

occurrence of cancers. In non-neutered dogs of both breeds, the incidence of one or more cancers ranged from 3 to 5 percent, except in male goldens, where cancer occurred at an 11-percent rate.

Neutering appeared to have little effect on the cancer rate of male goldens. However, in female goldens, neutering at any point beyond 6 months elevated the risk of one or more cancers to three to four times the level of non-neutered females.

Neutering in female Labradors increased the cancer incidence rate only slightly.

“The striking effect of neutering in female golden retrievers, compared to male and female Labradors and male goldens, suggests that in female goldens the sex hormones have a protective effect against cancers throughout most of the dog’s life,” Hart said.

Funding for the study was provided by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation and the Center for Companion Animal Health at UC Davis.

Other members of this UC Davis research team are Lynette Hart and Abigail Thigpen, both of the School of Veterinary Medicine, and Neil Willits of the Department of Statistics.



## Media contact(s)

**Pat Bailey**, Research news (emphasis: agricultural and nutritional sciences, and veterinary medicine), **530-219-9640**, [pjbailey@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pjbailey@ucdavis.edu)

**Benjamin Hart**, School of Veterinary Medicine, **530-219-3298**, [blhart@ucdavis.edu](mailto:blhart@ucdavis.edu)

## Media Resources