



Rottweiler Health Foundation, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Familial Sub-Aortic Stenosis (SAS) Study – Updated Sample Criteria

January 25, 2010 – Well-known veterinary cardiologist Dr. Kate Meurs would like to thank all Rottweiler owners who have already submitted their dog's heart evaluations and blood work for her team's research study, **Identification of a Genetic Marker for Familial Aortic Stenosis in the Rottweiler.** In order to obtain statistical significance of a SAS marker though, she would like to stress the following sample submission criteria for this study:

1. **Evaluations must be done by a board veterinary cardiologist – not from a standard veterinarian or one who has “a strong interest in cardiology,” and**
2. **More samples are needed from dogs that are not closely related. As an example, if she receives five samples, but those dogs are all related within three generations, her research team will only be able to use one of them.**

Grant 1313

Identification of a Genetic Marker for Familial Aortic Stenosis in the Rottweiler

Researcher: Dr. Kathryn Meurs, DVM PhD, Washington State University

Background: Subvalvular Aortic Stenosis (SAS) is a congenital heart defect characterized by a fibrous ridge located below the aortic valve. Affected dogs are at risk of developing heart valve infections, congestive heart failure or sudden death. This trait has been reported with increasing frequency in the Rottweiler and the researchers have previously determined it to be inherited in this breed.

Dr. Meur's team's success and ability to reach their goal is closely linked to the diagnosis accuracy of the samples that are submitted. Sub-aortic stenosis is a particular disease which can easily be incorrectly diagnosed or dogs cleared, if the attending veterinarian is not trained in the complexities of the disease.

Dr. Meurs would like to reiterate that her team is happy to take ALL samples from dogs evaluated by a certified cardiologist because they can always be used in future studies. However, for their current SAS study they are looking for as many samples (both affected and unaffected) from unrelated dogs which have been tested by a board certified veterinary cardiologist. Please see the following two-page form for blood submission instructions.

For those of you that may be attending the 2010 American Rottweiler Club national specialty, a clinic managed by certified veterinary cardiologist Dr. Julie Martin will be provided. The RHF will be offering a 50% discount of fees to those who agree to provide their dog's test results and blood work to Dr. Meurs study. We also invite you to a special presentation Friday evening by Dr. Joshua Stern, “Sub-Aortic Stenosis: All in the Family” scheduled right before Top Performance events. Please refer to the national web site for updated information:
<http://www.2010arcnationals.org>

Many thanks for your consideration in support of this valuable research.

Contact either:

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The Rottweiler Health Foundation encourages your participation in the:

Rottweiler Familial Subaortic Stenosis Study

Principal Research Investigator: Dr. Kathryn Meurs

Assistant: Dr. Joshua Stern, Resident Cardiologist

JANUARY, 2010 UPDATE ON FAMILIAL SUBAORTIC STENOSIS STUDY

*** URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SAMPLES TO IMPROVE STUDY RESULTS ***

We are currently looking for DNA samples from Rottweilers with a diagnosis of sub-valvular aortic stenosis (diagnosed by Doppler echocardiogram) or proven clear of sub-valvular aortic stenosis, cleared by a board certified veterinary cardiologist to advance our study to identify a marker for the disease.

- For the technique to work well, we need DNA samples from 20-30 affected dogs and 20-30 clear dogs; unrelated dog samples are needed.
- **Please return the form on Page 2 with your sample and mail to:**

**VCGL – WSU
Post Office Box 605
Pullman, WA 99163-0605**

Sample collection

Please ask your veterinarian or a veterinary technician to pull a blood sample into an **EDTA** tube. Most veterinary hospitals have these readily available.

1. Blood drawn into a Standard EDTA Tube does not need to be refrigerated.
2. Blood draw volume should be 1 to 2 ml, if possible.
3. Please label tube well, with dog's call name and family last name and send the samples to our lab via the address above.

Blood drawn does not need to be mailed back with ice packs or be shipped overnight. However, if possible please try to send the sample within a few days by standard mail. Until the blood can be mailed, it is a good idea to refrigerate it (i.e., if the blood was drawn late Saturday and cannot be mailed until Monday, it's a good idea to refrigerate it between Saturday and Monday).

Questions?

Dr. Joshua Stern, Washington State University
Email: HTjstern@vetmed.wsu.edu Phone: 614.390.1516 (or)

Dr. Kathryn Meurs, Washington State University
Email: meurs@vetmed.wsu.edu Phone: 509.335.6038

Please visit the Familial SAS Study web site at:
[HThttp://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/deptsVCGL/Rottweiler/index.aspx](http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/deptsVCGL/Rottweiler/index.aspx)



The Rottweiler Health Foundation encourages your participation in the:

Rottweiler Familial Subaortic Stenosis Study

Principal Research Investigator: Dr. Kathryn Meurs

Assistant: Dr. Josh Stern, Resident Cardiologist

Please return this form to: VCGL – WSU Post Office Box 605 Pullman, WA 99163-0605

Dog Name: _____

Gender: _____

Birthdate: _____

Owner Name: _____

Complete Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Please include a xerox copy of a pedigree and any echocardiogram information. All individual dog test results and information will remain strictly confidential for the purpose of Dr. Meurs study only.

Comments (*optional*):

Questions?

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Dr. Kathryn Meurs, Washington State University

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Please visit the Familial SAS Research Study web site at:

[HThttp://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/deptsVCGL/Rottweiler/index.aspx](http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/deptsVCGL/Rottweiler/index.aspx)

Thank you very much for your participation in the study!