

Flatcoated Retriever Report for AGM, March 2022

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Cause of Death Register

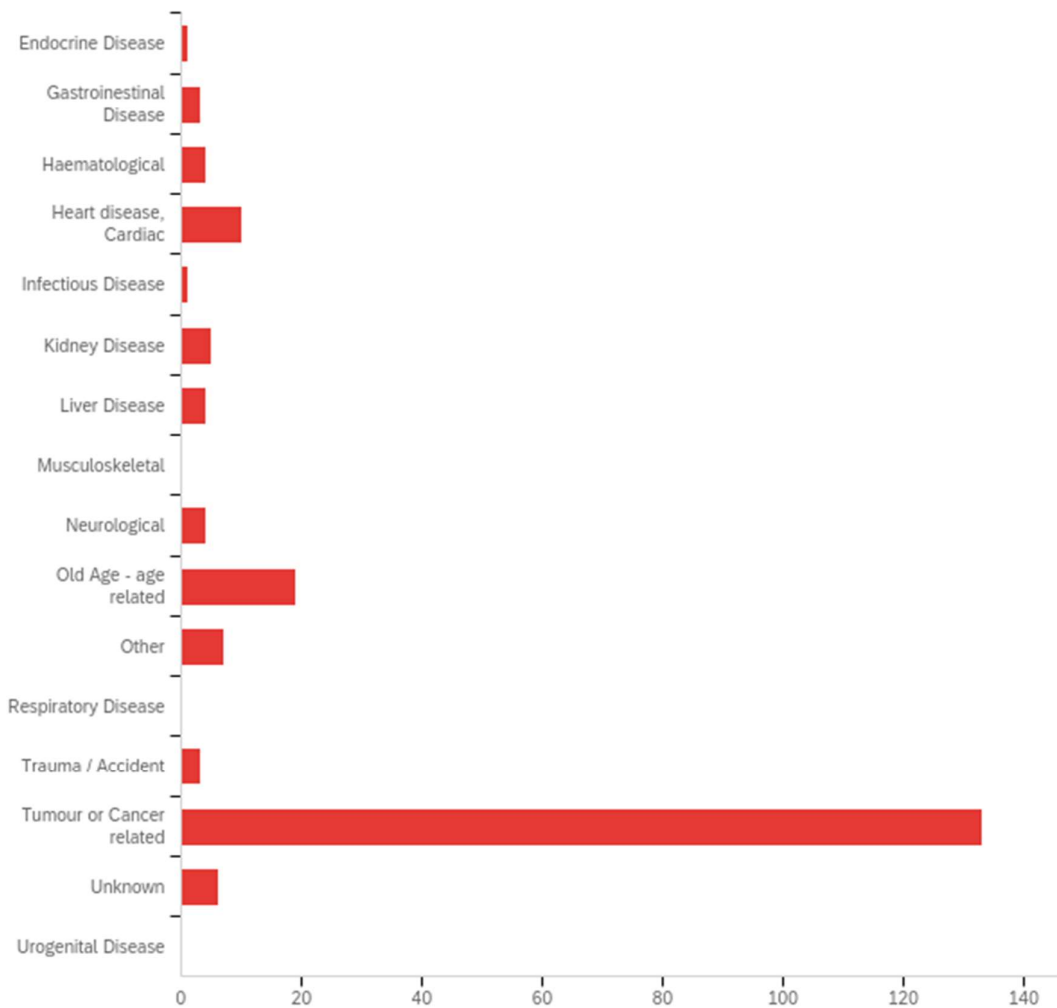
The Cause of Death register was rebuilt in a Qualtrics format in June 2018. Since then we have received 200 completed entries, with 32 new entries since my last report.

The pattern of entry for 2021 - 22 is reasonably consistent with that reported previously with between 1 – 5 entries per month

2021	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
	2	3	4	5	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	2

The main cause of death reported is 'Tumour or Cancer Related' = 133 cases (66.5%), 'Old age' accounted for 19 deaths and heart disease = 10, as detailed below.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Endocrine Disease	0.50%	1
2	Gastrointestinal Disease	1.50%	3
3	Haematological	2.00%	4
4	Heart disease, Cardiac	5.00%	10
5	Infectious Disease	0.50%	1
6	Kidney Disease	2.50%	5
7	Liver Disease	2.00%	4
8	Musculoskeletal	0.00%	0
9	Neurological	2.00%	4
10	Old Age - age related	9.50%	19
11	Other	3.50%	7
12	Respiratory Disease	0.00%	0
13	Trauma / Accident	1.50%	3
14	Tumour or Cancer related	66.50%	133
15	Unknown	3.00%	6
16	Urogenital Disease	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	200



Tumour types were specified for .

Tumour type	number
Histiocytoid sarcoma	33
Haemangiosarcoma	24
Leukaemia	5
Chondrosarcoma	2
Osteosarcoma	2
Carcinoma, not specified	8 + 2 adenocarcinoma
Neoplasia, not specified	8
Melanoma (malignant)	3 + 1 benign
Lymphoma	9

Mast cell tumour	8
Osteosarcoma	8
Soft tissue sarcoma	7 + 5 sarcoma type not specified

This is just a brief overview of the ongoing survey, there is a wealth of information about causes of death in the breed with some heart breaking stories attached. I would be happy to share further with the Health Committee. Please may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed their information to this survey.

Future Work

Cathryn Mellersh & Anna Hollis have reported separately on some exciting genetic projects that we are starting through collaboration with the Kennel Club Canine Genetics group who are now based on the Vet School site. These studies are only possible due to the availability of tumour tissue and blood samples from our large archive built up over many years through the Tumour Survey supported by Flatcoated retriever owners & breeders.



“Cause of Death” Register: a mortality database in the UK-population of flatcoated retrievers



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Introduction
 It is well documented that the flatcoated retriever (FCR) is a breed at risk of neoplasia, particularly histiocytic sarcoma. However, other diseases may be important in this breed. Therefore in 2013, with the help and support of the Breed Society we started a live register for UK FCR owners to enter information on cause of death at the time of losing a FCR.

Methods
 The on-line “Cause of Death” Register was devised to collect information regarding sex, colour, genealogy, age and cause of death¹. For tumour related death and other diseases specific sub-classifications were listed. Owners were asked to complete the questionnaire at time of death via the Breed Society web page.

Results
 At December 2017 the number of entries into the Cause of Death Register stood at 558 with 509 cases having complete information to allow analysis. The median age at death was 9 years (range 1-16 years). The most common causes of death were “cancer” (n=336, 66%), “old age” (n=37, 7%) and cardiac and kidney conditions (n=22 and 19, 4% each). Within tumor related death “sarcoma, soft tissue” was the most common together with “sarcoma, histiocytic” (n=78, 23% and n=65, 19% respectively). “Cardiomyopathy, dilated” accounted for 50% (n=11) of the cardiac causes of death.

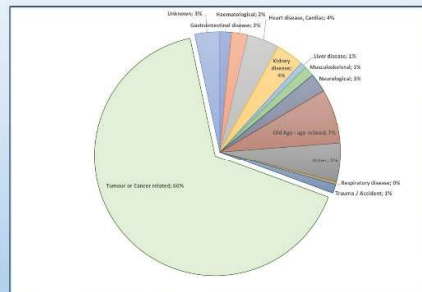
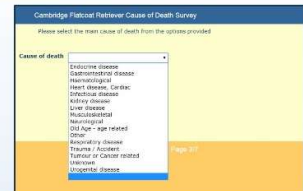
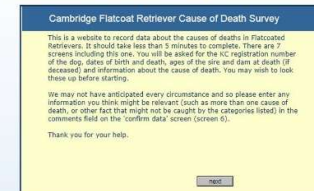
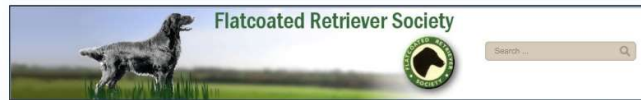
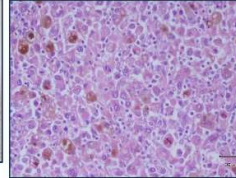
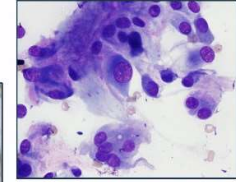


Fig 1. Most common cause of death in FCRs.

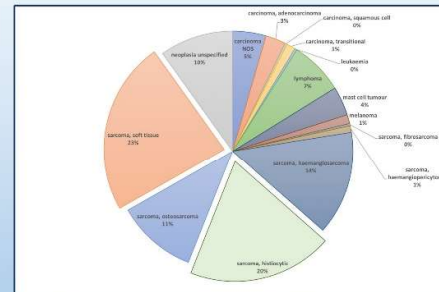


Fig 2. Most common tumour related death in FCRs.

Conclusion
 This report is the first to evaluate lifespan and cause of death in a large group of FCRs and via an on-line register. Our findings are consistent with previous studies that reported a similar prevalence of tumours in a UK cohort of FCRs²⁻⁴. Soft tissue and histiocytic sarcomas remained the main cause of death in this breed. Interestingly, heart conditions are the main cause of death in dogs with non-neoplastic fatalities. The “Cause of Death” register has proven a simple but effective means of gathering information and monitoring the health of this breed and is a tool which could easily be applied to other breeds.

References
 1. Adams, V. J., Evans, K. M., Sampson, J., & Wood, J. L. N. (2010). Methods and mortality results of a health survey of purebred dogs in the UK. *Journal of Small Animal Practice*, 51(10), 512–524.
 2. Dobson, J., Hoather, T., McKinley, T. J., & Wood, J. L. N. (2009). Mortality in a cohort of flat-coated retrievers in the UK. *Veterinary and Comparative Oncology*, 7(2), 115–121.
 3. Morris JS, Bostock DE, McInnes EF, Hoather TM and Dobson JM. (2000). A histopathological survey of neoplasms in flat coated retrievers: 1990–1998. *Veterinary Record* 2000; 147: 291–295.
 4. Dobson, J. M. (2013). Breed-predispositions to cancer in pedigree dogs. *ISVAVeterinary Science*, 2013(11), 941275–23