

Supporting the Epilepsy Research

Dennis O'Brien, DVM & Liz Hansen of University of Missouri gave a presentation on the status of the epi in Aussies work in progress at the USASA Nationals.

In summary:

- 1) There are now OVER 1,000 Aussie samples in the database-MORE THAN ANY OTHER BREED.
- 2) They have identified 2 family groups they wish to work with for the first phase of the study. The first group is comprised of 68 dogs; the second group is comprised of 42 dogs.
- 3) In these two families, epi APPEARS to be a single gene recessive.
- 4) We have work to do asap. If we support our researchers, they may be able to deliver a test in 12-24 months.

What we need to do:

- 1) **UMO needs money.** PLEASE GIVE to the Aussie Organization of your choice, designating your money for EPI RESEARCH. Your organization choices are: ASGHI, Toby's Foundation, US Australian Shepherd Foundation or ASCA Foundation. For at least \$6,000 near term, as in, within the next 2-3 months, they can start analyzing groups. Longer term 3-14 months, they need \$50,000 or more to complete the work. We need to help them raise these monies.

[You can support this study by sending money to WEWASC:](#)

Volksbank Aschaffenburg

IBAN: DE74795900000000148334

BIC: GENODEF1AB2

reason (important!!): Epilepsy Research

Please send your money until [July 31 2006!](#)

After that date we will send the collected money to the ASCA Foundation.

We will announce the amount of money that you sent in in the circular letter 3/2006.

2) **Submission of new family groups.** Family groupings continue to be THE critical factor in analysis. A family group MUST have: one or more affected (IE confirmed diagnoses) and unaffected family members including: parents, grandparents, siblings, half siblings, and offspring.

3) **Filling in the holes or missing links in the family groups** already submitted. UMO has now completed their extended pedigree assessment. They have identified two family groups they want to use in the initial phases of this study. HOWEVER, UNFORTUNATELY, BOTH families have missing links. These are multi-generational extended families. UMO will be calling the points of contact that they have from the samples in hand to gather more contact information and or samples. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE understand that if they contact you, whatever help and assistance you can provide is critical at this point. If they should contact you and ask for more info, names, phone numbers and help in locating other family dogs. PLEASE help them.

4) For all of the affected dogs who have been submitted to date, OR any new dogs being submitted, UMO MUST have the **epi seizure survey** completed. The survey can be found at: www.canine-epilepsy.net PLEASE, PLEASE make sure if you have submitted an affected dog that this survey is completed. If in doubt, please send Liz Hansen an email to check on your dog's survey status. Her email is: HansenL@missouri.edu

5) FOR ALL **DOGS SUBMITTED TO THE STUDY..AFFECTED OR NOT. PLEASE CONFIRM THEIR STATUS.** UMO needs to know if

the dogs they have marked as non-affected are still not affected. IF ANY OF THESE non-affected dogs have now been diagnosed with IE, UMO MUST know that change. Likewise, if a dog that was submitted as affected and has now been found to be not epileptic, they also MUST know this.

Yes, UMO is very close to being able to run the epi analysis on our breed. IF, as it currently appears, the epi is a simple genetic issue, we may have a test as soon as 12-24 months. If it is complex, it may take a year or two more.

Please support this study.

The WEWASC Board