



Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Report 2019

Launched in 2012, the Morris Animal Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is one of the largest prospective studies of its kind in veterinary medicine. The Study gathers annual samples and data on a cohort of more than **3,000 golden retrievers**. Our goal is to identify the nutritional, environmental, lifestyle and genetic risk factors for cancer and other diseases in dogs.

NEW NESTED STUDIES:

Nested studies are smaller studies conducted using the data and/or samples from the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study.

HEART DISEASE

University of California, Davis
Look for links between certain dog food ingredients/formulations and the development of taurine deficiency and associated heart disease in golden retrievers.

OBESITY

University of Cambridge
Look for inheritable genetic mutations linked to higher obesity risk to help owners and veterinarians to take proactive measures to help their pets.

TRAINING

Veterinary Specialty Hospital, San Diego
Residents will work with Study epidemiologist to learn about proper study design and statistical analysis with the goal of publication of results.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Researchers are starting to look at the first few years of data as it relates to dog health concerns.

Age at Gonadectomy and Risk of Overweight/Obesity and Orthopedic Injury in a Cohort of Golden Retrievers
(*PLoS One*, July 2019)

New risk data for veterinarians and owners to consider about the timing of spaying and neutering large-breed dogs.

Inbreeding Depression Causes Reduced Fecundity in Golden Retrievers
(*Mammalian Genome*, June 2019)

Higher degrees of inbreeding associated with reduced litter sizes.

NEW PARTNERSHIP

Morris Animal Foundation is partnering with the V Foundation to fund genetic sequencing of DNA from cohort dogs with cancer. This new data will add to the intrinsic research value of the project for dogs as well as boost translational research in other species, including people.

STUDY OUTCOMES

As of June 30, 2019

FUNDING

SINCE 2012:
\$32 MILLION projected cost
\$22 MILLION raised
\$10 MILLION additional funds needed

DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to the four top canine cancer statistics captured by the Study, other common cancers reported in Study dogs include histiosarcomas and low-grade mast cell tumors.

29,641
DNA SAMPLES
obtained

6.4
YEARS

AVERAGE AGE
of Study dogs

49%
of Study dog deaths are
CANCER-RELATED

253,826
WHOLE BLOOD & SERUM SAMPLES
for future research

PRIMARY CANCER DIAGNOSES

39 LYMPHOMA
(26 deaths)

4 HIGH-GRADE MAST CELL TUMORS
(1 death)

22 HEMANGIOSARCOMA
(17 deaths)

1 OSTEOSARCOMA
(1 death)

59 OTHER CANCERS
(24 deaths)

**142 TOTAL DEATHS FROM
CANCER & OTHER CAUSES**

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED OWNERS & VETERINARIANS

The Study would not be possible without the passionate dedication of our hero dog owners and their veterinarians and, of course, our amazing 3,000+ golden retrievers.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is the first Morris Animal Foundation study designed, funded and run by the Foundation. Thank you to our partners who help make the Study possible.

FOUNDING PARTNER

The Mark & Bette Morris
Family Foundation

PLATINUM PARTNERS



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GOLDEN CHAMPIONS

Mars Veterinary

ABOUT MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION

Morris Animal Foundation's mission is to bridge science and resources to advance the health of animals. Founded by a veterinarian in 1948, we fund and conduct critical health studies for the benefit of all animals.

Learn more at morrisanimalfoundation.org.

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