

# *Why We Choose Your Puppy*

*By Sharon Long, Sharmik Golden Retrievers*

Whether placed with you as a companion or as a show prospect your puppy is the product of a great deal of care, research, hard work and love. He is a good representative of his breed; should be structurally and temperamentally sound; and be well suited to be a companion at home, going hunting, or competing in one of the many activities Golden Retrievers love (obedience, agility, tracking, therapy work, etc.) He has received lots of care and socialization. We are very proud of the puppies we produce! If you enjoy her half as much as we have enjoyed her parents, then we have fulfilled a large part of our goals as breeders.

## **THE RIGHT PUPPY FOR YOU**

Many experienced breeders will choose the puppy you get, or at least help guide the choice, instead of letting you simply choose from the entire litter. Our experience, and the time we spend watching them grow up, give us the best chance of matching puppies and homes well. Otherwise, if you want a more mellow puppy, you might happen to visit on the day when the most laid-back one is being a terror...or if you want a more energetic and active puppy, you might happen to visit while the feistiest little guy is worn out from his busy activities! We care very much that you get a puppy that will fit well into your home, and that each puppy go to the right home for that particular little guy. Tell us as much as you can about what you want and your lifestyle, and as you visit the puppies we do welcome and work with your input and preferences. Well-bred litters of Golden puppies will be more consistent within a particular litter than otherwise....so the choice of breeder and of a particular litter based on the qualities of the parents is more important than small differences between puppies within that litter. However, it is one of the most enjoyable aspects of raising puppies to spend time getting to know them and their prospective families and helping making a good match based on those small differences!

## **“PET/COMPANION” VS. “SHOW” QUALITY**

The differences between “pet/companion quality” and “show potential” puppies are not usually obvious to the inexperienced eye. Sometimes there are no differences, and we generally prefer to place our puppies in lifetime homes where they will be a family member and be spayed or neutered. The grading of puppies is only an educated guess, and even the experienced eye is not infallible. Sometimes the difference is merely an angle of the shoulder blade that we feel in our hands, the way a puppy moves or stands, something about the teeth, or that indefinable “something” that makes us guess and hope that one particular puppy has that special something for the show ring. And sometimes we’re wrong! In any case, to keep something for ourselves to show and breed, or if we have approved show homes available, we take our best shot at picking a couple of candidates for the job. The rest of the puppies are really the lucky ones, as they get to go home with one of our special families. They have received the same careful breeding and rearing, and share the same family looks and heritage as the “show picks.”