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**Eastern Counties  
Golden Retriever Club  
Re-Homing and Rescue Officer**

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Dear

Thank you for your recent enquiry regarding Golden Retriever rescue. Approximately 50-60 goldens require rehoming in our region of East Anglia each year and so we are constantly on the lookout for new homes. We are asked to re-home these dogs for a number of reasons; they include changes in family or domestic circumstances, following bereavement, the arrival of a new baby or sometimes they are just too much of a handful for the owner. The dogs vary in age from the very young puppy to, sometimes, the older dog in their twilight years but all need a new home where they will be loved and cared for. We do our best to match all of these dogs with the requirements of our volunteer new families. The process of rehoming begins with the volunteer new family completing our questionnaire; this then gives us an idea of your circumstances and desires with regard to a golden retriever. We then place you on our list until a suitable dog is offered to us; this may take some time so, please, be patient. (As it is important to match the right dog with the right owners, your place on the list does not reflect the time you may have to wait). When we are offered a suitable dog, we will contact you to ensure that your circumstances have not changed and that you are still interested. We will normally, at this stage, arrange to visit you in your home to discuss the way ahead. This home visit is an opportunity for us to meet you and ensure that your home is secure and suited to the arrival of a largish, and maybe very active, dog and for you to ask us any questions you may have, especially if this is your first golden. The next stage is for you to meet up with the donor family and the dog and, provided all goes well, you can usually take the dog home with you at this stage.

Of course, there are some formalities to complete in the form of paperwork. In essence, you agree to foster the dog for the remainder of its life; that is, feed it and care for it. The Club retains any Kennel Club etc paperwork and effectively retains ownership. That only comes into play should your circumstances change and the dog needs to be rehomed again. In all other respects, the dog is yours to enjoy. We will always be available for help or advice, if required. We also ask that you make a donation to our rescue funds, for two reasons. Firstly, this service is not without some expenses, most of which are met from our own pockets and secondly, and perhaps more importantly, we want you to be sure of the responsibility that you are undertaking. For this reason, we ask for a minimum donation depending on the age of the dog: £150 for a dog under 2 and £100 for others. For "Golden Oldies" we can come to a mutual

arrangement! As I said, the first step is you completing the questionnaire and I have included one with this letter.

Please complete it and return it to the address given and we can then include you in any requests we get to re-home. We have many helpers and advisors in all areas; please remember that they are all volunteers giving their time freely for the love of the breed.

Should you find a dog from another source would you please let us know so we can remove your details from our waiting lists. Thank you.

With best wishes

Marc Wheeldon

Re Homing and Rescue Officer