

New Study on Intervertebral Disc Disease in Poodles

At April's annual PCAF Seminar, Danika Bannasch, DVM, PhD, helped her audience make sense of strategies and testing available to help breeders produce our next generation of poodley Poodles who live long healthy lives. The PCA Foundation now has funded a new study at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California-Davis led by Dr. Bannasch and Pete Dickinson, DVM, PhD, to investigate causes of back problems in Miniature and Toy Poodles, with a goal of determining the genetic causes of disc herniation in our breed. "While back problems can have many forms," Dr. Bannasch notes, "we are particularly interested in Poodles that have had disc problems that required surgery. In order to determine which type of disc problems the dogs have, we are requesting copies of medical records as well as a blood sample from participants."

For more information on this study and how you can help, please contact Kevin Batcher at Klbatcher@ucdavis.edu

This PCAF-funded project also aims to sample DNA from at least 500 Poodles (including all varieties) without apparent disc problems to determine frequency of a recently discovered "chondrodystrophy" mutation that is very common in some breeds and increases risk of disc herniation. The UC-Davis team has found this mutation in some Poodles seen for various reasons at UC-Davis clinics, but learning mutation frequency in our breeding population could provide a powerful tool to help us avoid genetic back problems. DNA cheek swab samples will be identified by a number and variety only. More on this soon!

###

Pat Forsyth for the PCA Foundation