

The Kennel Club Health Standard

For Flatcoated Retrievers

What is the KC Health Standard?

The Health Standard provides guidance about relevant health tests for each breed, two categories or levels of testing are defined, good and best practice. The Health Standard and categorisation of tests will be regularly reviewed by the KC and updated depending on breed specific data.

Who is it for?

Designed primarily for breeders, the Health Standard is also a valuable resource for puppy buyers helping them to check that a puppy's parents have been appropriately health tested.

Good Practice

The minimum level of testing that should be carried out before breeding:

Eye testing (and gonioscopy for PLA) using the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme

Best Practice

These tests address conditions that are significant but not as prevalent or critical in the breed as those in the good practice category, however to support breed health, responsible breeders should complete all tests in both categories:

Hip testing (for hip dysplasia) using the BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme

Elbow testing (for elbow dysplasia) using the BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme

Further Information and Resources

View and download a copy of the full Health Standard on the Kennel Club website:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/about-us/about-the-kennel-club/the-kennel-club-codes/the-kennel-club-health-standard/>

KC Health Test results finder:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/search/health-test-results-finder/>

BVA/KC Health Schemes:

<https://www.bva.co.uk/canine-health-schemes/>

KC Flatcoated Retriever Information (A-Z of breeds):

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/search/breeds-a-to-z/breeds/gundog/retriever-flat-coated/>

Genetic diversity and selection of sires

All breeders must consider the genetic sustainability of the breed and make balanced breeding decisions. Genetic diversity will continue to decline if this is not considered as part of the process of sire selection, further information about maintaining genetic diversity can be found on the KC website:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health-and-dog-care/health/getting-started-with-health-testing-and-screening/genetic-diversity-managing-and-maintaining/>

Any Questions?

Questions can be sent to the KC Breed Health Coordinator, Liz Branscombe via the KC submission form:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/search/breeds-a-to-z/breeds/gundog/retriever-flat-coated/>