

## Flatcoated Retriever Cause of Death Register Report, March 2024

Dr Jane Dobson, University of Cambridge

### Cause of Death Register

Thirty five new entries were made in the Cause of Death Survey between March 2023 and end February 2024.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
2021	2	3	4	5	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	2
2022	2	3	3	2	1	-	-	1	4	1	3	2
2023	11	1	3	1	5	6	2	1	3	-	1	1

The main cause of death reported is 'Tumour or Cancer Related' = 180 cases (70% of entries), 'Old age' accounted for 21 deaths and heart disease = 12, as detailed below.

#	Answer	2021 -22	2022 - 23	2023 - 24
1	Endocrine Disease	1	1	1
2	Gastrointestinal Disease	3	3	3
3	Haematological	4	4	4
4	Heart disease, Cardiac	10	11	12
5	Infectious Disease	1	2	2
6	Kidney Disease	5	5	5
7	Liver Disease	4	5	5
8	Musculoskeletal	0	0	1
9	Neurological	4	6	6
10	Old Age - age related	19	19	21
11	Other	7	9	9
12	Respiratory Disease	0	0	0
13	Trauma / Accident	3	3	3
14	Tumour or Cancer related	133	153	180
15	Unknown	6	6	6
16	Urogenital Disease	0	0	0

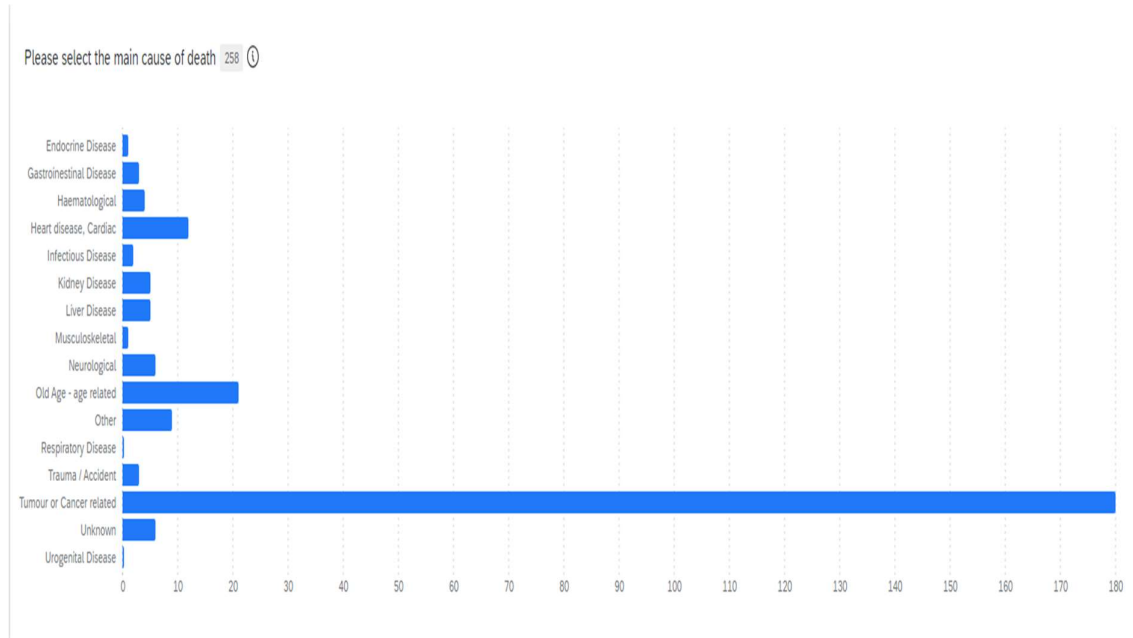
Total

200

227

258\*

- There is a slight discrepancy here due to 4 cases entered in March 2023 being included in the cause of death figures in the 2023 report.



Tumour types were specified for :

Tumour type	Number 2021 - 22	2022 - 23	2023 - 24
Histiocytic sarcoma	33	42	47
Haemangiosarcoma	24	26	31
Leukaemia	5	5	5
Chondrosarcoma	2	2	2
Carcinoma, not specified	8 + 2 adenocarcinoma		13 + 3adenocarcinoma
Neoplasia, not specified	8		10
Melanoma (malignant)	3 + 1 benign	4 + 1 benign	4 + 1 benign

Lymphoma	9	9	11
Mast cell tumour	8	8	10
Osteosarcoma	8	9	12
Soft tissue sarcoma	7 + 5 sarcoma type not specified	8 + 5	8 + 5 NOS
Spindle cell sarcoma			1

As before, this is just a brief summary of the entries to the survey from March 2023 to present, there appears to be a reasonable consistency in the causes of death being reported since 2021, although I still wonder whether owners are more likely to post an entry if their dog died as a result of cancer than other causes?

There is a wealth of information about causes of death in the breed which 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.

Cathryn Mellersh & Anna Hollis have reported separately on some ongoing genetic projects involving collaboration with the Cambridge Canine Genetics group. 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.