



Health Strategy

The following is a summary of the health initiatives that the Flatcoated Retriever Society supports. All projects listed below should lead to overall improved health for the Flatcoated Retriever, further information on specific projects can be found on the health pages of the Flatcoated Retriever Society's website:

<https://www.flatcoated-retriever-society.org/health-section>

Brenda Phillips Memorial Health Fund – this fund was set up early in 2007, donations ensure this financial resource is available should any condition need further investigation.

Cause of Death Register – an online survey set up by Dr Jane Dobson, Cambridge Veterinary School. It is believed that this is an innovative and effective way to monitor the health of the breed that may shed light on new or emerging conditions. A long-term strategy.

DNA Banking (formerly at the Animal Health Trust, now at Cambridge University)– The Society actively supports research into conditions that affect the Flatcoated Retriever. DNA samples are banked to support future research, more information regarding DNA research and how to obtain a free DNA sample kit can be obtained by contacting the Breed Health Coordinator, details below.

Goniodysgenesis (Pectinate Ligament Dysplasia) – All Flatcoats should be screened for this condition every three years and prior to breeding with a gonioscopy test. The collection of DNA from Flatcoats by the Animal Health Trust for research into the genetics of this condition has been carried out. Reports and information about the progress of research and the development of a DNA test can be viewed on the Society website.

AHT/KC Give a Dog a Genome project-The Flatcoated Retriever Society has supported the participation of our breed in this initiative and made a donation to the research project in order that the entire genome (2.4 billion letters of DNA) of the Flatcoated Retriever could be sequenced. The resulting information will increase the ability to identify mutations which cause inherited diseases.

Health Schemes including British Veterinary Association/Kennel Club schemes for hip scoring and eye testing and also the Flatcoated Retriever Society's scheme for

screening dogs for patellar luxation. Further information is available to download from the Society website.

Patellar Luxation - To continue to offer screening at the Flatcoated Retriever Society's Breed Championship Shows. To encourage owners to report to the Society Health Committee dogs who have been diagnosed with patellar luxation and whether surgical correction was required. This can be done by completing the relevant health report form from the Flatcoated Retriever Society website. Data collection will aid future research in the mode of inheritance of this condition.

Health Surveys – Another resource to enable any emerging conditions to be noted and further investigation to be planned. The first Society survey was run in 2006 and subsequently in 2011 and 2021 (results of this survey will be published during 2021). Further surveys will be organised by the Society every 5-10 years to monitor breed health. In addition, the Kennel Club carried out breed health surveys in 2004 and 2014; results of these surveys are now available on the KC website: <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/pedigreebreedhealthsurvey>

Group Study – In 2010 the Flatcoated Retriever Society's Health Sub-Committee began following a group of Flatcoats from 8 weeks of age to see if lifestyle has any impact on health, after 10 years the study is now closed to new participants. This is a long term study and a summary of findings will be collated and shared in due course.

Popular Sire Effect – to promote the importance of genetic diversity and encourage the use of a wide range of different health tested sires. Lists of sires used each year for Kennel Club registered litters can be viewed on the Flatcoated Retriever Society's website as well as an article explaining the popular sire effect: <http://www.flatcoated-retriever-society.org/images/stories/health/the%20popular%20sire%20effect.pdf>

Renal Dysplasia (kidney disease) – research into this condition is ongoing and includes the collection of DNA from Flatcoats thought to be affected and their close relatives. We would encourage owners of affected dogs to report this to the Breed Health Coordinator via the following link: <https://www.flatcoated-retriever-society.org/health-section/report-a-health-condition-or-cause-of-death>

Cancer Research – A work in progress lead by Dr Jane Dobson at Cambridge Veterinary School since 1988. The latest research further investigates the relationship between the immune system and the biological behaviour of Histiocytic Sarcoma in the Flatcoated Retriever. Annual reports of research are available to read on the Society's website.

Please address your health enquiries to Kennel Club Breed Health Coordinator for the Flatcoated Retriever: Liz Branscombe 01525 405884 lizzie@torinmill.plus.com

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