

## **New Study on Intervertebral Disc Disease in Poodles**

Our PCA Foundation has funded an exciting new study at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California-Davis led by Danika Bannasch, DVM, PhD, and Pete Dickinson, DVM, PhD, to investigate causes of back problems in 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](mailto:klbatcher@ucdavis.edu)

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This PCAF-funded project also aims to sample DNA from at least 500 Poodles (including all varieties) from our affiliate clubs across the country 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 Toy and Miniature 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 anonymous, identified by a number. More on this soon!

Pat Forsyth for the PCA Foundation