



*The Golden Retriever Club
of America, Inc.*

How to Participate in Cancer Research

1. Respond to “requests for research participants” on the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) and the Golden Retriever Foundation (GRF) websites and Facebook pages, and in the GRNews.

Instructions, eligibility, and contact information are provided with these requests. Owners and breeders are encouraged to forward and circulate these requests as widely as possible.

GRCA website www.grca.org → Health & Research page → Listed under item D.

GRF website www.goldenretrieverfoundation.org

2. Donate tumor tissue samples for other studies or research programs.

Since the early 2000’s, GRCA and GRF have devoted significant resources to supporting cancer research. Club members and other Golden owners have rallied to the cause, providing blood and tumor samples to research programs around the country. This has not only aided individual studies, it has also helped develop tremendous ongoing research resources.

Nearly 20 years of active GRF and GRCA member support has contributed to some university cancer research programs developing “banks” of DNA (blood) and tumor tissue samples that represent many types of cancer and include a large number of Goldens. In addition, canine cancer researchers can sometimes obtain tissue and DNA samples from the Canine Comparative Oncology & Genomics Consortium (CCOGC); and DNA samples from the CHIC DNA Repository. Most commonly, though, individual studies at university vet schools collect new, fresh samples from dogs being treated at their clinics.

Regardless of how they are obtained, samples need to be replenished as they are used, and some samples must be fresh. Owners whose dog is being treated at a university vet school may offer (or be requested) to donate tumor samples to the university’s research program. In addition, if the vet school supplies samples to the CCOGC (look up at www.ccogc.net/collection-process/), you may ask if your dog is eligible to contribute a sample to this bank.

3. Donate a DNA (blood) sample from healthy dogs, dogs with any disease, and dogs of any age

Another excellent way to support research is to send a blood sample (no tissue) to the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA Repository, also called simply “the DNA bank.” A blood sample stored here can provide enough DNA to be shared among many investigators and research projects over a long period of time. We encourage owners to bank a blood sample from Golden Retrievers of any age, and any health or disease status. Germ line (heritable) DNA does not change throughout a dog’s life, so banking a sample when a dog is young and healthy will avoid the stress of trying to make arrangements during an emergency. Please note, however, that **it is vital to update the dog’s health or disease status as it changes during the dog’s life, including age and cause of death (if known)**, so that the sample can be used appropriately. Also, don’t forget to update your contact information if it changes.

The CHIC DNA Repository

Website: <https://www.ofa.org/about/dna-repository>

Email updates to: chic@offa.org

4. Enroll in a Clinical Trial

Visit the GRCA website “Health & Research” page → “D. Participation in Research” → “About Clinical Trials” for a detailed discussion of clinical trials.

In most instances, the best source for information about clinical trials for which a specific dog may be eligible is the nearest college of veterinary medicine. Internet searches can sometimes locate other trials, but if these are being conducted far away from the dog’s geographic location, it’s unlikely that the dog would be able to meet the usual participation requirement of regular appointments. Other resources for locating clinical trials are listed below.

AKC Canine Health Foundation

www.akcchf.org/research/participate-in-research/clinical-trials.html

Veterinary Cancer Society

<http://vetcancersociety.org/pet-owners/clinical-trials/> Links to vet school clinical trial websites

www.vetcancersociety.org/pet-owners/clinical-trials/ Searchable database

Additional Assistance

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