

RRCUS HEALTH AND GENETICS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2004

December 3, 2003

CURRENT MEMBERS:

Cynthia Roethel; 434-248-5018; h CHAIRMAN
Christina Wistrom; 909-789-8290; CHIC Liaison****
Carlee Davies; 301-663-1359; MCT RESEARCH REGISTRY COORDINATOR
Betsy Pethick DVM, 619-479-6012; *****HEALTH SURVEY COORDINATOR
Diane Blackwood; 716-655-1887;
Meg Willis Redfern; 517-851-8841; redfern@cvm.msu.edu
Katrina Viviano; 608-263-9192;
Dr. Martha Anderson; 540-236-8178;
Kathy Thompson; 503-630-4648;
Felicity Grzemski; 734-340-3788; *****
Susan Ralston, Vmd; 801-829-3005; *****
Dr. Robert Valenti; 662-487-3662; *****
Dannielle Sands Vmd; 845-876-4544; *****

Members with **** behind their name are members of the “Veterinary Review and Advisor Committee” chaired by Susan Ralston, VMD.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

(1) Fund raising for the Rhodesian Ridgeback Donor Advised Fund (RRDAF):

The status of the RRDAF through September 2003:

Balance: \$16,512.00

Contributions through September 2003: \$2615.99

Dermoid Sinus Rhodesian Ridgeback Donor Advised Fund established. The AKC/CHF has received a proposal for dermoid sinus research. We have high hopes of this proposal being approved and in anticipation of that RRCUS has authorized the establishment of the Dermoid Sinus RRDAF. Money in this fund will only be used for dermoid sinus research. Contributors can earmark their donations for this fund and rest assured it will only be used for dermoid sinus research.

In lieu of the annual fund drive via mail out, we are attempting to capture the \$5.00 of member's dues as well as additional contributions at the time of membership renewal for 2004. Further fundraising plans will be based on the results of this approach.

(2) Rhodesian Ridgeback Health Survey: Data continues to be accepted. Very few Rhodesian Ridgebacks were added to the health survey in 2002. All members are reminded to submit surveys on ALL new Rhodesian Ridgebacks and update old surveys as necessary. It is imperative we have surveys on all Ridgebacks regardless of their health status. Only have reports on dogs with health problems skews the numbers. We need a realistic picture of the health of the breed. All the efforts of the Health and Genetics Committee are based on this survey. Breeders are encouraged to contact their puppy buyers at 1 year and encourage new owners to submit a health survey.

(a) Efforts are underway to be able to fill out the health survey online and submit it.

(3) Research: No new research proposals were accepted by RRCUS for funding for the 2003.

(4) Mast Cell Tumor Registry - All members are reminded that Dr. London at the University of California at Davis needs samples of mast cell tumors. Dr. London is the chief investigator on the MCT research study noted above. The first stage of her research made significant strides in the understanding of MCTs. She needs actual tissue samples to continue her work and is anxious for Ridgeback samples. If your Ridgeback has a suspicious lesion, please contact the RRCUS MCT coordinate, Carlee Davies prior to surgery to arrange shipment of samples.

(5) CHIC - Canine Health Information Center. CHIC numbers have been issued to those Rhodesian Ridgebacks who have qualified. Members are reminded that the following testing must be done and the paperwork sent to the appropriate registry in order to receive a CHIC number:

- A. Hips and elbows certifying clear of dysplasia: Accepted from OFA, GDC, Pen Hip, and OVC.
- B. CEFF examinations - annually
- C. Thyroid testing: OFA protocol or certified by a board certified Endocrinologist or Pathologist - annually between 1 - 5 years of age.

Optional but recommended testing includes:

- A. Cardiac testing no earlier than 1 year of age.
- B. Baer testing no earlier than 1 year of age.

(6) Health and Genetics Efforts at the 2003 National Specialty:

MSU thyroid testing: 24

BAER testing:	27
Microchip:	15
Tattoo:	22
DNA Cheek Swab:	24

Thank you Dr. Betsy Pethick for coordinating all this.

REPORT OF 2003 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

Total budget request for 2003 -----\$3,379.00

(1) RRDAF mail out: We did not do a mail out this year as in the past. We are focusing instead on capturing the \$5.00 of membership dues and including a AKC/CHF contribution envelope in the membership renewal packet.

(2) Business expenses.

Postage:		\$ 57.25	
Copying expenses	:	\$200.00	
			Total: \$272.00

(3) Dermoid Sinus/Cyst Veterinary Education initiative.

A report made to the Health and Genetics committee last year about a Rhodesian Ridgeback who died at the age of 2 years from an extremely aberrant presentation of a dermoid sinus made members of the Veterinary Review and Advisory Committee aware of the need to raise awareness of dermoid sinuses among general veterinarians. Dr. Ralston began the preliminary investigation to do a case study which was to be published. She contacted all veterinarians and pathologist involved in this case. After contacting the histopathologist who did the microscopic examination of the tissue, it was found that the pathologist's report was in error and that that tissue in question was not subcutaneous tissue after all. He doubted its relevance to the dermoid phenomena in Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

Regardless, plans were still laid to raise general veterinary awareness of dermoid sinuses in Rhodesian Ridgebacks as it was still generally considered lacking. Per Dr. Ralston, an article recently appeared in Compendium on Continuing Education for the Practicing Veterinarian which discusses dermoid sinuses in Rhodesian Ridgebacks. While this was not the result of a RRCUS initiative it served the purpose. No further action will be taken.

(4) AKC/CHF Parent Club Conference. Peggy McCoy attended the conference this year and represented RRCUS. We are grateful for Peggy's help. Summaries of the presentation will be placed on the RRCUS web site as soon as they are available.

Airfare (location dependent-estimate)	\$357.00	
hotel and meals	\$ 0.00 (covered by AKC/CHF)	
		Total: \$357.00

(5) AKC/CHF Cancer Conference. Not attended due to the cost of registration.

2004 BUDGET REQUEST

Dermoid Sinus Fund Raising: -----Coordinator: Dr. Susan Ralston

Printing costs:	\$500.00 (Flyers, raffle tickets, etc)
Postage:	\$250.00 (mailing of quilt to Regional Specialties)

Rhodesian Ridgeback Donor Advised Fund:-----Coordinator: Cynthia Roethel
Doing a mailout is dependent on the results of the efforts to capture the \$5.00 of membership dues.

Printing and postage costs: \$600.00

Business expenses: Includes copying expenses, postage, materials for displays, etc.

\$300.00

Travel expenses: None requested for this year.

Total Requested funds for 2004: \$1650.00

2005 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund raising efforts (CHF, Dermoid) ----- \$1600.00

Travel Expenses (CHF Conference) ----- \$2000.00.

Business Expenses:-----\$ 500.00

Thank you,

Cynthia Roethel
Chairman, Health and Genetics Committee