



## Flatcoated Retriever Society

### AGM Health Report March 2020

Madam Patron, Mr President, Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen.

#### **Animal Health Trust / University of Cambridge Histiocytic Sarcoma research project:**

Following a delay in order to gain ethical approval from both institutions this joint research project was launched in August 2019. The researchers have told us they are making good progress however more specific detail cannot be shared at this time. As soon as we have more information regarding progress and the next stage of the work, we will share this via the Society website.

#### **Report from Dr Jane Dobson, University of Cambridge:**

##### **Cause of Death Register**

Jane Dobson writes: 'The Cause of Death register was rebuilt in a Qualtrics format in June 2018. Since this time we have received 69 fully completed entries and another 10 or so incomplete entries which are mostly not included in the following analysis. 35 entries were for Females and 44, Males (neutering status not reported).

The pattern of entry over 2018 to present is reasonably consistent with between 1 – 4 entries per month (although none in Feb & March 2020 to date)

Table 1

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
			4	2	3	3	4	4	1	3	2	4
2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	2	4	3	4	1	4	3	2	5	3	1
2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2											

The main cause of death reported is 'Tumour or Cancer Related' = 56 cases, 'Old age' accounted for 5 deaths, heart disease = 3, Liver disease = 3 (2 failure, 1 cholangiohepatitis) immune-mediated thrombocytopenia = 1, immune-mediated haemolytic anaemia = 1, Seizure = 1 and other = 2.

Tumour types were specified for 51 entries, tumour sites are shown in Figure 2.

Tumour type	number
Histiocytic sarcoma	21
Haemangiosarcoma	10
Leukaemia	3
Chondrosarcoma	2
Osteosarcoma	2
Carcinoma, not specified	4
Neoplasia, not specified	2
Melanoma	2
Lymphoma	1
Mast cell tumour	2
Osteosarcoma	1
Soft tissue sarcoma	1

As I looked through the entries in the new Qualtrics survey, I note that there are a number of inconsistencies that are of some concern.

- Tumour site, the selected entry is often not consistent with the accompanying comment eg site entered = head, lip, comment 'the tumour started in his/her shoulder'
- 10 tumours were recorded as haemangiosarcoma, yet 7 of these were reported to affect 'limb, shoulder' which is much more consistent with a histiocytic sarcoma.

For this reason, I have not attempted to analyse tumour site for this report. I wonder if it is possible to ask your members who have kindly entered dogs, whether we could make the process of entering the data easier or more clear. I am in the process of checking whether there are any problems with the format of the survey at this end.

#### Future Directions

We are just starting a collaborative study on microRNA expression in Histiocytic sarcoma in with David Sargan (University of Cambridge) and Anna Hollis & Mike Starkey (Animal Health Trust). The tumour tissue for the first part of this study will come from our large archive which was built up over many years through the Tumour Survey which was supported by Flatcoated retriever owners & breeders. Most of the tissues have been identified and are ready to be processed once our Term is ended.'

#### **Animal Health Trust (AHT) Glaucoma project update**

Cathryn Mellersh at the AHT had no further updates on glaucoma research to report, information regarding the research to date can be viewed on the Society website. Cathryn would be pleased to receive DNA samples from Flatcoats with confirmed diagnosis of any inherited disease which can be banked for future research. DNA sample collection kits can be obtained by contacting Liz Branscombe, Breed Health Coordinator (contact details can be found on the Society website).

### **Health seminar day**

The FCRS Health Sub Committee are hosting a health seminar day to be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at Baginton Village Hall, Baginton, Warwickshire CV8 3AB

Topics covered will include, Canine First Aid, Physiotherapy (gait analysis), vaccination and diseases of the immune system. The day will be free for Society members and £20 for non-members with a buffet lunch provided. Booking information can be found on the Society website.

### **KC Breed Health Coordinator of the Year**

This is one of five awards that form the annual International Canine Health Awards run by the KC Charitable Trust supported by Metro Bank. I was proud to win this award and the £1000 prize which is to be used for breed health initiatives. The money has been paid into the Society health fund account to be used for breed health initiatives.

### **Group Study report**

Report from 2019

102 dogs have been registered in the ten years since the Group Study began (2009/2010)

Over that time 45 have left the study group (deceased/owners decided to leave the study/failed to return questionnaires)

If a participant does not return the questionnaire following 3 annual reminders then the dogs are removed from the Study Group (5 fell into this category during 2019)

Eight deaths were reported during 2019 (malignancy, renal failure and Immune mediated Hemolytic Anaemia reported as cause of death)

52 completed questionnaires were received in 2019

Owners of 13 dogs enlisted at the start of the study are still actively participating.

Thank you once again to all those still actively participating in the Group Study.

Liz Branscombe DipAVN(Surgical) RVN

FCRS Health Committee

March 2020

### **Addendum to the above report:**

March 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 -Since the date of writing the Animal Health Trust has announced that it is going into liquidation unless a benefactor can be found. We will update members regarding the future of research and ensure the bank of DNA samples from Flatcoats are preserved.