

## **PBGVCA Health Committee March 2012**

Committee members are always on the look out for ways to protect and help the breed. In 2011 Julie Shannon created and initiated a short form Health Survey. Statistics collected by Lauren Kovaleff from over 200 surveys has indicated that PBGV are reasonably healthy. Presently, our data shows that concerns are with epilepsy, endocrine disorders, heart and eye diseases. Lauren will present more information at the conclusion of the analysis. At this time, we continue to encourage PBGV owners by broadcast emails, notices in Saber Tails and on the web site to please send Lauren surveys on all dogs, healthy and otherwise. This is a one page survey so it takes little time and can offer so much help. The BGV Club in the UK has created a similar short on line health survey. Their survey has been sent throughout Europe and so far, 400 surveys have been collected. I hope to obtain their results when they conclude their statistics.

The long form survey is being reevaluated to offer considerations to make the document more user friendly. For those that wish to bring more detail on the specifics of diseases in their PBGV, this survey is offered on the [www.pbgv.org](http://www.pbgv.org) web site. Sheryl Bradbury and Jerry Faust will make their recommendations to update after careful evaluation.

PBGVCA has agreed that we will be sending our DNA blood draws to CHIC. The OFA CHIC DNA bank will be our primary bank, and if DNA has been collected on dogs that are stored at U. of Mo., those dogs do not have to be collected again. We need PBGV that have not been previously drawn. DNA collections along with disease information and pedigrees lead researchers to OFA CHIC where the process is streamlined. As markers and tests become available, PBGV owners and breeders will be able to take advantage of these tools to help keep their dogs healthy and make better breeding choices. We hope to make the blood draw an annual event at the National specialty.

Members can check the Health page on the web site for CHIC DNA instructions and forms for individual use. Rebecca Belflower and Jerry Faust will be working closely with CHIC OFA to bring the latest developments to the membership. If direction is needed, members may contact Rebecca or Jerry.

Our research team coordinated by Laura Liscum along with Lauren Kovaleff and myself will continue to evaluate research projects to recommend to the PBGVCA for approval and the Health and Rescue Foundation to fund. For a list of previously funded research, consult our web site.

Linda Murray and Peggy Evanich are working on a process to deliver interesting articles and links to educate members – not only to help keep PBGV healthy, but to learn about everyday living with the breed which in turn, keeps dogs in good shape. These tools will be on the web site and delivered by broadcast emails and web site announcements. Shelley Barclay continues to deliver CHF news alerts directly to the membership. This team will coordinate efforts to bring as much health information as possible to our membership.

We would like to invite you to offer suggestions to our committee. Questions and comments are always welcome. Our goal is to offer members and breeders the tools to produce puppies and have them live long, healthy lives.

Helen Ingher, Chairman  
PBGVCA Health Committee