

Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Report 2018



The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is the most extensive prospective study ever undertaken in veterinary medicine, gathering information on more than **3,000 golden retrievers** during their lives.

The study's purpose is to identify the nutritional, environmental, lifestyle and genetic risk factors for cancer and other diseases in dogs. The data collected will inform veterinary medical research for decades to come.

THE PERFECT DOG FOR A GROUNDBREAKING STUDY

- Higher incidence of cancer (up to 60 percent estimated)
- One of the most popular dogs in the United States, easier to recruit for large study
- Eager to please

CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITY

- Data analysis underway and ongoing
- October 2017 first call for research proposals with outside partners, using database and biological samples
- Initial studies underway using baseline data and early trends; closer look at influence of neutering, obesity and microbiome on overall health and disease

LASTING IMPACT

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study will provide unique insights into the onset of naturally occurring health conditions in real time and on a large scale. The data collected will help us learn more about:

- Cancer
- Heart Disease
- Infectious Diseases
- Translational Medicine
- Joint Disease and Injuries
- Gastrointestinal Diseases
- Kidney and Bladder Diseases
- Skin Conditions and Allergies
- Hypothyroidism and Other Endocrine Diseases
- Neurologic Disorders
- Respiratory Diseases
- Blood Disorders
- Aging



BY THE NUMBERS

OUR HERO DOGS

Average Age
5.8 years old

Youngest Dogs
3 years old

Oldest Dogs
7 years old

Mortalities*
69 total

Cancer*
28 deaths

Average Lifespan of a Golden Retriever
10 to 12 years

Projected Length of Study is **14 Years**

Study Cost is **\$32 Million**

Pilot Study Began in **2012**

Full Enrollment Reached in 2015 with **3,044 dogs**

2,920 Golden Retrievers Enrolled*

2,697 Dog Owners Involved*

2,001 Veterinarians Involved*

* As of December 31, 2017

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED OWNERS AND VETERINARIANS

The study would not be possible without the thousands of dog owners and veterinarians who have signed up for a multi-year commitment requiring patience and dedication.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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

FOUNDING PARTNER

The Mark & Bette Morris
Family Foundation

PLATINUM PARTNERS



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GOLDEN CHAMPIONS

Mars Veterinary

PUBLICATIONS TO DATE

Canine Genetics and Epidemiology, November 2017 – “Population Characteristics of Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Enrollees”

The paper provides rationale for the study, methods of enrollment and outlines the translational opportunities of the study to human health.

Philosophical Transactions B, June 2015 – “The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study: Establishing an Observational Cohort Study with Translational Relevance for Human Health”

The paper focuses on the demographics of the study's participants and their initial veterinary visits after enrollment.

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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