

Renal Dysplasia in Flatcoated Retrievers – information for owners and vets

Background

Renal dysplasia (RD) is a congenital condition where the kidneys fail to develop normally and therefore to function properly. The resulting organs, tissues and cell types are poorly differentiated and ineffective in their job of filtering waste and balancing fluids.

The Canine Genetics Centre is starting to investigate the genetics of RD in Flatcoated Retrievers, in the hope that we can identify genetic variants responsible for the disease and help breeders avoid breeding affected puppies in the future.

We will be using a whole genome sequencing approach, comparing DNA from affected and unaffected Flatcoated retrievers for our investigations.

For our research we need DNA from Flatcoated Retrievers that are affected with RD, and from close relatives of affected dogs. Close relatives include parents and siblings of affected dogs. If your Flatcoated Coated retriever has been diagnosed with RD, or is closely related to an affected dog, please consider helping us with our research.

How to help the research

For owners:

DNA Sample. If your dog has been diagnosed with RD a DNA sample from him/her would really help our research. The DNA can be collected using a simple cheek swab that you or your vet can collect, or from a residual blood sample that your vet has taken as part of your dog's diagnosis and/or management.

DNA from the close relatives (parents and siblings) of affected dogs is also very useful. DNA can be collected in the same way as for affected dogs.



To request a cheek swab please visit:

<https://www.canine-genetics.org.uk/research/sample-request-form/>

The DNA collection kit comes with full instructions and can be posted back to the Canine Genetics Centre in the regular post, no special courier service is needed.

Clinical Information. We need to see your dog's clinical notes to ensure that all the dogs we include in our research are presenting with RD at the same age and in the same way. Your personal details, as well as your dog's identity, will be kept strictly confidential. The data will be anonymised so that your and your dog's details are not traceable.



Please ask your vet to email a copy of your dog's clinical notes to:

cgc@vet.cam.ac.uk

Your vet might ask you to sign a consent form before they will share your dogs' notes with us. A consent form is below.

Registered Name. If your dog is registered with a Royal Kennel Club (RKC) please tell us what their RKC registered name (or number) is. There is space for their name on the DNA submission form; please try to include their name so that we can see how affected dogs are related as this will help us determine how RD is inherited.

For Vets:

For our research we require DNA from robust cases of RD, and we also need to see clinical information for the affected dogs, so that we can select dogs that are presenting at the same age, and with the same clinical signs.

Please ask your client for their consent to share their dog's clinical information with us (a consent form is below) and help them to collect DNA from their dogs if they need you to. DNA can be collected using a buccal swab, or as a residual EDTA blood sample.



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Our address is: Canine Genetics Centre
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Thank you for helping us investigate the genetics of renal dysplasia in Flatcoated Retrievers