

Officers and Board of Directors of RRCUS:

The following is a summary of the efforts of the H&G Committee in 2001. There is a brief reference made to AKC/CHF projects funded in 2000 for the benefit of new Officers and Directors.

We have established a Mast Cell Tumor Registry with Dr. London, chief investigator on this project (see AKC/CHF Project #1 below). Tissue specimens are sent to her laboratory at the veterinary school of the University of California at Davis. Reminders on sample submission will periodically run in The Ridgeback Newsletter. Carlee Davies is the Point of Contact for RRCUS members.

Information will also be provided periodically to advise members of ongoing epilepsy studies and hemangiomascarcoma studies where data and samples from affected dogs are needed.

AKC/CHF projects funded via the RRDAF in 2000:

- 1) "Dissecting the Biology and Genetics of c-Kit Mutations in Canine Mast Cell Tumors";
- 2) "Growth Signaling Pathways in the Pathogenesis and Treatment of Canine Cancer";
- 3) "The Molecular Cytogenetics of Canine Lymphosarcoma: Correlating Chromosomal Changes with Clinical Disease".

RRCUS has agreed to fund the following AKC/CHF studies in 2002, but they have not been started since they lack complete funding at this time. The CHF feels certain the funding goals will be met. These studies are:

- 1) "Heritable and Sporadic Genetic Lesions in Canine Lymphoma and Osteosarcoma";
- 2) "Basophil/Mast Cell Response to Lectins as a Predictor for Risk of Allergic Disease in Genetically Susceptible Dogs";
- 3) "Galactokinase 1: A Candidate Gene for Juvenile Cataracts in Dogs".

Fund raising this year has been limited to the RRDAF fund drive and a modest effort at the 2001 National Speciality:

1) National Speciality: \$222.02 from the sale of bottled water;

2) As of September 30th, the RRDAF balance was \$26,109.75.

From this balance funds for any new 2002 grants will be deducted. The RRDAF fund drive was probably not as effective in 2001 as it was in 2000 due to the events of September 11th. Most charities outside of those for diaster relief have suffered. Cynthia Roethel has requested an end of the year update from AKC/CHF and will forward pertinent information to the BOD.

Plans for the 2002 National Speciality:

1) Jeanne Ohrnberger, H&G Committee member, is running the CGC event at the 2002 National Specialty with proceeds going to the RRDAF;

2) H&G Committee members will solicit 3 - 4 auction items for a silent auction as well as for a raffle on behalf of the RRDAF;

3) Meg Willis, H&G Committee member, is handling plans for Dr. Padgett to speak at the National, a proposed MSU thyroid testing clinic, and a cardiac clinic.

Dr. Betsy Pethick continues to maintain the database for the RRCUS Health Survey.

In 2002, it is our wish that the Officers and Board of Directors would promote the value of such a database, and encourage all members to submit information on their Ridgebacks.

In addition to health surveys, many parent breed clubs in the nation are establishing open health registries to optimize breeding programs. An open health registry, as well as additional pre-breeding health screening recommendations for the RRCUS Code of Ethics, are some of the topics the H & G Committee will address in 2002.