

NATURAL REARING: WHAT IS IT AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



At High Desert Goldens of Idaho, we believe in giving our Golden Retrievers the healthiest, most natural start possible. **Natural rearing**** refers to raising dogs in an environment and lifestyle that mirrors the way nature intended for them to live. This approach focuses on providing dogs with species-appropriate raw diets, avoiding toxins, chemicals, and unnecessary medical interventions, and supporting their overall health through natural methods.**

Why is this important? Just like humans, dogs thrive when they are given the right tools to grow and maintain a healthy life. Conventional pet care methods have introduced practices like feeding kibble, using chemical flea and tick preventives, administering numerous vaccines, and spaying or neutering dogs at an early age. While these practices may have become the norm, research shows that they can actually harm the long-term health and well-being of dogs. This is especially true for a breed like the Golden Retriever, which is already predisposed to certain health conditions like cancer and joint issues.

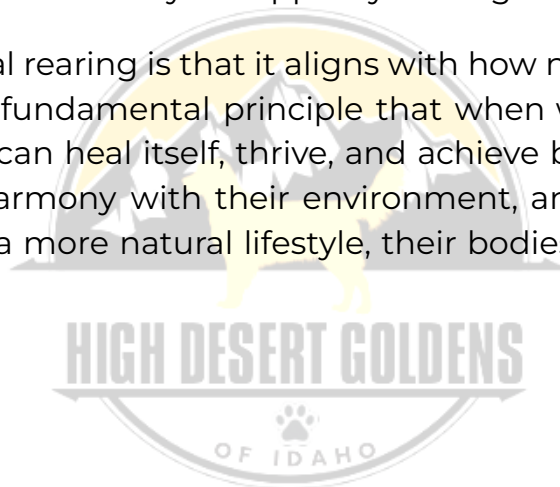
By focusing on natural rearing principles, we are doing everything we can to reduce the risk of these issues and provide our dogs with long, happy, and healthy lives. We choose to reject harmful practices and embrace natural ones, including a raw diet that meets their biological needs, natural parasite prevention, and allowing their bodies to function as they were intended.

Natural rearing means honoring the **eight pillars of health****: Nutrition, Exercise, Clean Water, Sun, Temperance, Fresh Air, Rest, and Trust. By providing our dogs with a raw diet, regular exercise, and an environment rich in fresh air and sunshine, we give them the opportunity to thrive. Trust in the natural process is essential; we believe that a dog's body, when given the right environment, will heal and maintain itself much better than it could in an artificially controlled, chemically managed one.**

The Simplicity of Natural Rearing: Getting Back to Nature

Natural rearing may sound complicated at first, but in reality, it's much simpler than we've been led to believe. For generations, modern society has promoted a way of caring for dogs that relies heavily on commercial products, over-processed food, and chemical treatments. We've been conditioned to believe that our dogs need vaccines, medications, and kibble to be healthy. But the truth is, raising a dog naturally isn't difficult—it's actually the most natural and straightforward way to support your dog's health.

The beauty of natural rearing is that it aligns with how nature intended things to be. It follows the fundamental principle that when we support the body's natural functions, it can heal itself, thrive, and achieve balance. God designed animals to live in harmony with their environment, and when we allow our dogs to experience a more natural lifestyle, their bodies are capable of doing incredible things.



Unlearning Generations of Misinformation

The hardest part of natural rearing isn't the day-to-day care—it's unlearning the deeply ingrained messages we've been taught for generations. We've been told that kibble is a complete and balanced diet, that frequent vaccinations are necessary for health, and that chemical flea, tick, and heartworm preventatives are the only way to protect our dogs. But once we step back and look at the evidence, we see that this conventional approach often leads to chronic illness, weakened immune systems, and shorter lifespans.

Natural rearing challenges us to reconsider everything we thought we knew. It asks us to trust in the way nature works and in the incredible design of the body. And while this shift in perspective may take time, it's not difficult—it's liberating. When you let go of the notion that health comes from products, injections, and chemicals, you realize that true health comes from supporting the body's natural processes.

The Body's Incredible Ability to Heal

The body is always working toward balance and healing. Whether it's fighting off infections, recovering from injuries, or detoxifying from toxins, the body's primary goal is to reach a state of health. However, the modern world is filled with obstacles that make it difficult for our dogs' bodies to function optimally. Processed foods, toxins, and overmedication burden the immune system and disrupt the body's ability to heal naturally.

When we embrace natural rearing, we remove those obstacles and allow the body to do what it was designed to do. A raw, species-appropriate diet provides the nutrients necessary for cellular repair and immune function. Avoiding unnecessary chemicals and medications allows the liver and kidneys to function properly, detoxifying the body as intended. By giving our dogs fresh air, sunshine, exercise, and the chance to connect with the earth, we promote the holistic wellness that is essential for a balanced, thriving life.

The Simplicity of Natural Rearing

At its core, natural rearing is about getting back to basics. It's about simplifying our approach to health by focusing on the things that matter most: proper nutrition, a clean environment, physical activity, and supporting

the body's natural functions. You don't need a degree in veterinary medicine or access to fancy products to raise a dog naturally. All you need is a commitment to providing your dog with a lifestyle that aligns with their biology.

Feeding a Raw Diet: Feeding a raw diet may sound intimidating, but it's incredibly simple. Dogs were designed to eat raw meat, bones, and organs. When you provide them with these foods, you're giving them the nutrition they need in its most natural, bioavailable form. There's no need for synthetic vitamins, fillers, or additives—just real food that supports optimal health.

Avoiding Chemical Toxins: One of the easiest ways to support your dog's health is by eliminating toxins from their environment. Chemical flea and tick preventatives, harsh cleaning products, and unnecessary medications place a heavy burden on the body. Instead, opt for natural alternatives like essential oils, diatomaceous earth, and holistic healthcare practices. By avoiding toxins, you're allowing your dog's body to function at its best.

Trusting in the Body's Natural Processes: Perhaps the most important aspect of natural rearing is trusting in the body's ability to heal and maintain health. The body is designed to detoxify, repair, and fight off disease. When you support your dog with proper nutrition, exercise, rest, and a toxin-free environment, their body can work as it was intended. You don't need to rely on external interventions when the body is given the chance to do its job.

Returning to God's Design

When we look to nature, we see how everything works together in perfect harmony. The earth provides the nutrients and environment that animals need to thrive, and the body, in turn, is equipped to maintain balance and health. This is God's design, and it works synergistically when we allow it to.

Natural rearing is simply a return to that design. It's about removing the barriers that have been placed in the way of true health and trusting in the process that has worked for animals for thousands of years. The more we embrace this natural approach, the more we see how easy and effective it is.

Our dogs don't need the complex, commercialized products that have become the norm in modern pet care. What they need is what they've always needed: real food, fresh air, sunshine, exercise, and the freedom to live as

nature intended. It's not about doing more—it's about doing less, and letting the body's natural processes take care of the rest.

Natural Rearing Is Not Hard—It's Natural

At High Desert Goldens, we've experienced firsthand how easy and rewarding it is to raise dogs naturally. The transformation in our dogs' health and vitality has been undeniable, and the simplicity of this approach has been a breath of fresh air. Once you've embraced natural rearing, you'll realize that it's not difficult at all. It's about returning to the way things were meant to be.

By unlearning the misinformation of the past and trusting in the body's natural ability to heal and thrive, we can give our dogs the healthy, happy lives they deserve. Natural rearing isn't just a method—it's a mindset, one that empowers us to care for our dogs in the most effective and compassionate way possible.

