



# Gastric Cancer Study Update

## *December 2009*

### ***A Special Thank You***

The McNiel Comparative Oncology Laboratory would like to thank all the Belgian Sheepdogs and their owners who have kindly donated blood samples in support of gastric cancer research. To date, we have 524 dogs enrolled in the study, 91 of which are affected by gastric cancer. Belgian Sheepdogs represent 55 of the current 524 dogs and 8 of the affected dogs.

### ***A Research Study Update***

In 2009 our lab joined in a collaborative effort with the laboratory of Elaine Ostrander at the National Humane Genome Research Institute to conduct a genome wide association study to investigate the causative mutation(s) of gastric cancer in Chow Chows and other high-risk breeds. Together the laboratories created a research proposal entitled "Positional Cloning of the gene(s) for Gastric Cancer in the Chow Chow". We are pleased to announce that this effort has received a financial award from the Canine Health Foundation. This award will provide the financial means to continue to enroll healthy and affected dogs into the study and to conduct the genetic techniques to find a causative mutation.

### ***A Request for Continued Support***

We are still in urgent need of blood samples from dogs diagnosed with gastric cancer and healthy dogs over the age of 8 years. We are now supplying blood sample submission kits that include instructions, blood tubes, and the necessary FedEx shipping supplies. Please contact us at 517-432-3282 or [madrill@msu.edu](mailto:madrill@msu.edu) to receive your kit.

We are asking healthy dogs to submit a 6ml blood sample and 5-generation pedigree at time of enrollment. For affected dogs we ask that a 6ml blood sample, 5-generation pedigree and, if available, diagnostic confirmation of gastric cancer (biopsy report, ultrasound report, etc) be submitted at time of enrollment. For dogs that are affected by gastric cancer, we are also asking owners to strongly consider submitting tumor samples to the study. These can be taken at time of surgical biopsy or post mortem. Please contact us at 517-432-3282 for more information about tumor tissue donation.

We would like to remind owners that you will not receive an individual result regarding your dog from these studies. We intend to provide yearly updates to the participating breed clubs regarding the progress of the genomic studies. However please be advised that it will be at least 2 years before we generate applicable findings and then translate those findings into a diagnostic test and/or improved therapies.

Thank you again for your continued support of this research! Our current and future progress would not be possible without the enthusiastic support of the breed clubs and their members.