

Field Golden Retriever:

Field bred golden retrievers are bred to hunt.

They're meant to be in the field all day retrieving gunned down fowl.

They're bred for a specific personality and drive.

Show Golden Retriever:

Show golden retrievers are bred for a specific look.

They're bred to look like what the judges at conformation events expect them to look like based on the breed standard.

Field Golden Retriever:

Field bred golden retrievers are athletes.

They're smaller and slimmer, and have body types that help them run, jump and swim all day.

Their heads are usually "wedge-shaped."

Show Golden Retriever:

Show golden retrievers are bigger, thicker, stockier, and "big-boned."

They often tend to have heads that are more blocky.

Personality

Field Golden Retriever:

Since field bred golden retrievers are bred to hunt, they typically have more driven personalities.

Like all golden retrievers, they're loving and aim to please.

Show Golden Retriever:

Show golden retrievers tend to be more sociable.

They're typically friendlier and, like all golden retrievers, they too aim to please.

Both breeds are also usually good with other dogs.

Energy Levels

Field Golden Retriever:

Since field golden retrievers are bred to hunt all day, they have tons of energy.

Typically, they have more energy than show golden retrievers.

Show Golden Retriever:

Show golden retrievers typically have less energy than field golden retrievers, but don't underestimate them.

All golden retriever puppies, no matter which style, have tons of energy, and just because show golden retrievers *typically* have less energy than field bred goldens, they can still be quite the handful.

Coat

Field Golden Retriever:

Field bred golden retrievers typically have darker coats in shades from gold to red.

They're usually shorter than conformation goldens.

Because they have shorter coats, they have less volume of fur to shed, so it may feel like they shed less.

Show Golden Retriever:

Show golden retrievers have long, beautiful coats with long feathers.

They're typically light gold to gold in color.

Since they have such full coats, they shed excessively, so get used to it being all over the house.

Training Needs & Abilities

Field Golden Retriever:

All golden retrievers, especially field goldens, are very smart, love to please people, and love treats and praise, so they naturally take well to training and enjoy it.

If you don't train them, their brainpower will usually manifest itself in something mischeivous, like chewing up shoes or stealing socks.

Field golden retrievers love training and they need lots of it.

Show Golden Retriever:

Just like field goldens, show golden retrievers make great students because they are intelligent people-pleasers that love treats and praise.

However, they may need slightly less work than field goldens because they weren't bred for such drive and the need for a job.

Jobs

Field Golden Retriever:

Obviously field golden retrievers make good hunting dogs, but their drive and energy also make them good search and rescue dogs.

They're also good at sports such as agility and dock diving.

Show Golden Retriever:

In addition to excelling in dog shows, show goldens, or dogs from show golden lines, are often therapy dogs or service dogs.

Conclusion

Field bred golden retrievers are athletes that were bred to work all day, while show golden retrievers are dogs that are bred for a certain look.

They're both wonderful dogs and with the right training, can make great family pets.