



The Poodle Club of America Foundation, Inc.

Dear Poodle Friends,

January, 2017

It has been another exciting year for the Foundation.

PCAF-funded researchers at OptiGen and the University of Pennsylvania recently found the mutation that causes day blindness/retinal degeneration in Standard Poodles, and a DNA test is now available (www.optigen.com: DB/RD for details). This team is also studying three inherited eye disorders in Minis and Toys, closing in on the genetics of optic nerve hypoplasia and forms of inherited cataracts. We expect more announcements soon!

In other exciting news, PCAF is awarding a grant to the University of Missouri for groundbreaking new research on epilepsy. Studies looking for a simple genetic cause of epilepsy have come up empty, but now scientists can use novel whole-genome sequencing to seek out multiple genes that each may ramp up nerve activity somewhat until their total effect reaches a “tipping point” and seizures. The team hopes to identify these risk-factor genes and develop DNA tests so breeders can select against them.

We are also continuing to fund UC Davis research on genetic diversity in our breed. After developing a genetic profile for Standard Poodles, offering an important new tool for breeders wanting to increase diversity in their dogs, the researchers have extended this work to Miniatures and Toys.

As usual, PCAF will sponsor health clinics during National Specialty week, plus our annual PCA Foundation Seminar that we offer at no cost to those who attend. This year we are pleased to welcome keynote speaker Jane Killion presenting Puppy Culture, her acclaimed program teaching breeders and owners how to change outcomes for puppies and their people by doing the right thing at the right time during the critical first 12 weeks.

For more on education and other promising research funded by PCAF, please check out our site at www.poodleclubofamericafoundation.org.

Of course, none of this would be possible without your generosity. We are especially grateful to PCA affiliate clubs who have held fundraisers on our behalf. Many, many thanks to everyone who has helped us this past year by donating funds, assisting at our events and volunteering dogs for research projects. It is only your ongoing support that enables the Foundation to continue its work of improving the lives of all our Poodles.

Tom Carneal
President