

Did you ever wonder how many AKC registered Goldens there were, or how many titles Goldens achieved? Or did you ever want to learn a little more about the Golden Retriever? Or how to get more involved with your Golden? Here is a brief overview of the second most popular dog in America and how to get more involved.

Golden Retrievers have been in second place, right behind Labradors, in numbers of registered retrievers with the American Kennel Club (AKC) for sometime now. Labs out number Goldens on average a little more than 2:1 annually. Through the past five years, there were slightly more than 52,000 Goldens annually registered while Labs ring the top dog bell at over 140,000 annually.

# Registered Goldens	66,300	62,497	56,124	52,520	52,550
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

The status of the Golden Retriever, while always high, has improved even more because the profile of the typical person who owns one has changed. Today's Golden must be versatile, that is good looking, obedient, do well in the field, excel in agility while being great at scent work and all while being great at home with the kids! For most today, the performance Golden is a show dog, an obedience dog, a hunting retriever, a tracker and an agility dog. In addition our best friend must also qualify as a family pet and, toward that end, the Golden Retriever has no peer. Affectionate, playful, he is a wonderful companion, and an ideal kids' dog.

As for looks, the show Golden is beautiful, structurally correct, strong and like all other Goldens, it has a permanent smile a gentle face and a huge desire to please. He is one that all would want to play with, hunt with or perform with. In the conformation show ring Goldens always produce significant champions. In rough numbers, there are about 1,000 Goldens per state and in each state roughly 5 become prestigious breed Champions. There are however, many more Goldens on the east and west coasts thus claiming their proportionate share of champions.

SDHF	21	21	15	13	44
CH	247	239	257	241	273
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

AKC Champions and GRCA Hall of Fame

Goldens are perhaps the easiest of all the retrievers to train, they are nearly always tractable and they are among the best at adapting to new situations. They easily learn new skills and easily apply those news skills to more complex skills. As a result, Goldens are always among the top producers of Obedience titles and Obedience Trial Champions.

OBHF	24	28	34	20	21
OTCH	40	32	37	31	25
UDX	56	51	63	58	55
UD	111	142	133	120	119
CDX	311	274	270	263	281
CD	639	593	577	576	586
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

AKC Obedience & GRCA Hall of Fame

The average hunter today is no longer a weathered outdoorsman who spends thirty to forty days a year hunting waterfowl and upland game. Today's hunter is more likely to be a business professional that manages to get out a half a dozen times or so for either actual hunts or simulated hunts. In fact today's hunter, more than ever before, is more likely to be a woman, since the number of women participating in hunting related activities has rapidly risen. Go to an

AKC, GRCA or NAHRA Hunt Test and you will see women out numbering men by more than 3:1!

The intelligence, trainability and easy-going characteristic of the Golden are among its hallmark traits, which makes it an excellent performer in the field. Golden Retrievers are as fast and as tough as any other retriever and can handle the most severe weather conditions. Many knowledgeable trainers recognize that Golden Retrievers have a great nose for scent. Sometime ago, Blood Hounds were mixed in the breed to give it a good nose. (Ever wonder why there is such excessive skin under the neck of Golden? Look at a Blood Hound!) As a result of the Blood Hound, no other retriever has the scenting ability of the Golden. Because of their great nose, Golden Retrievers are the undisputed leaders of all the retrievers in hunting upland game and in many cases they are becoming the preferred upland game dog. In the field, Golden Retrievers have amassed the following titles.

MH	49	36	49	60	55
SH	87	59	105	113	105
JH	241	237	235	257	198
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

#### AKC Hunt Titles

FDHF	1	3	0	2	3
FC	1	1	1	0	2
AFC	1	0	3	3	1
***	21	22	27	21	29
**	47	39	49	40	44
*	0	0	0	0	0
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

#### AKC Field Titles

WCX	91	124	112	75	116
WC	188	178	183	130	219
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

#### GRCA Field Working Certificates

The great nose just doesn't stop at hunting. Golden Retrievers are being used for tracking, drugs, rescue, avalanche and other areas where a great nose, adaptability and trainability is required. As a result, Golden Retrievers are quickly racking up titles in AKC tracking events and they have accumulated these titles.

CT	1	3	1	3	3
VST	1	3	1	3	3
TDX	24	18	13	12	16
TD	71	60	59	60	83
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

#### AKC Tracking Titles

In agility, the Golden is second only to the Border Collie. But it is tough to imagine a Border Collie collecting up Pheasants or Ducks! To that end, Golden Retrievers are among the most versatile, smart and trainable dogs and are well suited for Agility. Golden Retrievers have amassed an impressive array of Agility titles.

ADHF	0	16	15	27	29
MACH	6	11	16	31	34
MX	36	68	85	77	93
AX	125	138	138	128	173
OA	209	190	211	206	229
NA	293	294	295	268	241
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

#### AKC Agility Titles, GRCA Hall of Fame

MXJ	43	65	71	92	104
AXJ	122	142	131	165	170
OAJ	203	180	213	216	221
NAJ	284	282	288	277	252
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

#### AKC Agility with Jumping

MXP	n/a	n/a	0	3	5
AXP	n/a	n/a	4	21	34
OAP	n/a	n/a	12	68	79
NAP	n/a	n/a	63	159	146
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

#### AKC Agility Preferred

MJP	n/a	n/a	0	5	9
AJP	n/a	n/a	4	28	41
OJP	n/a	n/a	15	71	77
NJP	n/a	n/a	55	157	168
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

#### AKC Agility Jumping Preferred

The Golden is generally acknowledged as the most versatile of the retrievers. It handles extreme weather conditions and they are the most trainable, providing excellence in all of its endeavors and for over 50,000 folks annually it is the most beautiful. The versatile performance Golden Retrievers are those that excel in the conformation show ring, performance areas such as Obedience, Agility and Tracking in addition to the Field. The versatile performance dogs are among those that best represent the breed. The GRCA is unique in that it awards those Golden Retrievers that have excelled in the show ring, the field and the performance areas with the Versatility and Versatility Excellent titles. These are among the most difficult titles to achieve and as a result only a few dogs each year achieve this lofty status.

VCX	4	14	8	6	9
VC	10	18	9	7	14
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

#### GRCA Versatility

While the Golden is versatile, their human counter parts need to be more versatile. The Golden owner all too frequently focuses on one or two disciplines. More conformation dogs need to get out in the field. After all, they are field dogs! The GRCA is making conformation less painful for the Obedience and Field folks as well with its new CCA program.

For those outstanding dogs that have produced 5 follow on Champions, or produced 5 dogs with GRCA points, for higher level AKC titles, the GRCA awards these great dogs with Outstanding Sire and Dam titles.

OS	24	22	34	27	20
OD	47	45	46	56	55
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

GRCA Outstanding Sire and Dam

It is interesting to note that comparatively a small number of Goldens each year participate in sanctioned AKC, GRCA, NAHRA, UKC and other events. And yet there are over 50,000 Goldens registered annually. Local Golden clubs, and other clubs offering specialization in conformation, tracking, field, obedience, rally, rescue and so on offer a variety of programs for dog owners to get involved in.

Here in the Bay Area, we have one of the top Golden Retriever Clubs in the country! – the Norcal Golden Retriever Club. The Norcal GRC is blessed with having the top Golden breeders, and among them are those that have produced the top Conformation Golden Retrievers in the country. The Norcal GRC also uniquely claims among its members, the top Obedience trainers in the country, the top Agility trainers in the country, the top Tracking trainers and the top Field trainers. Just log onto the <http://www/norcalgrc.org/> and check out what all they have to offer.

As a starter, a great way to get involved with Goldens in the field is through the Norcal GRC picnic trials. Log onto [norcalgrc.org](http://norcalgrc.org) and click on the events page for more information. These are noncompetitive very fun events where Goldens and owners alike can enjoy introductory fieldwork from the very basic elements of teaching dogs to swim and retrieve training dummies through advanced duck and pheasant fieldwork. Puppies through seniors are invited. The person who puts on this event is a pro and she makes it very enjoyable for all.

There are many local dog shows and typically twice a year the Norcal GRC sponsors a Golden Retriever only specialty dog show. These are great places to talk with Golden owners and collect information. There are a number of clubs, organizations and individuals that provide training and fun events for you and your dog in all disciplines. So get on [Norcalgrc.org](http://Norcalgrc.org) or Google and check out what is available in your local area. Hopefully we will see you and your gold haired buddy out having fun!

\* Data source: GRCA, AKC