

The Flatcoated Retriever Society's Patellar Screening Scheme

The Flatcoated Retriever Society has a screening scheme for patellar luxation, the following is an explanation as to why we are not providing an 'official' grading for dogs. This may change, if the circumstances dictate.

If we use the Putnam scores, all of those dogs that (so far) have gone through our scheme would have been 0, or at most a 1, while some are still showing minor irregularities (recorded on our screening form) that *may* have an additive effect in subsequent generations, allowing affected puppies to be bred, so:-

- Grade 0 = normal (no luxation, but this does not record those with minor abnormalities, such as a twist to the attachment of patella ligament to the tibial crest)
- Grade 1 = luxates when leg extended and pressure applied to patella, *some dogs have a laxity to the 'fitting' of the patella in the trochlear groove, but the examiner would only be able to luxate the patella if the patella was forced (causing pain) and tibia twisted. Some dogs have a twist on the tibial attachments, but a deep trochlear groove and solid support of the patella within the groove. These do not luxate, but potentially could, if the joint was injured.*
- Grade 2 = patella mostly lies in normal position but will luxate when leg is flexed
- Grade 3 = mostly luxated but can be returned to normal position
- Grade 4 = patella's remain in luxated position.

Our current scheme is giving breeders knowledge and enabling them to make sensible choices in breeding (or not) with the aim of not narrowing the gene pool. If the Putnam score alone was used, this information would be hidden.

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