



BVA Canine Health Schemes - Recommendations for Flatcoated Retrievers

BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme

Goniodysgenesis (G) or Pectinate Ligament Dysplasia (PLA), Hereditary Cataract (HC) and Generalised Progressive Retinal Atrophy (GPRA)

At the present time in the U.K. the Flatcoated Retriever is on the BVA/KC's list of inherited eye conditions for Goniodysgenesis/PLA. Gonioscopy examination is the test that is used to check for presence of G/PLA, the presence of this condition could predispose the Flatcoat to glaucoma. A certificate is issued with a PLA grade (1-3) with grade 1 being 0-1% PLA, grade 2 being 26-75% PLA and grade 3 being over 75% PLA and severely affected. The results of this test are recorded and published by the Kennel Club in the Breed Record Supplements. Gonioscopy testing can be carried out from 6 months of age, it is recommended that this test be repeated every 3 years and continue into old age as PLA can have a late onset.

The Flatcoated Retriever is also monitored for the presence of any other inherited eye conditions by the Eye Panelist at examination and these would be noted on the examination form. Occasionally Generalised Progressive Retinal Atrophy (GPRA) and Hereditary Cataract (HC) are reported in the breed and recorded by the BVA. It is now recommended that Flatcoated Retrievers have a general eye test performed annually and gonioscopy every three years by a BVA Eye panelist (members of the KC Assured Breeders Scheme are required to use the annual eye screening scheme). Results of general eye tests for breeds where there is no known inherited ocular disease (KIOD) will now also be recorded and published in the BRS as well as gonioscopy results. If no condition is found they will be published as an unaffected result, if there is an observation, this will be recorded as "observation made – results with owner", as at this time the hereditary component of the condition won't be known in the breed.

BVA/KC Hip Scheme

The British Veterinary Association/Kennel Club make the following recommendations:

'Hip scores should be considered along with other criteria as part of a responsible breeding programme, and it is recommended that breeders choose breeding stock with hip scores around and ideally below the breed median score, depending on the level of HD in the breed. It is also recommended that hip scores of parents, grandparents and siblings are considered (available for K.C. registered dogs via the Health Test Result finder on the Kennel Club's online health tool Mate Select – www.mateselect.org.uk). For further information on the BVA Hip Scheme <https://www.bva.co.uk/canine-health-schemes/hip-scheme/>

The breed median score is the score of the 'average' dog in that breed (i.e. an equal number of dogs in that breed have better and worse scores)' currently the Flatcoated Retriever median hip score is 7 (the mean is 8).

BVA/KC Elbow Scheme

The Scheme uses X-rays to screen for abnormalities caused by elbow dysplasia in the elbow joints. It is now a best practice recommendation as part of the Kennel Club Health Standard that Flatcoated Retrievers have elbows graded prior to breeding. The X-rays are graded (0-3) by a BVA panel. The grades can then be used by breeders to make informed breeding decisions.

A grade is given for each elbow and the overall elbow grade is determined by the higher of the two individual grades. The grades are:

- 0 = Radiographically normal
- 1 = Mild osteoarthritis
- 2 = Moderate osteoarthritis or a primary lesion with no osteoarthritis
- 3 = Severe osteoarthritis or primary lesion with osteoarthritis

BVA Canine Health Scheme recommends only breeding from dogs that have an elbow grade of 0.

More information about the elbow scheme: <https://www.bva.co.uk/media/2791/chs-elbow-dysplasia-2019-v2-web-170419.pdf>

It should be emphasized that ALL dogs to be bred from should have current eye certificates and hip and elbow results in place, under the BVA/KC Health Schemes and the Kennel Club Health Standard for Flatcoated Retrievers and that these should be available for viewing by prospective puppy purchasers.

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