

Health Committee update June 9, 2011

AT PRESENT: The Health Committee members continue to move forward to help our breed. Several months ago, Julie Shannon initiated a simple concept in finding where health problems lie in our breed. Julie has helped develop a short form health survey that has been made available to Club members and PBGV owners. Veronica Scheer put the survey on our web site Health page, and Lauren Kovaleff is collecting the data. The goal is to collect a snap shot of PBGV health as breeders and owners are experiencing right now. As of this writing, Lauren has received at least 70 completed short form surveys. The data is collected and any clinical information about a particular condition will be kept separate. If we notice consistency in particular diseases, we will pursue finding out more about those diseases. As we fine tune the survey information, the Health Committee will be able to make recommendations to the board for research funding. www.PBGV.org Visit the site and look under Health. The short form survey will be on the left of the page. The survey will also be in the next edition of Saber Tails.

WORLD CONGRESS 2012: A short form health survey, created by Linda Skerritt, will be made available in European countries as well. The combination of statistics from all participating countries may help show consistently in diseases. We hope the combined total of information will eventually help breeders make more mindful pedigree decisions. There will be a World Congress in 2012 in England. Health will be a major topic and PBGVCA will make our data information available. Please send in your completed surveys for all your PBGV. Remember to contact your puppy owners.

ON LINE SURVEY: In addition, there are efforts being made to make the on line survey user friendly. Health Committee members will evaluate for easier participation. Changes will be made. We will keep you updated.

COMMITTEE ADDITION: We've added a Health Education section to the Committee. There is so much information out there. Each day we learn more and more. The committee will evaluate what information would be beneficial to the breed and their owners. Awareness will be made to the membership. We would like to work with each National Show Committee to suggest educational events relative to PBGV health as members and owner are experiencing the need. We would like to know what plans have been made for DNA collection and health clinics for the 2012 National. We would like to work with a Committee member to ensure that the collection and clinics are successful.

POSSIBLE FUTURE RESEARCH: Carolyn Randel spoke with Dr. Sinisi Grozdanic of Iowa State. I am forwarding Carolyn's findings about a new concept in finding glaucoma. The doctor has been working with Bassets for years. We will continue to investigate and evaluate the possibility of PBGV research with D. Grozdanic.

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Health Committee members are enthusiastic in finding ways to help the breed. Whether its education, research or communication, we realize that breeders and members are the ones that need to learn about their PBGV. If you have ideas you'd like presented or questions answered, please let us know. Thank you – and I'd like to thank Linda Skerritt for helping with our new short survey form.

Helen Ingher, Chairman