



The Portuguese Water Dog Foundation, Inc.®

We are dedicated to funding canine medical research focused on issues that affect the health and well-being of Portuguese Water Dogs everywhere.

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Honor Roll of Donors

Our list of donors who contributed between January and June 2019.

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INVESTIGATION INTO DIET-ASSOCIATED DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY IN DOGS

Darcy Adin, DVM; University of California, Davis

In July 2018, the FDA [announced](#) that it had begun investigating reports of canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs eating certain pet foods, many labeled as "grain-free," which contained a high proportion of peas, lentils, other legume seeds (pulses), and/or potatoes in various forms (whole, flour, protein, etc.) as main ingredients (listed within the first 10 ingredients in the ingredient list, before vitamins and minerals). Many of these case reports included breeds of dogs not previously known to have a genetic predisposition to the disease. The FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and the Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network (Vet-LIRN), a collaboration of government and veterinary diagnostic laboratories, continue to investigate this potential association. Based on the data collected and analyzed thus far, the agency believes that the potential association between diet and DCM in dogs is a complex scientific issue that may involve multiple factors.

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a serious disease of the heart muscle whereby the heart becomes enlarged with weak contractions. DCM can result in abnormal heart rhythms, congestive heart failure or sudden death. In dogs, DCM most often occurs in large- and giant-breeds, such as Doberman Pinschers, Boxers, Irish Wolfhounds, and Great Danes; in these dogs, survival time after diagnosis is often only months, even with aggressive medical therapy.

Recently, veterinary cardiologists have recognized DCM more frequently in all breeds of dogs including mixed breeds, and even those not usually associated with DCM. There is suspicion that the disease in some dogs is associated with boutique, exotic ingredient, or grain-free (BEG) diets. Some affected dogs on such diets have shown reversal or improvement of their disease after changing their diet, supporting a potential association between consumption of a BEG diet and development of DCM. A specific cause, however, has not been identified, despite extensive nutritional testing of the dog foods and the canine patients. Moreover, the extent of the problem is unknown because only dogs that are symptomatic for DCM have been reported. It is possible that more dogs may be affected but not yet showing signs of heart disease.

To investigate the extent of diet-associated heart problems in dogs, this multi-institutional team of veterinary cardiologists and nutritionists will prospectively screen a large population of apparently healthy dogs for DCM and compare important cardiac disease measures, including ultrasound of the heart, blood biomarker and taurine concentrations, and the frequency of DCM in dogs eating BEG versus non-BEG diets.

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PROGRESS REPORT: A NOVEL APPROACH FOR PREVENTION OF CANINE HEMANGIOSARCOMA

Jamie Modiano, VMD, PhD Research Institution: University of Minnesota

The Shine On project, which started in 2016, was conceived as a bold vision in response to discussions with the Golden Retriever Foundation (GRF), the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation (PWDF) and the American Boxer Charitable Foundation (ABCF). We started from the premise that too many dogs die prematurely from cancer, and that hemangiosarcoma in particular, poses especially challenging problems. First, it is one of the most common types of cancer diagnosed in Golden Retrievers, Portuguese Water Dogs, and Boxers. Second, this insidious cancer almost always grows out of sight without causing pain or obvious symptoms, so it is diagnosed late in the course of disease or after death. In fact, many dogs that die suddenly for no apparent cause might have succumbed from a lethal bleeding episode caused by undiagnosed hemangiosarcoma.

Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:

The hypothesis of our project was that identifying dogs at risk for the earliest signs of hemangiosarcoma, and using the drug eBAT (called BEAT in the original proposal) to target the cancer-stem cell compartment in these dogs, would create an effective means for prophylaxis. We proposed two aims and three milestones. The aims were that (1) our test could detect hemangiosarcoma cells in the circulation prior to the onset of grossly detectable disease, and (2) that eBAT would be safe to eliminate the incipient cancer cells. The milestones were to (1) confirm the sensitivity and specificity of the test in dogs with active disease and expand its predictive value; (2) confirm the utility of the test to monitor relapse; and (3) establish the performance parameters of the test in the "early detection" setting (dogs at risk without gross disease) and the potential to prevent hemangiosarcoma by eradicating the cancer stem cells using eBAT. We have refined and improved the detection test, so we are confident that it can achieve clinically useful metrics for diagnosis. Our current estimates for sensitivity (can we find the disease if it is present?) and specificity (is it really the disease if the test calls it as such?) are close to 90% and 95%, respectively. We have evidence that the hemangiosarcoma-associated cells change over time in dogs receiving treatment. The dogs participating in this part of the study (prediction of relapse) are still being followed up and the results through the end of 2019 will be reported in the next and final progress report. In terms of early detection, it appears that about 50% of dogs at or over the age of 10 years have some pathology that can be detected by our test. This is consistent with the "textbook" expectation of 50% of dogs over 10 probably dying from cancer.

In the case of dogs that enrolled in phase-3 (early detection) and had a known outcome of death or tumor diagnosis, our test so far indicated the presence of an abnormality in 19 of 21 (91%). While we cannot yet say that the test matched the outcome in all these dogs, it does tell us that the use of the screening test to trigger more thorough diagnostic testing would benefit a large proportion of dogs. On the other hand, 98 of 99 (99%) dogs that were called "unaffected" by the test, and where at least six months had elapsed since the testing, had not developed disease in the interim time since the test was done. As far as establishing the efficacy of eBAT as a tool for prevention, there is a very high bar for proof. Experiments done in parallel to this project (with funding outside AKC CHF) suggest that eBAT can delay or prevent development of hemangiosarcoma or the associated terminal hemorrhage caused by hemangiosarcoma in mice harboring canine hemangiosarcoma tumors. These are not perfect models and the results are still preliminary. Nonetheless, combined with the remarkable safety of eBAT, they provide support to continue testing dogs at risk, and to eventually be able to formally test the hypothesis that fewer dogs in the population receiving eBAT prevention would develop hemangiosarcoma than in the population that did not receive it. Regardless of the final result, we have introduced significant innovation in this trial that will be of interest to the biomedical and translational communities, and we remain excited to provide support for additional large-scale trials for early cancer detection in companion dog.

(Editor's Note: In September, the CHF, the PWDF, the GRF and the ABCF approved an MOU for additional funding so Dr. Modiano and his team can continue their research. We anticipate a proposal will be before the AKC CHF Scientific Board in the near future. We will keep you updated.)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Microphthalmia and Delayed Growth Syndrome in the PWD (Puppy Eye Syndrome)

Margret L. Casal, DVM, PhD, University of Pennsylvania

The objective of this study is to A) clinicopathologically and molecularly characterize microphthalmia with delayed growth in the Portuguese Water Dog (PWD) and B) develop a DNA-based test to assist breeders with their breeding programs and avoid producing affected dogs.

Objective A is 100% complete. A draft of the paper describing the clinicopathological findings had been written but researchers found more data on affected puppies, which were added to the paper. A paper was published about microphthalmia in PWDs recently by a group out of Cornell. However, this paper described only the ocular changes in affected dogs. With this publication, researchers will show that there can be other abnormalities such as low platelet counts and stunted growth, which makes this a truly syndromic disorder. The paper also includes pedigree analyses showing the autosomal recessive mode of inheritance.

For Objective B, researchers received enough DNA samples from affected dogs and their relatives to perform an initial genome wide association study (GWAS). The DNA was sent to Illumina (Neogen) the end of November 2018, and results were received in January 2019. We are absolutely thrilled with the results: A single, very significant peak was seen on the “Manhattan plot”, which allows us to locate not only the chromosome but the general area of that chromosome in which the gene must be located. Indeed, there is a gene in this area that, when mutated in mice and humans, causes a microphthalmia syndrome. We sequenced this gene and did not find a clear disease-causing variant. Thus, we submitted and sequenced the entire genome of one affected dog and one normal PWD. We have received the data and are analyzing it. To put it in perspective, these are about 3 billion base pairs that need to be analyzed – this requires a substantial computing- and manpower. However, we are confident that we will find the disease-causing gene.

Targeted next generation sequencing panel for comprehensive testing of vector-borne pathogens

Rebecca Wilkes, DVM; Purdue University

Diagnosing vector-borne disease (VBD) in dogs can be difficult for a number of reasons. First, there are many different disease-causing agents that can be transmitted from ticks/fleas, and the clinical signs caused by these agents in dogs can overlap. Additionally, because ticks/fleas can harbor more than one agent at a time, multiple pathogens may be passed to a dog with a single vector bite, resulting in co-infections.

VBD infections can initially present with non-specific signs, such as fever, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or respiratory signs. Severe cases can be associated with neurologic signs. These signs can be a diagnostic conundrum. While initial blood work can be helpful and suggest VBD, it does not determine the infecting agent.

This study will develop a comprehensive next generation sequencing panel to detect and identify major VBD agents known to cause disease in dogs and to aid in diagnosis of active infections. Additionally, through parallel sequencing with this method, this panel will incorporate testing for additional infectious diseases that may cause GI, respiratory, or neurologic signs in dogs. The comprehensive nature of this sequencing panel should be a useful tool for surveillance of infectious diseases in the canine population for rapid identification of VBD in dogs and protection of pet owners from such zoonotic diseases.

Examination of the Effects of Cannabidiol on Canine Neoplastic Cell Apoptosis/Autophagy and Potential for Chemotherapy Resistance or Sensitivity

Joesph J. Wakshlag, DVM, PhD; University of Florida

Currently the use of cannabidiol (CBD) rich extracts for canine oncology patients is common, yet there is no data in canine oncology regarding the effects of CBD on canine cancer cells. Oncologists are wary of CBD use in their patients due to a lack of knowledge regarding the effects of CBD during chemotherapy.

Initial studies on cytotoxicity by the research team show that CBD has cytotoxic activity on a variety of canine cancer cell lines at modest concentrations in the laboratory. These effects cause apoptosis, or programmed cell death, within a very short time frame, suggesting a discrete mechanism.

The objective of this study is two-fold; 1) to determine if co-treatment of cancer cells with a common chemotherapeutic (doxorubicin) and CBD at varying concentrations affects chemotherapeutic cytotoxicity, and 2) to examine the molecular framework of the cell death response looking at the most commonly implicated pathways targeted in canine cancer treatment, including mechanisms of cell signaling and autophagy (removal of damaged cells).

Discovery of Novel Biomarkers of Canine Atopic Dermatitis through Lipid Profiling

Harm HogenEsch, DVM, PhD; Purdue University

Canine atopic dermatitis (CAD) is a common allergic skin disease of dogs with a strong genetic basis. CAD can severely affect the health and well-being of dogs and current diagnosis of CAD requires time-consuming and expensive procedures for the owner. Furthermore, the molecular mechanisms underlying this condition are not well understood.

Evidence from human studies suggests that several variants of atopic dermatitis (AD) exist with different mechanisms and responses to treatment. Therefore, new approaches to identify molecular markers that can help with better diagnosis and management are warranted. CAD and human AD are associated with changes in the composition of lipids in the epidermis which may precede the inflammation or result from the inflammation.

The investigators will analyze the lipid composition of the epidermis and blood of healthy dogs in comparison to dogs with CAD using a novel analytical method developed by their interdisciplinary team. The results of this work could lead to new, minimally-invasive tests for the diagnosis of CAD and for the prediction and monitoring of the response of CAD patients to treatment.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Embracing Polygenicity of Common Complex Disease in Dogs: Genome wide Association of Cruciate Ligament Rupture

Peter Muir, BVSc, PhD; University of Wisconsin, Madison

Cruciate ligament rupture (CR) is a common disabling, degenerative condition of the knee. It places a large financial burden on the American public. Inflammation of the stifle and fraying of cruciate ligament fibers, particularly in the cranial cruciate ligament, eventually leads to ligament rupture with associated stifle instability in affected dogs. CR is a moderately heritable, complex disease with genetic and environmental risk.

CR is common in certain breeds, such as the Labrador Retriever, and rare in other breeds. There is a critical gap in knowledge regarding the genetic contribution to CR, as the number of genes influencing disease risk has never been studied in detail.

Our main goal is to comprehensively analyze the genetic features of the disease across the genome and use this knowledge to develop a genetic test for CR disease risk using genomic prediction. We aim to robustly estimate heritability, analyze the genetic architecture of CR, and advance genetic testing using genomic prediction in the Labrador Retriever, the most common purebred dog breed. The rationale for this work is that detailed knowledge of the genetic features of CR will advance development of a genetic test for CR risk using genomic prediction. This work will fundamentally advance knowledge of the genetic architecture of CR, a very common canine disease. Consequently, such knowledge will provide an invaluable guide to future research into other canine complex diseases. CR genetic testing would enable early identification of at-risk dogs for precision medical care, and selective breeding to reduce the disease burden.

Clinical Trial for Evaluation of Propranolol and Doxorubicin in the Treatment of Canine Hemangiosarcoma

Erin Dickerson, PhD and Brian Husbands, DVM; University of Minnesota

Canine hemangiosarcoma is a largely incurable cancer in dogs, and treatment approaches to improve outcomes have

remained relatively stagnant over the past few decades. Treatment remains a challenge partly because the cancer is frequently detected at an advanced stage and because these tumors are often resistant to chemotherapies. Recently published reports showed that propranolol, a drug used to treat heart disease in humans and dogs, substantially increased the survival time of human angiosarcoma patients when used in combination with standard of care treatments. Propranolol was also shown to sensitize hemangiosarcoma cells to doxorubicin, providing a more effective way to kill tumor cells. Because angiosarcoma is strikingly similar to canine hemangiosarcoma, this multi-institutional clinical trial has been designed to determine the efficacy of propranolol in dogs with hemangiosarcoma when used in combination with surgery and chemotherapy.

The main goal of the study is to establish whether propranolol in combination with doxorubicin following surgery improves outcomes for dogs when compared to the use of chemotherapy and surgery alone. The investigators will also evaluate the plasma concentrations of propranolol achieved during dosing to assess whether the levels of propranolol correlate to survival times. If successful, the findings from this approach will be rapidly conveyed to the veterinary community, and the guidelines provided to clinicians for the use of propranolol and doxorubicin for the treatment of canine hemangiosarcoma.

Co-investigators: David R. Brown, PhD, University of Minnesota; Michael O. Childress, DVM, MS, Purdue University; Jennifer Mahoney, DVM and Pascale Salah, DVM, University of Pennsylvania.

Addison's Disease and Symmetrical Lupoid Onychodystrophy in Bearded Collies Provide Common Ground for Identifying Susceptibility Loci Underlying Canine Autoimmune Disorders

Anita Oberbauer, PhD; University of California, Davis

Hypoadrenocorticism or Addison's disease (AD) is a life-threatening condition that afflicts multiple dog breeds and results from autoimmune destruction of the adrenal glands. Similarly, another canine autoimmune condition that causes pain

and suffering is Symmetrical Lupoid Onychodystrophy (SLO).

Both AD and SLO are postulated to be complexly inherited and preliminary data suggest a common set of susceptibility genes working in concert with additional genes that determine expression of either disease. For the study of AD and SLO the investigators will focus on the Bearded Collie breed due to its relatively high prevalence of both conditions and a genomic structure favorable for identifying variations in the DNA.

The investigators will scan the entire canine genome using genetic markers coupled with whole genome sequencing to identify chromosomal regions that harbor genetic changes contributing to disease manifestation. The disease risk conferred by each of these genetic variants, or quantitative trait loci (QTL), will then be calculated to develop a tool for selecting sires and dams early in life, thereby allowing breeders to choose mating pairs that will produce offspring with a low likelihood of developing AD and SLO.

Pathology Residency Training Program to support the Morris Animal Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

EJ Ehrhart, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Colorado State University

This grant supports the advanced training of two aspiring veterinary pathologists who will assist with the analysis of tissue samples collected from dogs enrolled in Morris Animal Foundation's Golden Retriever Lifetime Study.

Highly trained investigators are vital to advancing the health and welfare of animals. Morris Animal Foundation is funding the training of two new veterinary pathologists to work with the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study research team. Under the mentorship of the study's veterinary leadership team, the selected pathology residents will help examine submitted tissue samples from study participants in order to provide consistency in diagnosis of diseases, including cancer, as well as assist with advanced pathology diagnostics and reporting as needed.



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Janice Cohen for the future health of all, and in honor of Rocky Kowey, Beaver and Talley. Funded by Millie/Marco litter of March 6, 2019

Colorado PWD Club in memory of "Molly Brown" Cypress Bay's Unsinkable Molly Brown UD VER RA WWD loved and missed by Fred & Susan Forman

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Jerry, Nancy, Lani & Jazzy Gills - Happy Birthday Mollie!

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Jean Hassebroek

Patty Hobin in loving memory of "Nettie" Cutwater Capture My Heart AX AXJ OF WWD who is still leaving a hole in my heart and in my life

Nancy & Scott Hughes

Linda K. & Krista K. Hunt, Kalista in memory of Rae "Butch" Kweder

Nancy Kallison in memory of "Popeye Forman"

Donna Krepin in memory of "Licha" Rockhill's Surfer Girl Alicia CGC TDI

Sarah Leatherman in memory of "Flip" CH Hunter's The Devil Made Me Do It RA WWD beloved companion to Suzanne Bohan, Sean and Aiden

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Jerry & Kim Wolcoveick in memory of Alice Vicha and all the Norvic Porties

Theresa Zorad in honor of the PWD PSG

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Ellie Chiampa in memory of "Nikki"

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Linda K. & Krista K. Hunt, Kalista in congratulations on your new title to "Tally" GCH CH Kalista's What A Catch TKI RN WWD CGC for her RN!!

Linda K. & Krista K. Hunt, Kalista in congratulations on your new title to "Titan" CH Sun Joy's Back In Time At Kalista RN AX MXJ XF for his RN!!

Linda K. & Krista K. Hunt, Kalista in congratulations on your new title to "Titan" CH Sun Joy's Back In Time At Kalista RI MX MXJ MJB XF for his MX!!

Linda K. & Krista K. Hunt, Kalista in memory of "Marley" MACH2 PACH Kalista's Harley Marley BN RA MXS MJG MJP4 PAX OF T2B THDX TKI CWD loved and missed by Karen Derr

Patricia Eckenroth in honor of Mollie Tobin's birthday fundraiser

Barbara Lachney

Ila Manner

Gale Meadow in memory of Griffin James Dolloff

Darj Mehrnoosh

Sandra Novicki in memory of "Sailor"

Linda Otey in memory of "Lizzy" Agua Dulce's Lizard Point Fog Horn

Leigh Pelc in memory of "Nikki"

Arden & Carolyn Sanderson in memory of Mary Eadie

Southern California PWD Club in memory of "Keel" CH Seadream Even Keel CDX TDX CWD GROM

Southern California PWD Club in memory of "Luna" Del Sur's Woo Girl Gone Wild

Southern California PWD Club in memory of "Zoe" Seashell's Raspberry Twist CD RN

Southern California PWD Club in memory of "Breeze" Can CH Seashell's Steppin' Up The Highbid

Southern California PWD Club in memory of "Jack" IABC Honors CH, UKC CH, GCH SealSle Captain Jack Sparrow BN RN RI AWD SWN SIA SEA CGC TKN NW2 L2 Interior L1 Container L1 Exterior NW3 Exterior NW3 Vehicle NW3 Container MAC-3

Southern California PWD Club in memory of "Tsunami" CH Sunnyhill Storms Of The Tsunami CGC TDI TDN NW3

Judy Swartz

Philip & Marilyn Tierney

GlassyBaby Donors

Jonathan Adelson

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Randi Astrom

Susan Borgman

Janet Boyd

Nancy Chappelle

Cathy Cloutier in memory of Turbo

Julie Cohen

Susan Cucura

Rachel Cullen

Betty B. Davis

Heidi Erland

Suzanne Foisie

Marie Forgach

Molly Halberg

Angela Harding

Kimberley Hart

Catherine Jzyk

Sarah Kechejian

Sherri Kobylinski in remembrance of our sweet boy Jet - Great Lakes Fasten Your Seatbelt 4/29/2009 - 1/20/2019

GlassyBaby Donors

Noelle Kowalick

Nancy Kurkjian in memory of Jazz on the 10th anniversary of his death from Hemangiosarcoma

Janet Lankester

Suzanne Mason

Laurie Matthews

Theresa McConnell

Alana McGee

Carole Prangley McIvor – To ALL “VASCO’s” family, Treasure happy memories! Love, Carole & John

Mary Lou McKeone-Mallo

Donna Marie Pfendler-Merkle

Howard Peters

Marisa Potter

Susan Prosser

Thomas Reynolds

Angela M Rogerson in memory of Even Keel's Poppy 9-12-2007 to 2-20-2019

Barbara & John Rossi in honor of Jamie and Farley

Daniel Roush

Barry Schurr

Dawn Skelly in memory of Chester

Annie Smith-Jones

Jeri Suzuki

Robin Wicker

Charlotte Wiklund

John Woodhouse

Facebook Fundraisers**Carolee Porter Addis' Birthday**

Gail Browne-McDonald

Stephanie Fitkin

Judy Miller

Lori Hixson

Steven Coleman

Betty Nelson

Mollie Tobin's Birthday

Susan Cucura

Janna Loeffler

Suzanne Nosworthy

Jeremy Gray

Sumer Temple

Jon Schultz

Cynthia Ricker Fogg

Beverly Jorgensen's Birthday

Mary Kauffold

Nancy Chappelle

Jennifer Bauer

Stewart Berliner

Susan Abril

Jean Hassebroek

Nancy Perry

Carole McIvor

Sharon Field

Jerry Lloyd

Laurie Kahn

Rebecca Jorgensen

Louanne James

Myrna Sturgill's Birthday

Myrna Sturgill

Sarah Bachman-Glickman

Cindy Schulz

Lisa Kleinman Wolford's Birthday

Michele Corbett

Jill Bergman

Betty Herlihy

Ann Gaskell

Shimako Vizcarra

Suzanne Schmaltz

Toni Guarnero

Alan Kaiser

VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

Donating your car is a fast, safe and easy way to support the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation. You can make a difference by donating your unwanted vehicle.

The Portuguese Water Dog Foundation has partnered with Vehicles for Charity to manage the vehicle donation program.

You may complete the online donation form or call the donation line to donate your vehicle. When the information is complete, it is forwarded to the tow company. They will call you directly to schedule the pick up. At the time of the pick up, the driver will give you a receipt for taking the vehicle. We ask that you give the driver the keys and your appropriately signed title.

Three things are needed.

1. (1) A clear title, which means a title with your name listed in the owner's section, without an assignment or transfer to another person. All liens must be released prior to donating the vehicle.
2. (2) Your car keys.
3. (3) When you call or fill out our online form, please have the title and current mileage in hand.

If you need help completing the donation form, or you have questions about the vehicle donation process, call 1-866-628-2277 to arrange your donation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT NEWLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS AND PROGRESS REPORTS ON PREVIOUS GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.PWDFFOUNDATION.ORG