



**POTOMAC VALLEY GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB, INC.**  
**Membership Application**

**To apply for membership, read and complete all four pages and mail with dues payment to the address on page 4.**

**First Member:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Member (if family membership):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Member/Family Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Members are automatically added to the club's email distribution for important club news and event announcements, and are included in the online and printed versions of the membership directory. Your contact information is needed to ensure you receive information in a timely fashion, and to allow other club members to contact you on matters of mutual interest. If you **do NOT want** any contact information for you or other members from your family to be included in the directory, please so indicate below:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: No  Address: No  Cell: No  Landline: No

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: No  Address: No  Cell: No  Landline: No

Areas of Interest:  Conformation  Obedience  Rally  Agility  Tracking  Field Events

Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership: Family (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_ Single (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Junior (Free) \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Family (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Single (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORT TO THE CLUB**

We need help from all members in order to maintain the quality and scope of our numerous activities. You need not to an expert to lend support. Assisting with organizing or even leading an event is a fun way to gain knowledge that will benefit both you and your Golden. Indicate below the events you would be willing to work. Please note that unless a courtesy policy has been extended by our club, you may always show at the same event at which you work.

I/We will assist PVGRC with the following:

Agility Trials  Educational Seminars  Hospitality  Annual Banquet  Programs  Newsletter

Spring Specialty  Field Events  Fall Match  Equipment Set Up  Tracking

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Special skills you would be willing to share with PVGRC:

Graphics  Video Production  Photography  Writing  Computer  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Visit the PVGRC Web Site <http://www.pvgrc.org> for information and updates on events and activities.

**POTOMAC VALLEY GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB**  
**CODE OF ETHICS**

All members and applicants to PVGRC must agree with the Constitution and By-Laws of the PVGRC. We present the following Code of Ethics as an encouragement to members whose goal should be the welfare and improvement of the Golden Retriever.

Anyone acting detrimental to the sport of dogs and the PVGRC will be subject to the AKC Rules of Misconduct and the PVGRC By-Laws.

Ethical breeding is the backbone of the future of the Golden Retriever breed. Each litter should be appropriately planned with parents of quality as described by the AKC official breed standard.

Potential breeders must ask themselves if they have the knowledge, time, and resources to be a breeder. This issue affects the quality, health, and future of the animals themselves, as well as the breed. Breeders have a responsibility to research and understand genetics, common breed problems, and the particular line they plan to perpetuate.

This code applies to both the owners of the brood bitch and the stud dog:

1. All breeding stock should be of sound temperament and free of any serious inheritable defects.
2. Both parents should have **at a minimum**:
  - a. A Fair or Better hip rating by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or be rated in the 50th percentile or better by PennHIP.
  - b. A passing elbow rating of normal by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) for those dogs born after January 1, 2000.
  - c. An annual eye check and be certified normal by the Canine Eye Registry (CERF) or an annual eye examination or report from an AVCO Board-certified ophthalmologist marked "normal" for both eyes.
  - d. A heart certification by a Board-certified cardiologist, showing no significant inheritable heart disease.
3. Dogs with other serious inheritable diseases such as epilepsy, severe allergies, or auto immune disorders should be excluded from a breeding program. Any unprovoked aggression is contrary to the Golden Retriever breed, and a dog with these tendencies should not be bred.
4. A bitch should not be allowed to produce an excessive number of litters. Sufficient time should be allowed between litters for the bitch to recuperate.

Routine veterinary care prior to each breeding is essential to evaluate the condition of the dog or bitch. Care should be taken not to breed any dog or bitch that is not in top condition, and up to date on inoculations.

If you have decided to breed, these suggestions are offered:

1. All puppy buyers should be carefully screened to ensure their ability to care humanely and responsibly for the dog.
2. Puppies will not be sold to puppy mills, laboratories, or pet shops.
3. Breeders are responsible for their puppies FOR LIFE and must be willing to:
  - a. Offer consultation to resolve problems.
  - b. Assist in finding another home, if necessary.
  - c. Take the dog back at any time.
4. AKC limited registration for "pet" puppies.
5. Spay/neuter contracts.
6. Education of the puppy buyer. The breeder should provide the following information:
  - a. proper socialization of the puppy.
  - a. Crate training.
  - b. List of local obedience trainers.
  - c. Health record of puppy (past and future inoculation schedule).
7. Abide by applicable state regulations concerning the sale, placement and care of puppies (including inoculations).

8. **ABOVE ALL, BREEDERS SHOULD BE HONEST** when dealing with puppy purchaser in all matters: a.  
Pedigrees should be provided.
- a. Clearances should be provided on the parents.
  - b. Inherited attributes should be discussed.

### **Conduct of individual members**

1. Good sportsmanship should be shown at all dog-related activities.
2. Members should make themselves available to assist novices and the general public with information concerning the Golden Retriever.
3. Only humane methods should be used when showing or training dogs. Under no circumstances will mistreatment or brutality be tolerated.
4. When confronted by a situation not covered in this Code of Ethics, the member will conduct themselves as they would like to be treated.
5. In general all members should provide:
  - a. Adequate food, water, and shelter from the elements.
  - b. Routine medical care.
  - c. Kind and responsible ownership.

### **ABOUT THE POTOMAC VALLEY GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB, INC.**

The Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club (PVGRC), a non-profit organization, was formed in 1968 to promote the purebred Golden Retriever and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. We urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC) as the only standard of excellence by which Golden Retrievers shall be judged; we do all in our power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows as well as conducting sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, field events, obedience and rally trials, and agility trials under the rules of the AKC.

At present, we have members ranging from South Carolina to New York, with the heaviest concentration in the Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania areas. Our membership runs about 275, with 60 members being the most active.

We are a member Club of the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA), which in turn, is a member of the AKC. We are eligible to host Regional and National Specialty Shows and Trials, as well as our own Independent Specialty.

Some of our club activities include:

- Bi-monthly meetings and educational programs held at various venues in the Maryland/Virginia area
- Field and tracking training sessions
- A Specialty show, obedience and rally trial generally held in the February/March timeframe
- Agility trials
- A WC/WCX field test normally held each April
- A FAST Coursing Ability Test
- Fun events for members and dogs, including "K-9 Olympics", celebration of our veteran dogs, dock diving, and a holiday season party
- An AKC Hunting Retriever Test in October

All are welcome at any of the meetings or functions hosted by PVGRC. Dues are presently \$30 for a family, \$25 for singles, and junior members free (under 18). Associate memberships are available for \$5 less than the above prices.

We publish a newsletter every other month, containing a calendar of upcoming events; field, obedience and show results for club members; various informational articles of interest, along with medical information relating to our Goldens. A calendar as well as additional information about club activities and golden retrievers is also available on the club's website. Members are also automatically subscribed to a members-only email distribution list, and can also become member of the club's Facebook page.

Each year at our annual Awards Banquet, club members and their dogs are honored with rosettes and trophies recognizing their accomplishments during the year.

Many of our members also belong to GRREAT (Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training). This organization got its start from some very dedicated members of PVGRC. The group works feverishly to make sure homes are found for any unwanted or abused Golden Retrievers and those found in shelters ready for euthanasia. Foster homes are always in demand while these dogs await adoption.

We look forward to educating and welcoming into membership all who are as crazy about Golden Retrievers as the rest of us... come join us!

Membership information: Rita Bumgardner, 304-262-8629 or email [membership@pvgrc.org](mailto:membership@pvgrc.org)

I (we) hereby agree to abide by the Code of Ethics and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Kennel Club.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Co-Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Before applications are submitted to the membership for consideration, they must be endorsed by two (2) PVGRC members in good standing. If you are not acquainted with any PVGRC members, you are cordially invited to attend any club function and get to know us.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Endorsing Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Endorsing Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dues for the current calendar year must be remitted with your application. Those who are voted into membership after October 1<sup>st</sup> are considered paid through the following calendar year. Make checks payable to Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club and mail along with your application to:

Rita Bumgardner  
PVGRC Membership Chairperson  
557 Acorn Circle  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425