

THINKING ABOUT ADOPTING A PUPPY?

Rescue A Golden of Arizona

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU DECIDE

Puppies are adorable but raising one is a major commitment. This handout helps you picture the day-to-day reality of puppy life so you can decide whether a puppy truly fits your household, schedule, and lifestyle.



THE DAILY REALITY

- Potty trips are frequent — often every 2–3 hours, and also after sleeping, eating, and playtime.
- Nighttime wake-ups, interrupted sleep, and crate-settling are normal at first.
- Accidents will happen. House-training takes patience, consistency, and close supervision.
- Puppies chew, mouth, bark, dig, shred items, grab things, and explore with their teeth.
- You will need to puppy-proof your home and provide safe chew toys and appropriate outlets for energy.
- A bored or under-exercised puppy can quickly become destructive.

TRAINING & SOCIALIZATION

- Puppies need daily positive-reinforcement training, not just affection.
- Everyone in the home should use the same rules, routines, and cues.
- Socialization should include people, sounds, surfaces, grooming, handling, car rides, and new environments.
- Introduce other animals thoughtfully and safely.
- Puppy classes and ongoing guidance from a qualified trainer can be very helpful.
- Adolescence brings another stage of testing boundaries, so the work does not end after the first few weeks.

HOUSEHOLD FIT

- A puppy generally cannot be left alone all day. Who will provide midday care, potty breaks, and supervision?
- Children and puppies require active supervision so both can stay safe and learn good habits.
- Resident pets may need slow introductions, structure, and breaks from puppy energy.
- Think about work schedules, errands, travel, bad weather, medical appointments, and emergencies.
- If you are already stretched thin, an adult Golden may be a better fit than a puppy.

THE 3-3-3 RULE

Many rescues use the 3-3-3 rule as a general guide to adjustment. Every dog is different, but it can help set expectations.

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First 3 Days: Decompression

Your puppy may feel overwhelmed, scared, and confused. They may hide, sleep a lot, hesitate to eat, or have accidents. Keep things quiet, predictable, and low-pressure.

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First 3 Weeks: Learning the Routine

Your puppy begins to settle in, learn the household schedule, and show more personality. Chewing, whining, and other behaviors may become more noticeable. Keep

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First 3 Months: Building Trust

Your puppy is learning the rules, building trust, and becoming more secure in the home. Continue boundaries, training, and socialization so good habits can stick.

A puppy may be the right fit for your family — but only if your household is ready for the time, structure, patience, and follow-through puppyhood requires.