

PROGRESS REPORT



Training Pathologists to Support the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

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Projected End Date: 6/1/2022

A key endpoint of the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is the identification of risk factors associated with four important canine cancers: lymphoma, hemangiosarcoma, osteosarcoma and high-grade mast cell tumors. Accurate identification of these primary endpoints is a crucial first step in risk factor identification. Therefore, veterinary pathologists, the professionals who interpret biopsy results, are vital to the Study's success.

In addition to funding quality research, Morris Animal Foundation has a long history of supporting training grants for the development of promising young veterinary researchers. As part of this mandate, Foundation donors, including the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation, provided funding to train two new veterinary pathologists to work with the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study research team.

Under the mentorship of the Study's veterinary leadership team and their direct supervisor, the pathology residents are examining submitted tissue samples from Study participants in order to provide consistency in diagnosis of diseases, including cancer. Residents also assist with advanced pathology diagnostics and reporting, as needed.

The first resident, Dr. Mike Bentley, recently completed his training and is in the final stages of becoming a board-certified anatomic pathologist. Dr. Bentley competed against several other candidates for the position and did an outstanding job during his residency. After another rigorous selection process, Dr. Cat Cowan was chosen as the second pathology resident in support of the project. Dr. Cowan will complete her residency in the summer of 2022.

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study has afforded many researchers a wealth of data and samples. The Study will not only inform future research, but also has provided a fertile ground for the training of the next generation of veterinary researchers and will continue to do so for decades to come.

Thanks to the generous sponsors of this study!