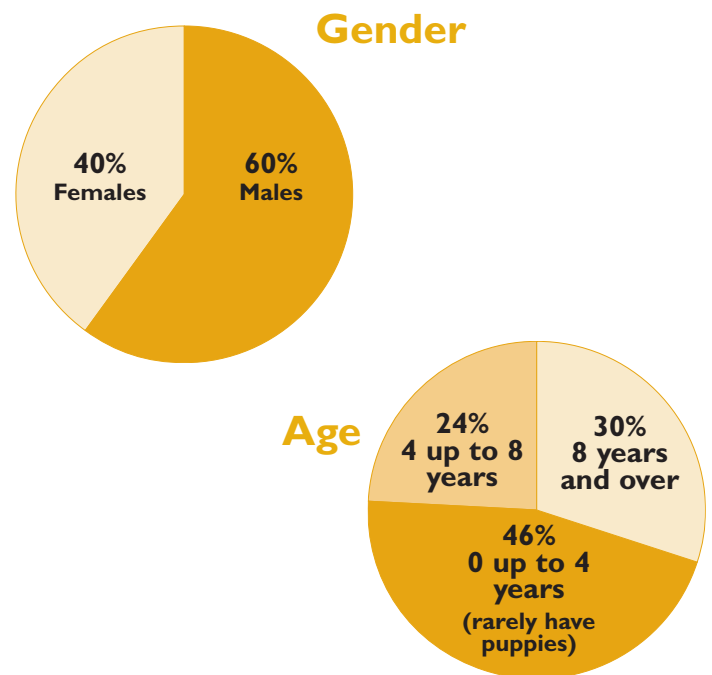


Applicants often ask us, “How long will it take to adopt a Rescue Golden?” Some applicants will adopt very quickly and others may have to wait for a long time. The reason that some applicants have to wait is because the characteristics of many Rescue Golden Retrievers (supply) do not match the criteria of the applicants who want to adopt (demand).

The supply of dogs who match applicants whose circumstances include “limiting factors” (young children, dogs, cats, hidden fences or no fence) is relatively low. This does not mean that such applicants will not be able to adopt from us, it simply means that it will take longer. Each “limiting factor” narrows the field of Rescue Golden Retrievers suitable for that applicant. Applicants with more than one “limiting factor” can expect a longer wait because the field is narrowed by each additional “limiting factor.”

We do not expect applicants to change their family composition in order to accommodate a Rescue Golden. However, applicants with several limiting factors are likely to increase their chances of adopting a Rescue Golden if they do not narrow the field further by adding restrictions on the age, color or gender Golden Retrievers they will consider.

If an applicant has an open mind about what gender or age Golden he will consider, more Golden Retrievers are available. An applicant who has a very narrowly defined, specific Golden in mind might be frustrated by our adoption process and perhaps should contact a breeder regarding available adult dogs.



A note about age

Many applicants state a preference for younger dogs but younger dogs are not suitable for all applicants. It is important to remember that Golden Retrievers are bred to be high energy dogs with a great deal of stamina. The younger the dog is, the more energy he will have and the more exercise he will require to expend that energy. Unless an applicant’s circumstances permit him to provide a dog with hard, consistent exercise several times a day, he should adopt an older dog.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to adopt a YGRR Golden, applicants must:

1. Demonstrate an ability and the commitment to provide proper care, exercise and training for the lifetime of a large dog
2. Reside in one of the six New England states. This requirement may be waived for repeat YGRR adopters who have moved out of New England.
3. Provide a fenced-in area large enough to safely exercise the dog—not as a place for the dog to live (*Applicants such as apartment or condo dwellers, who do not have yards, may apply for an exemption from this requirement.) Appropriate senior Golden retrievers (eight years and older) may be placed in unfenced homes.

To satisfy YGRR's requirement the fence must be:

- Constructed of wood (stockade, picket), metal (iron, chain link), or wooden/metal posts with heavy gauge wire
- A minimum fence height of 4 feet, 5 feet or higher is preferred
- Lockable gate
- Fenced areas directly accessible from the house are preferred

Invisible or Hidden Fence Systems Policy:

YGRR will not approve any type of Invisible or Hidden Fence Systems for first time YGRR adopters. This is due to the fact that there are very few dogs in our rescue program for whom this type of fencing is appropriate. Repeat adopters will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To satisfy our safe environment requirement for repeat adopters, the fence system:

- Must be manufactured by Pet Shop, Invisible Fence, or DogWatch
- Must be professionally installed
- The installation cannot abut a busy street
- The Rescue Golden may not be left in the containment system when the owner is not at home

We regret if this policy may disqualify some homes, but our first concern must be the safety of the dogs with which we have been entrusted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

4. Abide by the terms of the YGRR Adoption Contract and the following additional rules to protect the dog from danger:
 - Rescue Golden retrievers may not be left outdoors when no one is at home
 - All dog doors must be locked when the owner is absent
 - If the Rescue Golden will have access to a swimming pool:
 - The pool must have steps; ladders are not acceptable
 - The pool must have an "elephant proof" cover which fits snugly to the edge

Ineligible

- YGRR will not place a Rescue Golden into a home that provides day care, human or canine
- YGRR will not place a Rescue Golden into a residential facility (nursing home, halfway house, etc.)

EXEMPTIONS

If you cannot meet any one of the foregoing eligibility requirements, then in most cases, we cannot proceed with your application. However, we recognize that there may be exceptional applicants whose circumstances do not fit within our guidelines. Therefore, an experienced dog owner may request an exemption to any YGRR eligibility requirements. An exemption request must include a detailed letter describing your circumstances, life-style, previous dog ownership and how you plan on safely exercising and managing a young Golden. A letter of recommendation from your veterinarian regarding the care and well-being of your previously owned dog(s) must accompany your application as well. Without these two letters, your exemption request will not be considered. Exemption requests from first time dog owners will not be considered. If your request is accepted, your application will be forwarded to a Home Visit Coordinator and a decision will be made following your home visit.