



*The Golden Retriever Club
of America, Inc.*

How to Participate in 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.

These requests are generally directly from an investigator for a specific project, and may include dogs affected with a certain health condition, unaffected Golden Retrievers for a control group, or even surveys. Contact information for more details is provided with these requests, and owners and breeders are encouraged to forward and circulate this information as widely as possible.

GRCA website: <https://grca.org/> About the Breed → Health & Research → D. Participation in Research

GRF website: www.goldenretrieverfoundation.org

2. Donate blood, tumor, and tissue samples for research.

Blood, tumor, and tissue samples are vital for many research projects, and dogs being treated at vet school clinics are a primary resource. Owners whose dog is being treated at a university veterinary hospital are encouraged to ask if their dog is eligible to donate samples to the university’s research program. Although consent forms usually request permission to use samples in a specific study, they may also request to use or share the samples with additional or future studies; agreeing to that request provides added value. To protect privacy, owner and dog identifying information is not shared.

3. Donate a DNA sample from healthy dogs, dogs with any disease, and dogs of any age. Blood is best, but buccal (cheek) swabs can be submitted in a pinch.

Another 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 DNA sample stored there 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 DNA 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 do this 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, please don’t forget to update your contact information if it changes.

- a. Unless the blood has been collected at a sponsoring event such as the GRCA National Specialty, there is a fee to process the DNA for storage. However, if the dog has a “disease of interest” to GRCA or GRF (typically meaning that the disease is suspected to have a heritable component), OFA will waive the fee for affected dogs. This may include diseases such as hip and elbow dysplasia, heart disease, some eye diseases, masticatory muscle myositis (MMM), some epilepsy (seizures), some skin conditions, and more. **Permission to submit without a fee**

must be obtained in advance of collecting the sample, and this can be done by emailing chic@offa.org Please contact the GRCA Research Facilitator with any questions regarding diseases of interest.

The CHIC DNA Repository

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

Email updates to: chic@offa.org

4. Enroll in a Clinical Trial

Visit the GRCA website: <https://grca.org/> → About → Health & Research → D. Participation in Research → “About Clinical Trials” for a more 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. Additional sources for locating clinical trials are listed below.

a. AKC Canine Health Foundation

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

b. Veterinary Cancer Society (Links to clinical trials and a searchable database)

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

c. National Institute of Health/Center for Cancer Research/Comparative Oncology Program

(Links to clinical trials)

<https://ccr.cancer.gov/comparative-oncology-program/trials>

d. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) (Searchable database)

<https://veterinaryclinicaltrials.org/>

Additional Assistance

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