



The Ottawa Valley Golden Retriever Club  
presents:

## Advanced Transformational Dog Breeding: Creating Dogs that Enrich People's Lives

a seminar with  
Gayle Watkins, Ph.D., of Avidog International, LLC and Gaylan's Golden Retrievers

March 1-2, 2014  
University of Guelph, Kemptville Campus, Kemptville, ON

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Dr. Gayle Watkins of Gaylan's Golden Retrievers has actively shown and bred multi-purpose golden retrievers since 1979. Over the past thirty years, she has produced, owned and/or shown over 50 American and Canadian conformation, obedience, agility and tracking champions, as well as Master Hunters and Qualified All-Age field trial goldens. Her breeding program has also produced over a dozen GRCA Outstanding Dams and Sires.

The keys to Gaylan's success are the techniques Gayle has developed to rear litters, evaluate puppies, and match them to homes based on measurable traits. The Gaylan's puppy rearing system is carefully designed, from conception to placement, to bring out the best in every puppy. It mixes science, nature and experience in a balanced blend of mental, physical, and social developmental opportunities with nutritional support. Furthermore, before pups are placed, they are thoroughly assessed on conformation (structure, type and athleticism), temperament, and working ability using a comprehensive evaluation process that seeks to give every owner the ideal puppy for them and provide them a training plan for their individual puppy.

In recent years, Gayle has applied these methods elsewhere by working with breeders of field and show Golden retrievers, German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, Irish setters and more.

### Seminar Details:

This is an advanced seminar that will focus on transformational dog breeding. Topics covered will include:

- ❖ **Applied Epigenetics.** With the recent explosion in epigenetics research and findings, we are learning more and more about how the environment changes DNA that is then passed on to future generations. Although a very young science, these findings should play a role in how dog breeders and owners select, raise and breed dogs for future breedings. In this session, Gayle will share her understanding of epigenetics from the perspective of a dog breeder rather than a geneticist and how this understanding has changed her breeding methods.
- ❖ **Breeding Strategy.** During this session, Gayle and participants will discuss and consider strategies for breeding programs to help breeders think through their goals, determine how to measure them, and evaluate how individual breedings help them progress toward them. More than simple breeding methods, this session focuses on using a broad, holistic approach to breeding strategy that is applicable for seasoned, novice and one-time breeders.
- ❖ **Breeding Stock Selection.** Once breeders have established their goals, we will then tackle breeding stock selection. Sires and dams contribute differently and play different roles in a breeding's success but each plays a critical role in their puppies' future.
- ❖ **APET Litter Testing.** The Avidog Puppy Evaluation Test (APET) provides breeders with a valuable tool in matching puppies to new owners, analyzing each litter and providing new owners with guidance and insights regarding their puppy. During this session, Gayle will discuss how breeders can maximize this critical process, with an emphasis on matching puppies to owners and the development of training plans.

If time allows, other topics discussed will be a review of puppy brain development, incorporating the latest research information, and more detailed discussions on nutrition and vaccines (nomographs, titers).

**Who Should Attend:**

The seminar has something to offer any serious dog person but will have particular appeal to present and future breeders of performance, conformation and pet dogs who are seeking to produce stable, confident canine competitors and companions. Dog owners involved in performance sports and working dogs, as well as those who test and evaluate litters, will also benefit from this seminar.

**OPEN TO BREEDERS of ANY BREED**

**NOTE: Participants will be able to get ongoing support from the Avidog Team and you will be able to access password protected parts of the Avidog site where you can continue the discussions started at the seminar.**

**Registration Details:**

Spots are limited so register early! Registration closes February 14, 2014 or when spaces are filled.

Full payment must be mailed with the registration to hold your spot. No refunds after the closing date.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday and Sunday - \$140
- \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Only - \$90
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Only - \$90

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Breed (s) of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I will not hold Gayle Watkins, the OVGRC, or their members liable for any loss, damage or injury to myself or my dog, or my property while attending this event.

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgment and seminar details will be sent upon receipt of registration.**

Please mail registration form and payment (payable to OVGRC) to Pamela Martin, 1735 Development Road, Mountain, ON K0E 1S0.

For more information, please contact Pam at 613-989-6163 (evening) or [hiscoke@magma.ca](mailto:hiscoke@magma.ca).

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