

# Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin, Inc.

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## **Over the Fencepost** Dog Training and Care Tips

Grooming tip – if the humidity in your home is low, grooming your Golden can be a “shocking” experience. To reduce static electricity, lightly mist the dog’s coat with warm or room temperature water before brushing, and as needed during the grooming process.

Hot tip for hot spots – Warm humid weather usually brings an increase in the number of hot spots susceptible dogs will experience. (Hot spots are raw, oozy areas believed to be indicative of immune system deficiencies.) Dog with hot spots usually scratch the affected area intensely. One way to prevent these from occurring in some dogs is to make sure their skin is clean and that they are groomed to provide maximum air circulation through the coat and down to the skin. A regular bath with gentle hypo-allergenic shampoo, thorough rinsing, and ensuring that the coat is completely dry can keep hot spots at bay (they thrive on moisture and dirty skin). If your dog has a dense undercoat (that fuzzy stuff that ends up all over the floors) make sure you brush the dog daily, and keep the hair trimmed and thinned out particularly around the ears, neck and legs, or any other areas that seem to be affected. You may not be able to eliminate hot spots entirely if you dog has immune system issues, but you can improve your chances through good grooming practices.

Food storage tip – If you feed dry kibble remember to store the food in a cool dry place. Many people put their dog food in plastic storage containers of some sort. If you do, it’s best to put the entire bag of kibble in the container. When the bag is empty, it’s taken out and the plastic container is still clean and ready for the next use. If you dump the kibble directly into a plastic container you should thoroughly wash that container before the next batch of kibble is added. The oils and fats in dog food adhere to the sides of the containers and will turn rancid over time. If the containers aren’t washed you could be causing your dog digestive upsets when it consumes the tainted kibble. Storing the food in the bags they came in by placing them in a trash bin used just for your dog food eliminates the need to scrub that container ever time food is replaced.