



# Young Golden Retriever

*Golden Retrievers are an intelligent, loving and eager to please breed. You should also know they can be predisposed to the following ailments. Examinations twice a year and routine diagnostics to catch problems early, when they are easiest to treat, are recommended for the life of your dog.*

## Otitis

### Description

Otitis is the medical term for ear infections. Ear infections can be caused by allergies or lifestyle (ex. swimming). Golden Retrievers are more likely to get recurring ear infections because the large exterior part of the ear (the pinna) blocks circulation of air, and can trap moisture in the ear canal.

### Early Detection

**Recommended:** otoscopic exams twice a year.

### Why Needed

Otitis can contribute to:

- Pain
- Itchy, smelly ears
- Hearing loss
- Bleeding ears
- The need for surgery

## Hypothyroidism

### Description

Hypothyroidism is a condition where the body doesn't make enough thyroid hormone. Thyroid hormone regulates many functions in the body such as metabolism.

### Early Detection

**Recommended:** annual thyroid hormone testing beginning at age 2.

### Why Needed

Hypothyroidism can contribute to:

- Dry skin and coat
- Weight gain
- Lethargy
- Mental dullness
- Excessive sleep

## Cancer

### Description

Golden Retrievers are prone to several types of cancers, including:

- Hemangiosarcoma
- Lymphoma
- Mast cell tumors

### Early Detection

**Recommended:** comprehensive exams twice a year. Also, a fine needle aspirate of all masses or lumps to examine the cells. Early detection is the key to curing and managing these cancers.

### Why Needed

Cancer can contribute to:

- Pain
- Weakness
- Gastric ulcers
- Internal bleeding
- Labored breathing
- Death

## Hip Dysplasia

### Description

Hip dysplasia is an inherited condition leading to malformation of the hips and usually arthritis. It can lead to related conditions in the elbow. Early treatment is key in managing this condition.

### Early Detection

**Recommended:** orthopedic exams twice a year. Radiographs typically at 2 years of age or earlier if signs develop.

### Why Needed

Hip dysplasia can contribute to:

- Pain
- Arthritis
- Lameness
- Reduced mobility
- The need for surgery

## Optimum Wellness Plans® and Golden Retrievers

### Included in the Essential Wellness Plan

- Otoscope examinations twice a year\*
- Orthopedic examinations twice a year\*

\*Part of the comprehensive examination

Plus the preventive care in each plan and 10% off on nearly all products and services

Consult your Banfield medical team for the best plan level for your individual pet.

For other breed handouts go to [banfield.com/dogbreeds](http://banfield.com/dogbreeds).

