



**The Poodle  
Club of America  
Foundation, Inc.**

## **Poodle Research Needs Your Help**

Many thanks to everyone whose donations have helped the PCA Foundation support research for Poodle health, and an especially big thanks to those who have allowed researchers to study their dogs. We couldn't do this without you! Current studies are making exciting progress and still need samples.

### **Addison's Disease**

At this year's PCA Foundation seminar, Dr. Steve Friedenbergs presented an update on PCAF-funded research at the University of Minnesota to determine possible genetics involved in Addison's disease. If anyone can sort out mysteries of the complex disorder, this team can do it, and PCAF continues to support their work as they investigate some recent findings. Poodle people have submitted many samples for this study, and blood samples are still needed from dogs diagnosed with Addison's. Currently, the researchers are especially requesting cheek swabs from any healthy Standard Poodle 5 years of age or older. They will send you the swabs and pay for postage back to the lab. If you'd like to help, please email Gabe Fisch ([fisc0675@umn.edu](mailto:fisc0675@umn.edu)) for more info.

### **Poodle Eye Disorders**

Dr. Gustavo Aguirre is a Poodle-world legend, in part for research that led to discovery of the prcd-PRA mutation and a DNA test that has allowed breeders to virtually eliminate this devastating form of blindness. With a PCAF grant, Dr. Aguirre and his University of Pennsylvania team are now studying possible genetics of other eye disorders in Poodles. They have made tremendous progress, already finding the mutation and developing a DNA test for day blindness/retinal degeneration (DB/RD) in Standards, and we expect more exciting news soon. Meanwhile, the researchers are requesting additional Miniature or Toy Poodle participants with optic nerve hypoplasia (ONH) or cataracts and Standards with polymicrogyria. Please contact Dina Torjman if you can help: [dtorjman@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:dtorjman@vet.upenn.edu).

### **Genetics of Back Problems in Poodles**

PCAF recently funded a UC-Davis study to investigate causes of back problems in Poodles. If you have a dog that has suffered a herniated disc, please contact Kevin Batcher at [klbatcher@ucdavis.edu](mailto:klbatcher@ucdavis.edu). These dogs will help the researchers sort out genetics that may help explain why some dogs will suffer a herniated disc (often requiring

expensive surgery) and others won't, even if they carry a recently discovered mutation (CDDY) that raises risk of herniation and is very common in some breeds.

In the other arm of this study, PCA affiliate clubs have already collected anonymous swab samples from more than 200 Poodles of all varieties so the researchers can determine whether the CDDY risk mutation is in our breeding populations, and if so, what if any action we should take. We're aiming for 500-600 dogs, so if your club would like to become involved, please email [patforsyth@aol.com](mailto:patforsyth@aol.com).

### **Multiple Genes Possibly Involved In Epilepsy**

University of Missouri researchers studying genetics of epilepsy are using the latest DNA technology to explore the possibility that multiple genes play a role. Early results with other breeds in this team's AKC CHF study identified genes that may work in concert to ramp up nerve activity and thus risk of seizures, including some genes that are breed specific. While the researchers investigate further, A PCA Foundation grant has extended their work to Poodles, and samples are needed from Poodles of any variety with epilepsy. Please contact Liz Hansen at [hansenl@missouri.edu](mailto:hansenl@missouri.edu) if you have a dog who has been diagnosed with epilepsy.

For more about PCAF and our work, go to [www.poodleclubofamericafoundation.org](http://www.poodleclubofamericafoundation.org). Again, thanks to all who support us in our dedication to the health and future of Poodles!

Pat Forsyth, President  
PCA Foundation  
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