



Caring for Female Rescue before Spay

Recent studies show spaying a Golden Retriever too early can have detrimental effects on their health. Newer suggestions on when to spay and neuter large breed dogs, including Golden Retrievers, have been issued in recent years. You should wait until he or she is at least 18 months old (one and a half years) before spaying or neutering your Golden Retriever.

The reason for waiting until your Golden is at least 12-18 months old before spaying or neutering is to give them the opportunity to completely experience adolescence. According to a new study, this can reduce the incidence of bone, joint issues and cancers in your Golden.

The most important thing to remember when a female dog is in heat is that if she is around an unfixed male dog, she can get pregnant. She wants to breed, and she might be grouchy. So how can you help your dog in heat? Use these tips:

Personality may be different. During her cycle, she may act differently. Contact with spayed or neutered dogs can result in hormone-related aggression. Hormones affect personality differently.

Care. Use doggie diapers to keep messes to a minimum, and give her what she wants, whether it is attention or space.

Space. Make sure she has her own food bowl, water bowl and bedding in her space.

Watch her closely. When a dog is in heat, her only thought is to breed, and she will often do whatever it takes to find a mate. It's important to keep her supervised at all times and secure so that she cannot get out and other dogs cannot get in. There have been reports of dogs climbing fences to escape and mate, and even getting pregnant through chain link fences, so make sure that enclosure is secure!

Prone to run, flee. When in heat, your dog may be more prone to run and flee. Be prepared and keep her safe and secure.

Keep male dogs away. If you have male dogs that have not been neutered, they need to be kept separate from the female dog.

Close the windows. Male dogs can detect female dogs in heat from over a mile away. By closing the windows, you contain her 'perfume' to the house.

No walks. It's not recommended to take dogs in heat on walks, because of the risk of attracting male dogs. If you must take her out, make sure she is on a secure leash, and bring a spray bottle filled with water to ward off any would-be wooers.

With proper attention and tools, your dog's heat cycle can be easy to manage. Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian if you notice that your dog's heat cycle is irregular, if there is extended bleeding or discharge, if you think your dog might be pregnant, or if your dog's behavior becomes abnormal. If she is old enough to spay, wait until one month after her heat cycle ends.