

Sudden death in young Labradors

Information for Breeders and Owners

Advisory for Labrador Retriever Breeders, and Owners

Dear Breeder,

We are increasingly concerned by reports of sudden, unexpected deaths in young Labrador Retrievers—often occurring during rest or sleep in dogs that appeared otherwise healthy. Our team is committed to investigating the underlying causes of these tragic events and working toward strategies for prevention.

Our research aims to support breeders and owners by exploring potential genetic causes, with the long-term goal of developing a genetic test. We are also investigating possible links to cardiac and sleep-related conditions. Early identification, case reporting, and data collection are crucial to advancing our understanding of this condition and improving outcomes.

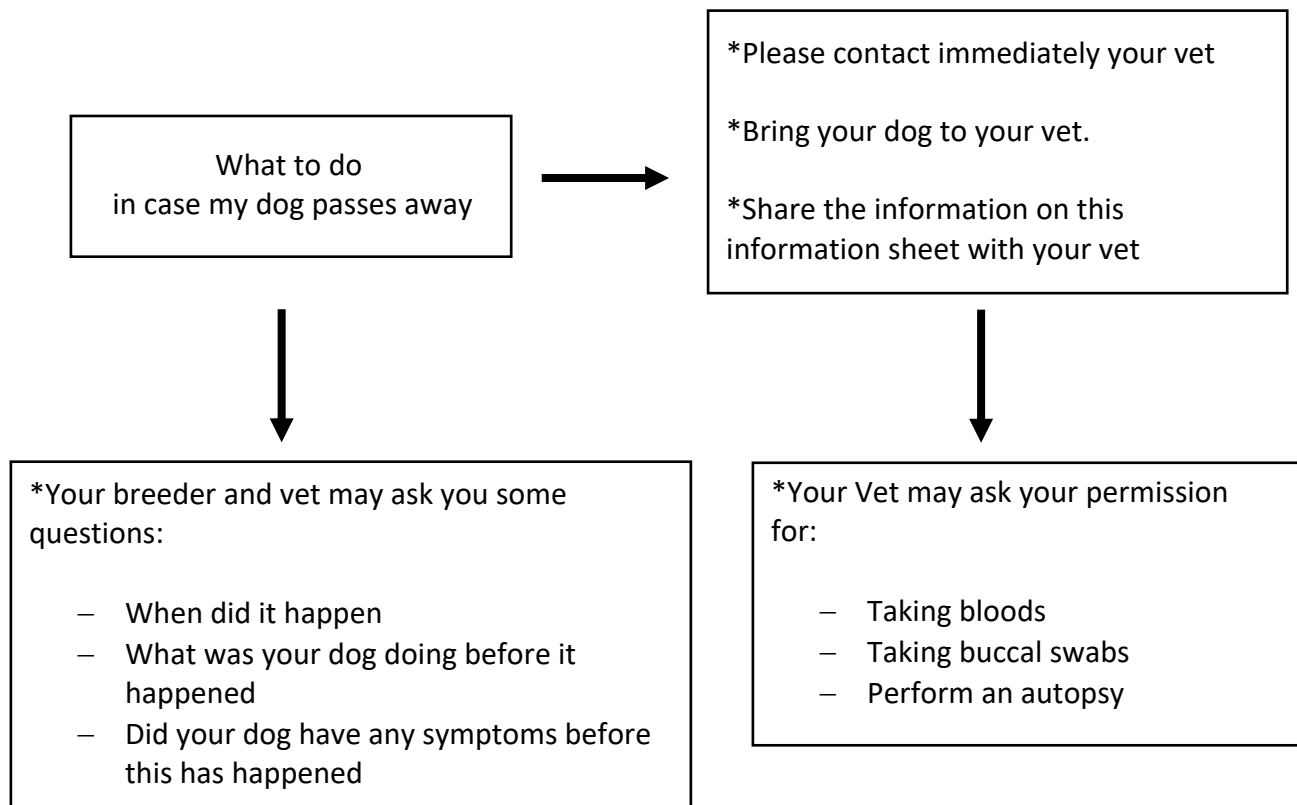
If an owner contacts you following the sudden loss of their Labrador, we kindly ask that you encourage them to reach out to us. Your assistance in facilitating this communication is vital for gathering essential information and providing the owner with guidance and support.

Guidance for Owners

If you experience the heartbreaking sudden loss of your Labrador Retriever, please know that you are not alone. Support and resources are available. We recommend the following steps:

- Contact your breeder or veterinarian promptly to report the incident.
 - If possible, allow collection of samples (details available below) to help with diagnostic efforts.
 - Keep a record of your dog's medical history, any behaviours observed before the event, and any symptoms.
 - Seek support from your veterinary team for both medical guidance and emotional care.
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Flow chart for the owner



Giving permission for your Vet to take blood and/or buccal (cheek swab) samples and perform an autopsy will help us considerably to understand and prevent these sudden deaths.

Together, we can make a difference for the future of the Labrador Retriever breed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us:

Cardiology service: cardiology@vet.cam.ac.uk

With sincere thanks,

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