



PROVISIONAL ADOPTIONS

Created May 2023

As a rescue organization, RAGOM must balance managing the pet population with the dog's health and well-being. Based on clinical recommendations, we believe that means dogs should be altered at 12 months. All dogs under 12 months of age will be provisionally adopted with the expectation that they are altered between 12-15 months of age or returned to RAGOM.

Once Adopters sign the Provisional Adoption Agreement, the Adopter becomes responsible for the dog's veterinary care, food, and shelter and assumes all liability. The Adoption is not final until the dog has been altered and proof of sterilization has been provided to RAGOM.

- A \$300 deposit is paid as part of the Provisional Adoption, which will be returned to the Adopter upon proof that alteration was performed between 12 and 15 months of age.
- RAGOM will send the Adopter a reminder at 11 and 13 months to have their dog altered.
- If the dog is altered at a RAGOM-approved vet, RAGOM will pay for presurgical exams, surgery, and aftercare. If the dog is not altered at a RAGOM-approved vet, RAGOM will not pay for the procedure.
- When the dog is altered between 12 and 15 months, and the adopter provides a sterilization certificate, RAGOM refunds the \$300 deposit, the microchip is updated, and Adoption Agreement is finalized.
- Adopter agrees that this dog will not be used for breeding.
- Adopter will take all precautions to prevent an unwanted pregnancy until the dog is altered.
- If a female becomes pregnant, RAGOM needs to be notified immediately. All puppies that result from the pregnancy become the property of RAGOM and will be surrendered at 10 weeks of age to be rehomed by RAGOM.
- **If the dog is altered prior to 12 months, the deposit is forfeited.**
- **If the dog is not altered by 15 months, the deposit is forfeited, and the dog must be returned to RAGOM.**

CLINICAL FINDINGS

RAGOM dogs can be altered between 12 and 15 months of age due to clinical recommendations. Golden Retrievers altered before 12 months are at an increased risk of:

- Joint disorders, including hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament tear or rupture, and elbow dysplasia.
- Multiple types of cancers
- Early-onset of urinary incontinence for females

Additional Information:

- [University of California Davis](#)
- [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- [American Kennel Club Foundation](#)

Please contact provisional-adoptions@ragom.org with any questions.