



Valerie Foss writes in ***The Ultimate Golden Retriever***:

(p. 91) Nearly all old photographs from the archives show Goldens as working gundogs, and this was the original aim of those pioneer breeders. Times have changed and so has Golden Retriever's role in life, but, because of the breed's superb temperament, willingness to please and unique ability to communicate. Goldens today have diversified into all walks of life. They have become one of the most popular dogs worldwide; no longer used so much in sport, they have been found ideally suitable as family pets and for training as dogs for the blind, deaf and challenged people.

(p. 76) The breed's popularity as pets, due to the wonderful character and disposition of Goldens, has in some way been detrimental to working ability (p. 233) ... a number of breeders in South Africa have been, over the years, very conscious of the division between the show dog and the working dog and have been extremely careful in maintaining the balance when breeding in order to maintain the 'dual purpose' Golden Retriever in one animal whenever possible.

A similar split occurred with Arabian horses: show Arabians and Endurance Arabians have almost become distinct strains. Contemporary Arabian enthusiasts are also sadly, divided in their loyalties, compared to historic breeders, such as Lady Anne Blunt of Crabbett, who saw 'a bigger picture' of their beloved Arabians. The more multi-functional animal a breeder strives to breed, the more challenging breeding becomes, as there simply are more boxes to tick. But this, in Liane's opinion, is the high road of breeding and is the one followed by Bonyl.

SA's far sighted breeders of yesteryear (p. 230 – 233): *Di Phillipson (Kilifi)*, *Peter and Christine Sandford (Redsteps)*, *Margret McAra (Macanne)* and *Helene Kessler (Gavalat)*, all appear in Bonyl pedigrees. Helen Kessler's unwavering pursuit of the "dual purpose" Golden Retriever is represented in a dog such as *Gavalat Evening Kisses at Ranscombe*. It is with gratitude and appreciation that Bonyl endeavours to contribute to the future of SA Goldens given the modern options of improved health screening, frozen semen and AI, while honouring the footsteps and wisdom of the past.



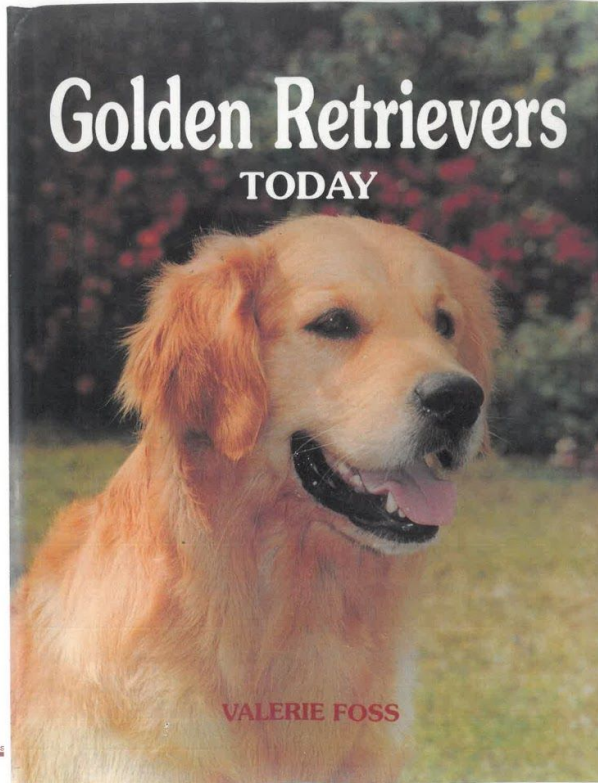
Photography: R. Dixon

The Golden Retriever is one of the most popular breeds in the world. A friendly outgoing disposition makes it ideal as a pet, glamorous good looks find favour in the show ring, and retrieving abilities make the Golden an excellent shooting companion. Biddable and easy to train, the Golden Retriever is also used as a guide dog for the blind. In *Golden Retrievers Today*, author Valerie Foss traces the origins of the breed, giving advice on choosing a puppy, basic training and general care, plus information on breeding, whelping and rearing. The breed Standard is analysed, and there is illustrated coverage of preparing a Golden Retriever for the show ring. For those who are interested in training, the specialised areas of gun-training, agility, working tests and obedience competitions are highlighted to ensure that every Golden Retriever owner gets the best from this wonderful breed.



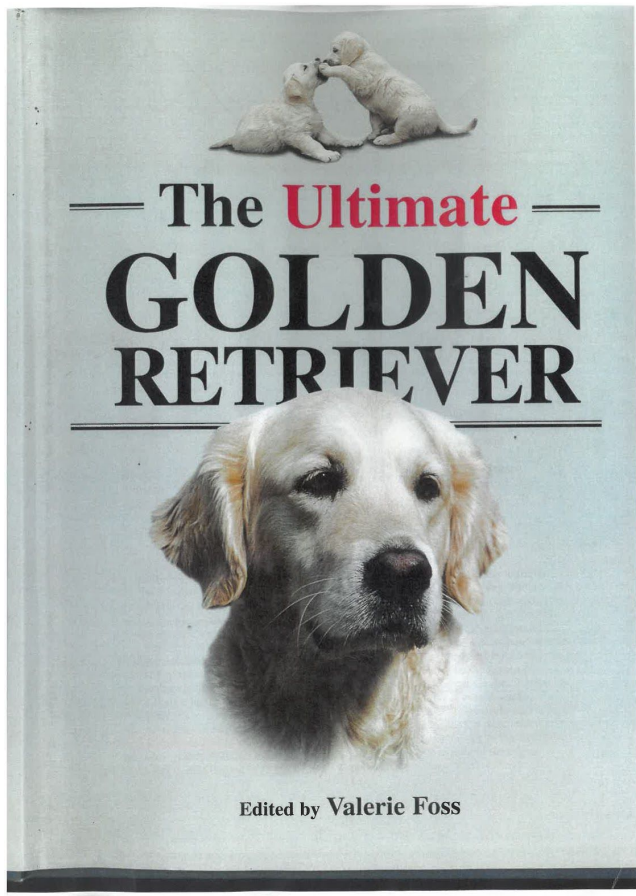
GOLDEN RETRIEVERS TODAY

VALERIE FOSS



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Edited by Valerie Foss