

From the Health and Genetics Committee of the American Water Spaniel Club...

Two Blood Collection Campaigns occurring at our 2021 National Event!

OFA DNA Blood Collection for the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals

The purpose is to provide DNA samples along with corresponding health information to the CHIC DNA Bank about each dog to facilitate future research and testing aimed at reducing the incidence of inherited diseases in dogs.

Only those dogs who did not participate in this campaign in previous years are encouraged to donate blood!

Alopecia/Pattern Baldness/Hypotrichosis in American Water Spaniels

Alopecia or hair loss is a relatively common finding in American Water Spaniels. Affected dogs tend to show hair loss at a young age (6 months – 1 year), and the hair loss is not associated with infection, itch or other condition. The affected skin may appear dark but, other than that it looks completely normal. The hair loss is typically located on the back legs, the tail, around the eyes, or the neck, but can be located anywhere on the body. Very little information is available about this disorder in American Water Spaniels.

Drs. Brian Husbands, Sheila Torres, and Steven Friedenbergs from the U. of MN are working to investigate the genetic basis of hair loss in American Water Spaniels. The goal is to find the genetic mutation associated with the disease so that a test can be developed to decrease the frequency of this disease within the breed. We are looking to enroll dogs affected with alopecia / hair loss as well as unaffected/normal dogs.

Given the small population of our breed, the more dogs we have in each group would definitely be better and strengthen the data. If we can get a small blood sample from all of the dogs (both affected and unaffected), the geneticist has the potential to do some cursory screening for a genetic alteration that MIGHT allow us to identify a genetic abnormality in the affected dogs.

For further information, please contact your H & G Committee members here at the National – Aaron Field, John Enman, Dr. Brian Husbands, Mary Klema, Chris Dostie or Lois McCracken

Be sure to participate!
Raffle for A Painted Portrait of your Dog
Silent Auction for A Fleece Blanket featuring American Water Spaniels