



THE KENNEL CLUB
DOG HEALTH

Breed Health and Conservation Plan

Flat Coated Retriever Action Plan

ACTION PLAN

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 Hannah James (BSc (Hons) BioVeterinary Sciences). Hannah has updated the literature review and 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:

Breed Club actions include:

- The breed clubs to continue to encourage owners to report to the breed's cause of death register. – **ONGOING**
- 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. – **ONGOING**
- The breed clubs to continue to encourage participation in the BVA/KC Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Schemes. – **ONGOING**
- 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. – **ONGOING**
- The breed clubs to monitor and record the prevalence of neoplasia in the breed and to encourage and consider any research that is available

Kennel Club actions include:

- 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. – **ONGOING**

- The Kennel Club to monitor any available research for neoplasia in the breed and keep the breed updated. – **ONGOING**
- The Kennel Club to involve the breed in any research studies investigating patellar luxation.
- The Kennel Club to raise queries on behalf of the breed regarding the BVA/KC/ISDS eye scheme.
- The Kennel Club to update the breed as to any advancements made with the Veterinary Cardiologist Society heart schemes.
- The Kennel Club to discuss the possibility of a VetCompass study for the breed with Dr Dan O'Neill. – **ONGOING**
- The Kennel Club to assist in analysing the group study data.

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](#).