

= Golden Retriever ( song ) =

" Golden Retriever " is a song by Super Furry Animals . It was the first single to be issued from the album Phantom Power and reached number 13 on the UK Singles Chart on its release in July 2003 . The song is about the relationship between singer Gruff Rhys 's girlfriend 's two dogs and was written in the same key , with the same guitar tuning and around the same time as several other songs from Phantom Power .

Critical reaction to the track was generally positive with many reviewers commenting on its " catchiness " and " glam rock " style . A Jake & Jim directed music video was produced to accompany the song 's release as a single featuring the band dressed as yetis . A Killa Kela remix of " Golden Retriever " appears on the album Phantom Phorce and the DVD release of Phantom Power .

= = Recording and themes = =

" Golden Retriever " is about " the relationship between [ Gruff Rhys 's ] girlfriend 's two dogs - a male and a female " . Rhys has stated that the " road sign and driving theory vocabulary " that he had to absorb when he passed his driving test a few years before he wrote " Golden Retriever " found its way into the songs lyrics which are a parody of the blues . The song shares the same key , D major , the same guitar tuning , D @-@ A @-@ D @-@ D @-@ A @-@ D , and was written around the same time as several other songs from Phantom Power including the " Father Father " instrumentals , " Hello Sunshine " , " Cityscape Skybaby " and " Out of Control " . " Golden Retriever " was recorded at the Super Furry Animals ' own studio in Cardiff along with the rest of Phantom Power .

= = Musical structure = =

" Golden Retriever " is 2 minutes 28 seconds long and is in the key of D major . The track begins with a descending riff on acoustic guitar before the band joins on 2 seconds with an electric guitar playing a three note riff ( D , F and G ) through a fuzz pedal . The first verse follows on 9 seconds with Gruff Rhys singing about meeting The Devil at a roundabout . The first chorus enters at 24 seconds with Rhys being joined by falsetto harmony backing vocals and a distorted electric guitar playing chords rather than single notes . A breakdown verse follows , leading into the extended second chorus which features shouted backing vocals chanting the song 's title . The outro begins at 1 minute 55 seconds , with lead guitar lines and heavy drums , featuring flanging , bringing the track to a climax .

= = = Alternative version = = =

A Killa Kela remix of " Golden Retriever " is included on the DVD version of Phantom Power and the album Phantom Phorce . Largely dispensing with the track 's instrumental backing ( apart from distant bass and occasional acoustic guitar ) the remix features Kela 's beatboxing alongside Rhys 's lead vocal and follows the arrangement of the original . The track is 2 minutes 33 seconds long and ends with a brief clip of the band 's road manager , in the guise of ' Kurt Stern ' , lamenting the fact that this " perfect rocking track " is simply about a dog .

= = Critical response = =

Critical reaction to " Golden Retriever " was generally positive and many reviewers commented on the track 's glam rock style ? PopMatters described the track as " a fun blast of glam rock " , the NME called it " an irresistibly catchy ... glam stomper " , and The Guardian stated that the " unhinged glammy romp " cannot be faulted . The track was also described as being a parody of Robert Johnson type blues by Entertainment Weekly and a " brilliantly catchy anthem " by Angry

Ape . Several critics noted the " goofy " and " silly " nature of the song , with comparisons made between " Golden Retriever " and both the Doctor Who theme music and The KLF 's " Doctorin ' the Tardis " . Some criticism was leveled at the song for being " too Radio 1 friendly " and for simply being " more of the same " from the band . In a 2006 feature on the Super Furry Animals ' back catalogue Incendiary Magazine went as far as to call the track " hogwash " .

= = = Accolades = = =

= = Music video = =

The music video was directed by Jake & Jim and grew from an idea the band had to record a video in Iceland at the start of 2003 which didn 't come off . The video begins with a close up of a cardboard box featuring a logo of two apples with the title ' Golden ' . The band is shown playing along to " Golden Retriever " inside the box with Gruff Rhys wearing a red sports visor . Bassist Guto Pryce and keyboardist Cian Ciaran are both sat on settees with guitars on their laps which they are not playing . As the chorus begins the band transform into yetis and all begin playing " Golden Retriever " , several members headbanging in time with the track . The group wear their regular clothes for the second verse before the yeti costumes reappear for the second chorus . As the video ends the camera zooms out to show a Golden Retriever approach the box in an alleyway . The Super Furies raise their hands in the air and look up at the dog who then urinates on the box and runs away .

In an interview with BBC Manchester , drummer Dafydd Ieuan stated that , although he finds the video fun to watch , it was hard work to make because the yeti costumes were very heavy and incredibly hot . The band took the suits on tour with them but only wore them for " the last two minutes " of concerts because they were so warm . The video appears on the DVD release of the band 's greatest hits album Songbook : The Singles , Vol . 1 .

= = Single track listing = =

All songs by Super Furry Animals .  
Digipak CD ( 6739062 ) , 7 " ( 6739067 )  
" Golden Retriever " ? 2 : 28  
" Summer Snow " ? 2 : 30  
" Blue Fruit " ? 4 : 43  
DVD ( 6739069 )  
" Golden Retriever ( Video ) " ? 2 : 28  
" Summer Snow " ? 2 : 30  
" Blue Fruit " ? 4 : 43

= = Personnel = =

Gruff Rhys ? vocals  
Huw Bunford ? guitar  
Guto Pryce ? bass guitar  
Cian Ciaran ? keyboards  
Dafydd Ieuan ? drums  
Rachel Thomas ? backing vocals

= = Singles chart positions = =