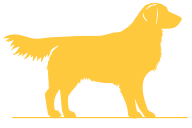




Morris Animal
FOUNDATION
Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

Veterinarian Manual



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Welcome

Dear Veterinarian,

Welcome to Morris Animal Foundation's Golden Retriever Lifetime Study!

Morris Animal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that, in collaboration with scientists, veterinarians and dog owners, is working to advance veterinary medicine so dogs can live longer, healthier lives. The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is a groundbreaking effort to identify genetic, nutritional and environmental risk factors for cancer and other health problems in dogs. It is the largest and longest observational study ever undertaken for dogs in the United States. We are pleased you are helping your client participate in this study. Veterinarians play a critical role in the success of the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study.

This manual is provided to guide you through your role in this study. The health information you provide for your client's dog is submitted online. You can print completed hard copies of the forms and file them with your client's records.

Please use the study website as your first resource when you have questions: **caninelifetimehealth.org**. If you need further assistance, please email the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Team at **grdogs@caninelifetimehealth.org** or call us toll-free at 855.4GR.DOGS (855.447.3647).

Thank you, and once again, welcome to the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study!

The Morris Animal Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Team

The Morris Animal Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Team

Study Team Contact Information

Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Team: Customer Service
caninelifetimehealth.org | **grdogs@caninelifetimehealth.org** | 855.4GR.DOGS (855.447.3647)

Morris Animal Foundation
720 S Colorado Blvd, Suite 174-A, Denver, CO 80246 | 800.243.234103 | **morrisanimalfoundation.org**

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Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Description

More than half of golden retrievers die of cancer, and cancer is the leading cause of death in all dogs older than 2 years of age. With the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, Morris Animal Foundation's goal is to better define the incidence and risk factors for cancer and other major medical conditions in golden retrievers. By following the lives of 3,000+ golden retrievers, we will be able to create a brighter future for all dogs.

Study Objectives

The objectives of this study are to:

- Determine the occurrence of cancer in a cohort of 3,000+ golden retrievers in the contiguous United States
- Determine the incidence and prevalence of exposure to potential environmental, nutritional, behavioral and genetic risk factors among golden retrievers
- Explore associations between potential risk factors and the development of specific cancers, including hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, mast cell tumors and osteosarcoma
- Determine the incidence and risk factors for other major health disorders in golden retrievers, such as hypothyroidism, heart disease and arthritis
- Collect, store and analyze blood, DNA and other biological samples to identify potential biomarkers for the development of cancer and other diseases
- Collect and store tumor tissue samples to confirm diagnosis of cancer and to characterize cancer pathogenesis at a molecular level
- Develop and evaluate strategies and guidelines for canine cancer screening and prevention

Your Role as a Selected Veterinarian

By supporting your client in this project, you are making a commitment to participate in the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. If at any time you are unable or unwilling to perform the tasks required for this study, your client will be asked to select another veterinarian to perform the dog's annual study examinations and collect samples for the study. If you are ever concerned about your ability to continue participation, we want to hear from you. Please contact the study team at grdogs@caninelifetimehealth.org or 855.4GR.DOGS (855.447.3647).

Annual Veterinary Visits

Each year that your patient is enrolled in the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, your client will schedule a visit for a comprehensive health examination and sample collection. You can use the appointment tab on each patient's online chart to view the exam due dates and questionnaire completion status.

You will be required to perform a complete physical examination on your patient and **collect samples** (blood, urine, feces, hair and toenail clippings) at each annual veterinary visit. Additional time should be allotted for these visits to complete the examination, review any medical history provided by the owner, perform the required sample collection procedures, and enter your findings into the online veterinary questionnaire. A veterinary sample kit containing detailed instructions, sample collection supplies, and shipping supplies will be sent directly to your client before the scheduled visit each year. Your client will drop the kit off at your clinic a few days before the appointment or bring the kit to the appointment.

Annual laboratory test results (SUPERchem, CBC, T4, urinalysis, heartworm antigen, ova and parasite fecal analysis) will be reported to you from Antech Diagnostics at no charge. Each dog's laboratory results will be automatically uploaded to your study account two to three business days after the exam. It is your responsibility to review these results with your client. You can provide a copy of these results directly to your client by clicking the 'share' button next to each laboratory report. If you require assistance locating, printing or sharing these results, please contact the study team at grdogs@caninelifetimehealth.org.

You also are required to log on to the study website and enter history and physical examination findings for your study patient. A hard copy of the veterinary questionnaire is provided in the annual kit. Veterinarians are permitted and encouraged to complete the paperwork during the examination and delegate online data entry to clinic staff.

Your client is responsible for all costs associated with the annual examination, sample collection and laboratory tests. Your client will receive limited compensation of up to \$75 from Morris Animal Foundation to help offset costs of the annual physical examination and sample collection. What you charge your client for study-related visits, including examination fees and laboratory test fees (phlebotomy, handling, interpretation, etc.), is at your discretion. Please review all financial responsibilities with your client and follow your clinic's normal billing protocols. These financial responsibilities also are outlined in your client's study materials.

Tumor Sample Collection

Tissue samples are essential for the study. If you suspect that your patient has a malignant cancer, we ask that you (or a veterinary oncologist or other veterinary specialist) take a biopsy of the suspected tumor for examination by an Antech Diagnostics veterinary pathologist. Initial evaluation with fine needle aspirate, clinical pathology, and/or diagnostic imaging is recommended whenever possible. Please use the **Biopsy Decision Tree** to help you decide if a biopsy should be submitted through the study. If a biopsy does not meet the criteria to be submitted through the study, please proceed with best clinical practices. However, if the result is malignant or unusual, notify the study team so we may discuss additional sampling as appropriate.

The most up-to-date tumor sampling instructions are available at **Biopsy Kit: Collection and Shipping Instructions** or from the study team at 855.4GR.DOGS. Every odd-numbered study year (example – years 3, 5, 7, etc.), a biopsy kit will be included with the annual kit shipped to your client. If additional biopsy kits are needed, please contact the study team at 855.4GR.DOGS. Please note that kits shipped directly to the client do not contain formalin. When using these kits, we request that you use formalin jars from your clinic.

For qualified samples, histopathology results are provided to you at no charge from Antech Diagnostics, a Platinum Partner of the study. If malignancy is confirmed via biopsy, please complete an Additional Veterinary Visit (AVV) questionnaire online to record physical examination findings and summarize the diagnosis. No AVV is needed if biopsy results are benign.

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study provides the owner with limited reimbursement (maximum of \$500 per the life of the dog) for the costs associated with histopathology (tumor sample collection and analysis). But, as always, what you charge your client for any study-related visit is at your discretion.

Additional Veterinary Visits (AVV)

Because the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is an observational study, you also must notify the study team any time the dog is diagnosed with malignancy or has a veterinary visit for a major medical concern outside of the study-required annual visits. You can access the AVV online questionnaire by clicking on the red button labeled AVV on each patient's study page.

Criteria for a reportable additional veterinary visit are as follows:

- Any malignancy
- Severe vomiting/diarrhea
- Severe otitis/dermatitis/pyoderma
- Endocrine disease (Cushing's, Addison's, diabetes, hypothyroidism)
- Organ dysfunction (renal failure, hepatic disease, heart disease)
- Orthopedic disease (cruciate rupture, hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, degenerative myelopathy)

Please note that medical events requiring repeated follow-up such as dermatologic, orthopedic, or endocrine disease may be summarized in a single AVV.

If your patient is diagnosed with any malignancy without using a study biopsy kit, we request a full set of samples (blood, urine, feces, hair and nails) as soon as possible after diagnosis. We also request that any tissue blocks and/or slides of the malignancy be shipped to Morris Animal Foundation for review and entry into a tissue bank. Please contact the study team for a diagnosis kit and to discuss transfer of the histopathology samples. Finally, remember to complete an additional veterinary visit form online to record physical examination findings and summarize the diagnosis.

Necropsy

Everything that we learn from observing your patient throughout its lifetime is valuable. Important additional information can be gained at the time of a dog's death. We have instructed owners that a necropsy is optional, but we hope you will encourage them to participate in this important final step of the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. Please discuss necropsy options with your client to help them make this difficult decision.

The necropsy can be performed by you or by a veterinary pathologist. A necropsy kit has been shipped to your client. It contains instructions, labels, and shipping supplies. The client is instructed to provide this kit to the veterinarian presiding at death or necropsy. In the event that you are able to notify the study team in advance of a euthanasia, we also can provide clinical pathology and histopathology supplies for necropsy. If the participant's death is unexpected, please use supplies available at your clinic and complete the necropsy as best able. The most up-to-date necropsy instructions are available online at caninelifetimehealth.org, titled Necropsy Kit: Collection and Shipping Instructions, or from the study team at 855.4GR.DOGS.

If you refer your client to a veterinary pathologist, the pathologist should provide you with a completed Necropsy Checklist from the necropsy kit. This form contains the data that you will enter online. Only the dog's registered study veterinarian can report the necropsy findings through their account online.

Tips for Participating Veterinarians

- We recommend having a team of three clinic staff members perform the blood draw – one for gentle control, one for managing the venipuncture, and one to handle the numerous blood tubes required.
- As soon as possible after the annual study examination and sample collection, log on to caninelifetimehealth.org to complete the veterinary questionnaire for your patient. (You must be at the **Canine Lifetime Health Project** website and not the general Morris Animal Foundation website.)
- Write your username and password in each study patient's chart where it is easy to find. Your username is your email address. Your password never needs to be changed.
- For the annual questionnaire, you will report on health events, medications, and vaccines given throughout the previous 12 months. If your software system does not show problem lists, medications, and vaccines separately, consider maintaining an annual list for each category within the patient chart for easy review. You will need the vaccine manufacturer and lot number.
- A hard copy of the veterinary questionnaire is included in each kit. You can complete it as you perform the examination or dictate to a staff member.
- A knowledgeable staff member can enter the annual examination information online from the completed hard-copy questionnaire or from your medical records, freeing you to move on to the next patient.
- Schedule extra time the day of a study examination for you or a trusted staff member to complete the online questionnaire.
- You can skip a question by using the table of contents on the right side of the screen (instead of clicking next, which requires the current page to be complete).

Resources

FAQs

Questions? Visit our **Frequently Asked Questions** section to learn more.

Additional Reading

For Veterinarians

Connecting with Grieving Clients: Supportive Communication for 14 Common Situations

Laurel Lagoni, MS, and Dana Durrance, MA
AAHA Press, Lakewood, Colorado
ISBN 978-1-58326-166-8

Managing the Canine Cancer Patient: A Practical Guide to Compassionate Care

by Greg Ogilvie, DVM, and Antony Moore
Veterinary Learning Systems, Yardley, PA
ISBN 978-1-884254567

For Owners

Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life

by Nancy Kay, DVM
ISBN 978-146351464

The Power of Positive Dog Training

by Pat Miller
ISBN 978-0470241844

How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With

by Clarice Rutherford and David H. Neil
ISBN 978-1577790761

The Golden Retriever Puppy Handbook

by R. Ann Johnson
ISBN 978-0878501656

The Golden Retriever Handbook

by D. Caroline Coile PhD
ISBN 978-0764141447

The Ultimate Golden Retriever: A Howell Dog book of Distinction

by Valerie Foss
ISBN 978-0764526381

The Golden Retriever

by Jeffrey G. Pepper
ISBN 978-1-59378-686-1

Zoobiquity

by Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, MD,
and Kathryn Bowers
ISBN 978-0-307-59348-1

Pets Living with Cancer:

A pet owner's resource
by Robin Downing, DVM
AAHA Press
ISBN 1-58326-022-6

When Your Pet Dies: A Guide to Mourning, Remembering and Healing

by Alan D. Wolfelt, PhD
ISBN 978-1879651364

Making Decisions When Your Companion Animal is Sick

by The Argus Institute
Colorado State University

Resources

About Morris Animal Foundation

Morris Animal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that invests in science that advances veterinary medicine for companion animals, horses and wildlife. We are a global leader in animal health science, and our funding helps more species in more places than that of any other organization in the world.

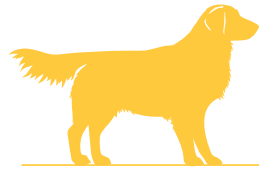
Our History

Dr. Mark L. Morris Sr. believed there was a need for a Foundation that solely addressed the health and welfare of animals. He also knew science has the power to change the world. When he established Morris Animal Foundation in 1948, Dr. Morris envisioned a world in which scientific discoveries would lead to healthy lives for animals.

Our Impact

Since our founding, Morris Animal Foundation has invested over \$103 million toward more than 2,500 studies, and these studies have led to significant breakthroughs in diagnostics, treatments, preventions and cures benefitting animals. Some of the breakthroughs funded through the Foundation have become gold standards in veterinary care.

- Improved cancer treatments and diagnostics: Morris Animal Foundation has supported more than 200 animal cancer studies. These studies have led to more effective chemotherapy treatments and improved diagnostic tools for cancers affecting dogs, cats and horses.
- Vaccines for preventing disease: Morris Animal Foundation funded preliminary work that led to the development of numerous vaccines, including those for parvovirus in dogs, leukemia in cats and valley fever in horses. These vaccines have saved the lives of thousands of animals.
- Dietary management of health issues: Foundation-funded investigators have improved dietary management of diabetes in cats, kidney disease in dogs, and tying-up in horses.
- Tools for studying genetic diseases: Foundation-funded researchers have developed tools for discovering genetic mutations and predispositions to feline diseases. Other studies have led to genetic tests for equine and canine diseases.
- Care and protection for endangered species: The Foundation established the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project in 1986 and was its sole funder for nearly 25 years. The project, now its own nonprofit organization, remains one of only a few conservation programs in the world to provide care and treatment to an endangered species in its natural habitat. Additional studies have led to state legislation that increased protections for endangered California sea otters.



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