The Morris Animal Foundation is currently doing a study to identify risk factors for development of cancer and other diseases in golden retrievers. During 2012-2013, a research framework was established, sourced from owners, veterinarians and laboratories. Such a framework and methodology delivers a clear understanding of the data requirements for the research.

The research is of an ongoing nature and is currently in its second year. The initial efforts were focused on setting up the framework and obtaining data for the pilot study. The analysis focused on developing correlations between body weight and body fat index, weight and color, weight and feeding regimen, etc.

For the purpose of gathering data sets, willing owners of Golden Retriever puppies between the ages of 6 months to 2 years have enrolled and continue to enroll their puppies in this study and agree to participate in it for the life of the dog. The owners and veterinarians then fill out online questionnaires about the dogs’ nutrition, environment, behavior and health.

Initially, data was obtained from the golden retrievers registered in the pilot study. Obesity and hypothyroidism were analyzed as part of the pilot study. Over the course of last year, further analysis was made from new data in the areas of bone metabolism, body build, T4 count, and magnesium and phosphorus correlations with age. The expected result is that phosphorus and magnesium will have an inverse relationship with age. The results of the analysis form the core of this research paper.