

## **The Flatcoated Retriever Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP) -Summary of Actions**

This project was launched by the Kennel Club in September 2016, with the aim that this resource will aid breeders and breed clubs in making balanced breeding decisions for the future health of the breed. A plan has been developed for the Flatcoated Retriever and has taken a variety of factors into consideration such as known inherited conditions, any conformational concerns and population genetics.

The BHCP development has been led, on behalf of The Kennel Club, by Dr Katy Evans, a veterinary surgeon with a MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology and a PhD in Quantitative Genetics. Katy has carried out a literature review and compiled a detailed evidence base document for the Flatcoated Retriever which lists global, peer reviewed breed specific health data not just that relating to the UK population. The Kennel Club Breed Health Coordinator, Liz Branscombe, and breed health representatives from all of the four breed organisations (The Flatcoated Retriever Society, The Flatcoated Retriever Club of Scotland, The Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association and the Southern Flatcoated Retriever Club) have had input in the discussion to prioritise and identify health concerns.

Subsequently an Action Plan was drawn up as follows:

- The Kennel Club and Flat Coated Retriever breed clubs to monitor and record the prevalence of neoplasia in the breed and to encourage and consider any research that is available.
- The breed clubs to continue to encourage owners to report to the breed's cause of death register [https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3KPogReWqzhcg6N](https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3KPogReWqzhcg6N)
- The breed clubs to encourage breeders to consider the potentially harmful consequences arising from the use of popular sires and the impacts on genetic diversity.
- The breed clubs to continue to encourage participation in the BVA/KC Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Schemes.
- The breed clubs to undertake another breed health survey with the Kennel Club to assist in dissemination.
- The breed clubs to continue to encourage participation in the breed's patellar assessment scheme.
- Dr Lewis to examine the data collected to date under the patellar assessment

scheme, if sufficient data exists. Input may be sought from Dr Dylan Clements at the University of Edinburgh.

- The Kennel Club to discuss the possibility of a VetCompass study for the breed with Dr Dan O'Neill.
- The Kennel Club will review progress with the Flat Coated Retriever breed representatives in late 2019.

The breed organisations will work together with The Kennel Club to achieve completion of this action plan; however, we would welcome the support of all breed enthusiasts in disseminating this information.

The full BHCP (including the Evidence Base and Health Priorities) can be viewed on each of the breed organisations' websites.

Please address comments and queries regarding the BHCP in the first instance to your breed organisation's health representative, contact details can be found on each of the breed organisations' websites.

Alternatively contact Liz Branscombe DipAVN (Surgical) RVN, the Flatcoated Retriever Breed Health Coordinator through clicking [here](#).