

The Flat Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc

The Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America is very committed to the health of our lovely breed, and to this end, all members of the Society have signed our Code of Ethics, which includes affirmation that all litters bred will be from dogs that are physically sound and of good temperament. In order to ensure that unexpected health concerns do not arise, we also require that all breeding stock have documented clearances (from OFA or equivalent) for hip dysplasia and patellar abnormalities, and have regular eye clearances from a board certified ophthalmologist. To further understand and maintain the health of our breed, many of our members also voluntarily undertake additional health related clearances and tests. While these are not required, such additional clearances reflect that we care deeply about the health of our dogs, and are happy to provide documentation supporting their good health.

While Flat-Coated Retrievers are in many respects a very healthy breed, it is important to be aware that, like many other retrievers, they do suffer from a higher than normal incidence of cancer – specifically soft tissue sarcomas such as hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, and malignant histiocytosis. There is no cure for these diseases, but the FCRSA has for many years encouraged, and financially supported, research into the genetic bases of these conditions, and, importantly, into clinical advances in diagnosis and treatment. This effort is paying off and we are pleased to report that new treatment options are available (see www.fcrsainc.org) Importantly, the average life span of our dogs is improving, and it is now very common to see many Flat-Coated Retrievers reaching double digits in age, which is the expected life-span for most of the retriever breeds.

We encourage potential owners to ask breeders about health clearances for both parents, and to talk to the breeder about life span and cancer in their stock.

For more information please contact Jeff Speicher at fcrsasecretary@me.com

This statement has been approved by the Board of Directors of the FCRSA.