

## AWS DNA Sample Collection Campaign CONTINUES!

The Blood Collection Clinic at Nationals in 2017 was a huge success! Nearly every dog attending last year and those from surrounding areas donated blood for future research with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. We want to continue submitting samples in 2018 *for those that have not previously participated*. Similar to last year, this would be at no cost to you. It would take about 10 minutes of your time to complete the paperwork and have the blood sample drawn to send to OFA.



We will hold the DNA Sample Collection Clinic on Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at the St. Croix Inn, 11390 S 5th St E, in Solon Springs, WI, after the Health & Genetics seminar, and on Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am until noon, at the Solon Springs Community Center, 11523 S Business 53, Solon Springs.

If you have any questions regarding this DNA sample collection project, please contact Brian Husbands at [bdhusbands@gmail.com](mailto:bdhusbands@gmail.com) or any of the members of the Health and Genetics Committee. *This is a separate and distinct effort from the alopecia study.*

More information about the DNA sample collection project can be found here: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/dnabank.html>

**WHY?** This initiative of the AWSC Health & Genetics Committee seeks to collect as many AWS DNA samples as possible, along with corresponding health information about each dog, for the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA Bank. This will facilitate future research and testing aimed at reducing the incidence of inherited diseases in our dogs. Based on results gained from past blood samples (cardiac, epilepsy, and degenerative myelopathy), more discriminating AWS breeding practices have been implemented.

**HOW?** The Committee will provide the testing kit, veterinary personnel, and shipping *FREE OF CHARGE TO YOU!* If possible, complete the application in advance of the Clinic by downloading and completing the CHIC DNA form for each dog to be sampled: [http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/chic\\_dnabankapp\\_main.pdf](http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/chic_dnabankapp_main.pdf) Then bring your paperwork to Nationals. The Committee will send it in along with the collected samples. Forms will also be available for you to complete at Nationals. Be sure to have available your dog's full AKC registered name and registration number, as well as the AKC registered names and registration numbers for the sire and dam. (See Below How to Prepare Your Paperwork )

### HOW TO PREPARE CHIC DNA FORM FOR YOUR DOG'S DNA SAMPLE

Once you obtain the needed information - *the form will then take less than 10 minutes to complete!* It is recommended you complete the form in advance; however, it may be completed at Nationals.

In Advance - Download the CHIC DNA form from the internet ([chic\\_dnabankapp\\_main.pdf](#)). Complete Form and Bring one for each dog with you to Nationals.

Needed information to complete form(s):

1. Your dog's Registered Name, AKC Registration Number, and Date of Birth.
2. The AKC Registration Numbers of Your Dog's Sire and Your Dog's Dam.

Above information is on the AKC registration certificate that you received in the mail from AKC, or the litter registration and date of birth, from your breeder.

If you don't have the above sources of information, go to the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) website: [www.ofa.org](http://www.ofa.org)

With the sire's and dam's names, obtain AKC Registration numbers on the OFA website. On the left side of the home page, click on "search" box for (Search OFA for Health-Tested Dogs). Enter sire's/dam's full name - the sire's/dam's OFA history and registration number are available here.

Or

If you don't have the sire's/dam's full name, go to "advanced search."

Enter whatever part of the name you remember - usually the breeder's kennel name - and select AWS breed. Search. If you've entered the correct kennel name and breed, all of your breeder's dogs entered into OFA files are available. Find needed AKC registered names and registration numbers.

Or

*Complete At Nationals:* The Health & Genetics Committee will assist you at the sample draw sites. Please make every effort to bring the needed information (*1 and 2 above*) with you.

*If You Cannot Attend Nationals,* have your local Vet assist you:

Obtain the CHIC DNA form and send it in as instructed on the form to get the kit.

Blood collection kits are available for all American Water Spaniel owners from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. The kit (one for each dog) is taken to your veterinarian to obtain the blood sample, and forwarded to the CHIC DNA Bank.

The cost of the kit is \$20. The Health and Genetics Committee will *reimburse* this cost to the dog owner on communication from the dog's veterinarian that the sample has been taken and forwarded. Directions for your vet can be found at: [dnabankinstructblood.pdf](#)

(Some veterinarians will give a price break in the interest of research.)