

PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation Newsletter

This summer seems to have alternated between steamy heat and torrential downpours. Neither are weather patterns favored by PBGVs and their people. Before the end of summer, the Foundation asks you to do one important thing for PBGV health: update your dog's health status in the CHIC DNA repository.



Is your dog's DNA in the CHIC DNA repository?

If your dog's DNA is in the CHIC DNA repository, s/he is one of 577 PBGVs who have given blood at a National Specialty or veterinary clinic to support research on PBGV health. We thank you for taking the time and effort on the breed's behalf! Researchers who are investigating a health problem specific to PBGVs, or found in many breeds including PBGVs, are able to obtain that DNA when they ask the repository for relevant samples for their study.

The problem is that most samples were collected from young dogs and the form submitted with the samples says 'no health problems'. However, with time, your PBGV may have developed chronic ear infections, inflammatory bowel disease, congestive heart failure, urinary stones, an endocrine disorder, seizures, or a cancer. If the health information is not updated, the repository does not know that your PBGV's DNA is a match for a specific research project.

Updating the information is simple. Send an email to ofa@offa.org. Something like this:

Hello, the CHIC repository has DNA from my PBGV, Charlen's Thibodeaux. He is # HM93214004. The sample was taken when he was 5 and healthy. But I wanted to give you an update. When he was 8, the vet noticed a heart murmur, which turned out to be due to mitral valve regurgitation. He developed congestive heart failure and died at age 10. Thank you. Laura Liscum

It's that easy to have a **big** impact on PBGV health.

If your dog's DNA is NOT in the CHIC DNA repository, please consider a donation.

Readers of this newsletter who do not attend PBGVCA National Specialties with their PBGVs are not able to take advantage of the Foundation-sponsored blood collection clinics. No worries, we have you covered. You can fill out the CHIC DNA Repository form, ask your vet to draw a blood sample during your next check-up, and ship the blood sample to the Repository. Follow these directions:

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

The OFA instructions are complicated. Don't hesitate to email questions to laura.liscum@tufts.edu

The Foundation will reimburse you \$75 towards the cost of blood draw and shipping. Look here:

https://www.pbgv.org/images/PDF/Health/Foundation_DNA_Reimburse_Form.pdf

Foundation Officers Laura Liscum, President Peggy Evanich, Vice President Susan Smyth, Secretary Jo Anne Hacker, Treasurer	Board of Directors Karen Clugston Bob Cohen Pam Helmer Helen Ingher Jill Otto Sheridan Weinstein	Page 2 – Reminder about our eye exam reimbursement program. Page 3 – The Foundation was represented at the AKC CHF National Parent Club Canine Health Conference. Find out what we learned in St. Louis.
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Don't forget the 2019 Eye Exam Reimbursement Program

The PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation wants every PBGV to be examined by a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist in 2019. To reward owners who take their PBGVs for an eye exam, the Foundation has offered the following incentive:

Who	PBGVs 1 year of age or older who are owned by PBGVCA full and associate members.
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eye exam by a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist, who must fill out a Companion Animal Eye Registry (CAER) form.• The CAER form will be supplied, filled out, and signed by the ophthalmologist. S/he will give you the form for your files. The CAER form must be sent to the PBGVCA Health Committee for inclusion in the open pedigree database. The result is either:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ one \$50 reimbursement per PBGV for full PBGVCA members, or○ one \$25 reimbursement per PBGV for associate PBGVCA members.• Each PBGV is eligible for ONE reimbursement for an exam in 2019.
When	Exam must occur sometime between January 1 and December 31, 2019.
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send a copy of the CAER form to: Helen Ingher, 6817 Plumpjack Court, Port Orange FL 32128.• Either the form or an accompanying note must include the owner's name, mailing/contact info, dog's registered name, AKC number (or litter #, or limited registration #), date of exam, and name of the ophthalmologist.• Also, please send a 3-generation pedigree, if available (more if you have them!).• Rescue PBGVs may not have a pedigree or AKC registration. That's okay. We still want them to have healthy eyes. Just let us know that your PBGV is a rescue.• Alternatively, you may send the requested information and a scanned copy of the CAER form and pedigree to Helen at pbgv5@icloud.com
Why	Because all PBGVs deserve the best health care!

Need to find a veterinary ophthalmologist in your area? Speak to your vet or visit the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists website at www.ACVO.org

The Foundation realizes that the reimbursements will not cover the full cost of an eye exam, but we hope that it will be an encouragement for all PBGV owners to get this important exam for their PBGVs.

If you have any questions about the program or your submission, please contact Helen Ingher (pbgv5@icloud.com) or Laura Liscum (laura.liscum@tufts.edu).

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AKC Canine Health Foundation 2019 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference

Laura represented the Foundation at this year's National Parent Club Canine Health Conference in St. Louis, along with Orangeman, the Foundation mascot. This year's conference included lectures on nutrition, autoimmune disease, infectious disease, cancer, and genetics. We will write an in-depth article for *Saber Tails*, but here are a few of the take-home messages to whet your appetite.



- **Anxiety** is a big concern for dog owners. Dogs may be anxious due to noise (fireworks, thunder), a new social situation, or separation from owners. Dr. Ragen McGowan, a scientist at Purina, presented evidence that the gut microbiome can influence anxiety. Her studies led to development of a probiotic, called Calming Care. Videos demonstrated that the probiotic made anxious Labrador Retrievers less reactive during anxiety tests. It also reduced circulating levels of cortisol. Good news for scaredy peeps.
- We have all heard about the potential link between **dilated cardiomyopathy** (DCM) and diets that are **grain-free** or boutique or contain exotic ingredients. Two speakers touched on this. Dr. Joshua Stern described how the number of cases of DCM went through the roof in his UC Davis cardiac clinic beginning in the summer of 2017. He has now diagnosed DCM in 17 breeds that have never had a reported case before. He said that this is something new and different. Dr. Darcy Adin, University of Florida, has just begun a CHF-funded study to determine if there is a dietary link to the cases of DCM.
- **Cannabidiol** (CBD), derived from hemp, is marketed to treat seizures, nausea, stress, anxiety, arthritis, back pain, cancer symptoms, gastrointestinal issues, among others, in humans and dogs. But there is very little evidence of its efficacy. Dr. Stephanie McGrath, at Colorado State, has enrolled 60 dogs with intractable **epilepsy** into a blinded, placebo-controlled study. So far, she sees no adverse effects of CBD treatment, which is good. The study is ongoing and we don't yet know if the CBD is effective in reducing seizure frequency. Keep your fingers and paws crossed that CBD helps these dogs!
- In past years, **steroid responsive meningitis-arteritis** (SRMA), also called aseptic meningitis, was a health problem for PBGVs. Thankfully, we hear of fewer cases today. It is presumed to have an autoimmune basis with environmental triggers. Classically, the affected dog is reluctant to rise or walk, has a stiff gait and hunched posture. Fever and lethargy are common. Unfortunately, diagnosis and assessment of treatment efficacy requires repeated collection of cerebrospinal fluid. Ouch. Dr. Karen Munana, of NC State, has discovered a serum marker that parallels the changes in cerebrospinal fluid, so that clinicians don't have to repeatedly tap into the spinal column. Affected dogs appreciate being able to give a little blood rather than spinal fluid.

How can you help the Foundation?

Please look at the Foundation website (<https://www.pbgv.org/Health/HealthRescue.shtml>) for ways to donate to the Foundation. Tax exempt donations may be made through PayPal, via U.S. mail, through vehicle donations and Amazon Smile.

Please remember that all of us have a stake in keeping PBGVs a healthy breed, whether your beloved hound is a Grand Champion, a Master Hunter, or a companion dog.