

RRCUS HEALTH AND GENETICS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2003

January 15, 2003

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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): Fund raising continues and primarily consists of the annual RRDAF mail out and health related activities at National Specialities.

The status of the RRDAF as of 31 December 2002:

The following is the AKC Canine Health Foundation report to the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States on the Donor Advised Fund for the benefit of Rhodesian Ridgebacks:

Balance as of January 1, 2002	\$27,227.00
Deposits through December 31, 2002	\$ 4,838.00
Total as of December 31, 2002	\$32,065.00

The following deductions were made for Grants:

Grant 2209 "Glactokinase 1: A Candidate Gene for Juvenile Cataracts in Dogs"	\$2,868.00
Grant 2234 " <i>Basophil/Mast Cell Response to Lectins as a Predictor for Risk of allergic Disease in Genetically</i>	

<i>Susceptible Dogs"</i>	\$1,600.00
Grant 2254 " <i>Heritable & Sporadic Genetic Lesions in Canine Lymphoma & Osteosarcoma</i> "	\$5,000.00
Total deductions	9,468.00
Balance as of December 31, 2002	\$22,597.00

Interest Income is added to fund at the end of each year. 2002 Interest Income is not available at this time.

(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 new Rhodesian Ridgebacks and update old surveys as necessary. 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.

(3) Research: AKC/CHF research in progress funded by or soon to be funded by the Rhodesian Ridgeback Donor Advised Fund:

- a. Basophil/Mast Cell Response to Lectins as Predictors for Risk of Allergic Disease in Genetically Susceptible Dogs.
- b. Galactokinase 1: A Candidate Gene for Juvenile Cataracts in Dogs.
- c. Heritable and Sporadic Genetic Lesions in Canine Lymphoma and Osteosarcoma
- d. Recombinant Thyrotropin (TSH): Standard for the Next Generation of Canine TSH Immunoassays with Improved Sensitivity
- e. Identification and Characterization of Genetic Mutations in Canine Mast Cell Tumors

(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. To date only 99 Rhodesian Ridgebacks have been issued CHIC numbers. Member 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 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.

REPORT OF 2002 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

The requested budget for 2002: \$2074.76

Expenditures for 2002:

2002 RRDAF fund drive:	\$ 461.48
Home Again Microchips and Home Again/Avid Scanner:	\$ 793.85
Postage:	\$ 34.00
Total expenditure::	\$ 1289.33

Requested money not used:

- (1) \$100.00: To be used for reference material and "white paper" from the AKC/CHF. All "white papers" became available on line in 2002.
- (2) \$588.00: To be used for the purchase of "Future Dog", a breeders guide to health and genetics to be sold on the on-line store. Details for the operation of the on-line store have not been made known.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR 2003

In order of priority:

(1) Rhodesian Ridgeback Donor Advised Fund mail out.

Mail out for 2003:		
Printing for 1100 pieces:	\$320.00	
1100 #10 envelopes:	\$ 62.00	
Estimated mailing cost to Ross Jones:	\$ 70.00	
Extraneous costs:	\$ 55.00	
		Total: \$507.00

(2) Business expenses.

Postage:	\$ 72.00	
Copying expenses :	\$200.00	
		Total: \$272.00

(3) Dermoid Sinus/Cyst Veterinary Education initiative.

BACKGROUND: A recent tragedy involving club members and their young 21 month old female Ridgeback has given RRCUS a rare opportunity. The case is extremely complicated but briefly the clinical signs and symptoms suggested a musculoskeletal problem with back pain, for which she was treated without resolution. Repeated veterinary visits were made but the bitch died 10 days after the onset of symptoms. The attending veterinarian sponsored an autopsy to

learn the cause of death. The final pathology reports found the dog died of the complications of septicemia. The pathologists reported a fistula like structure ventral (below) the spinal column and subcutaneous tissue in the abdominal cavity. The litter this bitch came from was evaluated by 3 experienced breeders and this puppy bitch was found to be without palpable dermoid sinuses. There was no point of drainage in the skin, i.e. no pus or exudate, and the pathologist found no communication with the skin or internal internal organs. The pathologist admits however that any communication with the skin was probably obliterated by the condition. The pathologist believes this condition is related to the dermoid sinus/cyst phenomenon found in Rhodesian Ridgebacks, given the histology results indicating that tissue normally found just below the skin was found in the abdominal cavity.

PROPOSAL: We were made aware of this case only 2 weeks prior to this report and we have just received the final pathology reports so our plans are still in their infancy. However there is a general consensus that there is a general lack of knowledge about Ridgebacks and the dermoid phenomenon in the veterinary community. Compound this general lack of knowledge with an aberrant presentation as described above and we have even more of a deficiency. Dr. Ralston and Dr. Sands have volunteered to do a case study in cooperation of the attending veterinarian and the pathologist on this case. The goal is to use this case study as a platform to launch a general education initiative to the general practice veterinarian on the subject of dermoid sinuses/cysts. Publishing this case study in the veterinary literature will increase the visibility of the dermoid sinus/cyst manifestation in Rhodesian Ridgebacks and, although rare, potential aberrant presentations. Other initiatives may include:

(a) Creating a “What Your Veterinarian Needs to Know About Rhodesian Ridgebacks” section on the RRCUS website which could include the current information about dermoids that is already on the website and will include this and other case studies. Perhaps a RRUCS veterinary point of contact as well.

(b) Having this case study published on the AAHA (Association of Animal Hospitals of America) website. In leu of this consider a mailing.

(c) Doing a mailer/questionnaire to AAHA-certified hospitals to gather data on dermoid sinuses/cysts and contacting veterinary surgeons experienced in dermoid sinus removal.

(d) Incorporating other case studies in a larger medical publication.

This project is in its infancy and preliminary investigation in the feasibility has only just begun, subsequently cost estimates are difficult but in the first year’s efforts would be primarily limited to literature searches and submission to veterinary journals.

Research costs:	approximately	\$ 100.00		
Miscellaneous costs	approximately	\$ 400.00		
			Total:	\$ 500.00

(4) AKC/CHF Parent Club Conference. Conference to be held later in the year. Details have not yet been published. The conference is free for 1 club representative.

Airfare (location dependent-estimate)	\$1000.00	
hotel and meals	\$ 0.00 (covered by AKC/CHF)	
		Total: \$1000.00

(5) AKC/CHF Cancer Conference. The details of the conference have not been published. I recommend one of the Veterinary Review and Advisory Committee members attend this conference and perhaps function as the cancer point of contact for RRCUS.

Airfare (location dependent - estimate)	\$1000.00	
Registration Fee	\$ 100.00	
Hotel and meals	\$ 0.00 (covered by AKC/CHF)	
		Total: 1 person: \$1100.00

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

Thank you,

Cynthia Roethel
Chairman, Health and Genetics Committee