



# UNALTERED DOG ADOPTIONS HANDOUT

*Revised October 2024*

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

The \$300 deposit will not be refunded until the dog has been altered and proof of sterilization has been provided to RAGOM. Here's a quick overview:

- A \$300 deposit is paid as part of the 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 10 and 13 months to have their dog altered.
- RAGOM will reimburse up to \$500 for the dog's alteration at a vet of the adopter's choice.
- When the dog is altered between 12 and 15 months, and the adopter provides a sterilization invoice, RAGOM refunds the \$300 deposit, and reimburses the adoptive family up to \$500 for the spay/neuter.
- The adopter agrees that this dog will not be used for breeding.
- The 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 before 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

Due to clinical recommendations, RAGOM dogs are to be altered between 12 and 15 months of age. 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 urinary incontinence for females

Additional Information:

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

Please contact [spay.neuter.refunds@ragom.org](mailto:spay.neuter.refunds@ragom.org) with any questions.