



**MORRIS
ANIMAL
FOUNDATION**

**GOLDEN RETRIEVER
LIFETIME STUDY**

NECROPSY VETERINARIAN DISCUSSION GUIDE

Use this document to help guide conversations with your Study veterinarian about their willingness to perform a necropsy when the time comes. While this topic can be difficult to discuss, making arrangements in advance will allow you to prepare for unexpected circumstances.

- 1. How familiar are you with the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study?**
- 2. What kind of necropsy would you be willing/able to perform (cosmetic, partial, full)?**

A cosmetic necropsy is the least invasive option. It typically involves sampling diseased tissue for pathology like a biopsy procedure. A partial necropsy includes collecting diseased tissue, and several of the core tissues: liver, kidney, spleen, heart, lung and bone marrow. A full necropsy is more involved and includes samples such as the brain and spinal cord. This necropsy is typically performed at a university or diagnostic facility. Most Study veterinarians will perform a partial necropsy for the Study.

- 3. If you are not able to perform the necropsy or my dog passes outside of business hours, is there another facility you would recommend nearby?**
- 4. Have you performed a necropsy for the Study in the past?**
- 5. Did you have a chance to review the “Necropsy Kit: Collection & Shipping Instructions for Veterinary Practice” provided by the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study team?**

This guide is included in the necropsy kit and can be found on your veterinarian’s portal page as well as on the [veterinarian page](#) of our website.

- 6. What days and hours are you available to perform the necropsy?**

A necropsy must be performed within 12-24 hours after a dog passes.

- 7. How much does your clinic charge for a necropsy?**



MORRIS
ANIMAL
FOUNDATION

GOLDEN RETRIEVER
LIFETIME STUDY

8. Would I be able to have my dog's ashes returned after the necropsy?

Always discuss your wishes with the veterinarian prior to the necropsy. Make sure you discuss private versus public cremation if you would like your dog's individual ashes returned. If you want your dog's body returned, you will need to have a cosmetic necropsy.

9. Do you need additional information, or would you like to speak directly to the Study team?

Supplemental information about the Study's necropsy protocol can be found on our [website](#) and on your Study veterinarian's portal under Resources. The Study team can be reached at grdogs@caninelifetimehealth.org or (855)-447-3647. Contact Center hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7:00 am – 4:00 pm MT and Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am – 12:00 pm MT.

If you would like assistance discussing the necropsy with your Study veterinarian or finding a willing clinician, submit a [Volunteer Support Request Form](#).