

Annual Health Committee Report – April 6, 2010 Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America

Health Survey

The latest health survey results are now available. There is little difference from the 2009 results. In reviewing the survey document, I see a need for changes to clarify some of the sections - which will be made. Participation from every PBGV owner is needed to evaluate the breed's health status and the health committee is considering various means of increasing member participation.

Health Education

Recently, I've been made aware of an issue I consider serious. At the 2010 National Specialty, there are twenty dogs signed up for CERF exams and four of that twenty have asked for gonioscopy and tonometry - only four. Our breed has a health concern for glaucoma. Saber Tails has carried articles on glaucoma, and we will continue to provide the membership with material and updates for glaucoma and other breed specific diseases. The Foundation partially funded Glaucoma Grant #747 (attached) which indicated conclusion in June '09. We've just found out that the project has been continued so DNA for PBGVs with glaucoma and relatives are needed.

I hope that at future National Specialties, show committees explore and provide seminars on eye disease education, as well as other breed specific concerns. Our National event should bring to the membership and PBGV owners the best possible health education. The health committee will assist any show committee to help find educational events with the needs of the breed in mind. The following web site describes glaucoma.

<http://www.caninegeneticdiseases.net/GLX/basicGLA.htm>

Health Research

Health committee research members, Dr. Laura Liscum, Lauren Kovaleff and I are researching projects relative to PBGVs for future Foundation funding. We have a committee of member advisors that assist in funding recommendations. Rebecca Belflower has obtained information that, at this time, the DNA at U. of Mo. amounts to 449 samples, and eleven pairs. UC Davis has 98 DNA swabs. Liz Hansen (U. of Mo.) has sent an update that the new mapping chip process has sped up testing samples from about two months to two - three days. Because of the new process, what used to take a year will now only take a month or two. Liz is hoping that this may offer us the potential of testing for carriers, possibly for epilepsy, within a year.

CHIC

CHIC has the potential to "provide a source of health information for owners, breeders and scientists". By selecting protocol for PBGVs, we encourage health screening, sharing health results and increasing health awareness. We all want to make more informed breeding decisions. The CHIC DNA repository collects and stores DNA samples along with the pedigree, and phenotypic health information. CHF has the resources to screen potential research and use available DNA in appropriate research. If our protocol is OFA hip and CERF eye screening, I believe that we will have participation. On the CHIC website, we would have available, PBGV information, clearances and pedigrees. Members of the Health Committee recommend that PBGVs participate in the CHIC program.

The Health Committee comprises of only a few members of PBGVCA. We need you, every Board of Director, to encourage PBGV fanciers to share their clinical diagnosed information in the health survey as well as anecdotal details. This information will become the data that will support health. We've been fortunate to be able to have our dogs participate in every event the breed is capable of performing. This will continue, but only with everyone's support.

Helen Ingher, Chairman
Lauren Kovaleff, Assistant Chairman