

- Facilitate more rapid research progress by expediting the sample collection process
- Provide researchers with optimized family groups needed for research
- Allow breeders to take advantage of future DNA based disease tests as they become available
- Foster a team environment between breeders/owners and the research community improving the likelihood of genetic discovery

The CHIC DNA Repository has partnered with the Veterinary Genetics Lab at the University of California–Davis and the Animal Molecular Genetics Lab at the University of Missouri. UC Davis will receive and store all swab samples, and Missouri will receive and store all blood samples.

BORZOI HEALTH SURVEY:

At the beginning of 2008, the OFA extended an offer to all national breed clubs, to assist in conducting breed specific health surveys; a project of mine for several years that I struggled to get to fruition. In very short order, I was able to send the segmented questions I had developed for a survey to their computer programmer, run some test pilots through their system set up and in a matter of only a couple of months, get a very comprehensive breed survey up and running on their website. One of the things I really like about the program is that, while maintaining total confidentiality of the participants, it allows any participant to see the statistical results of the survey immediately. It is a very quick survey to fill out and yet contains a good breadth of information. I was very enthusiastic about the volume of responses we received in a very short period of time so evidently our fellow borzoi owners felt it was relative quick and easy as well. To date, we have over 481 responses and the survey has only been active for a few short months. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to enter their dog's information. I encourage everyone to go to the OFA website and participate in the survey if you haven't already done so. At a minimum, take a few minutes to pull up the results and you will see an excellent breakdown of what's going on in our breed. Very worthwhile and it only takes a second!

Interesting to note, below are some of the apparent patterns already seen in the survey:

- There are almost an even number of submissions for dogs as there are bitches
- More than one third of the entries are spayed or neutered
- The order of significance in diseases submitted is as follows:
 - Cancer/Tumors – evenly distributed between dogs and bitches
 - Gastrointestinal disorders – slightly higher incidence in dogs
 - Orthopedic disorders – slightly higher incidence in bitches
 - Neurological &/or Muscular – slightly higher incidence in dogs
 - Cardiovascular disorders – evenly distributed between dogs and bitches

CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION RESEARCH:

The CHF primary focus as of late has been on genetic marker studies for several types of cancer – especially in breeds extensively predisposed to cancer. Their studies include bone, blood, skin and organ cancers. The use of stem cells in their research is proving to provide some of the most promising outcomes and undoubtedly some of the most exciting times in future research! One item of significant note is that the research community has established a National Canine Cancer Biospecimen Repository as a storage facility for tumors for future research. If your dog is diagnosed with a possible cancerous tumor, prior to surgery to remove it, please have a conversation with your veterinarian about the possibility of submitting the tumor to the tumor bank. There is a specific protocol that must be followed, so it is important to contact the CHF or the storage facility prior to the surgery or the tumor sample may not be usable. The storage facility is located at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland. This coming October the CHF will again hold their Parent Club Conference in St. Louis where researchers share the results of their studies success and provide information on where they plan to go next. I look forward to hearing about the result and sharing these with all of you in the very near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Jones – BCOA Health Committee Chairman