

Dear Deerhound owners and breeders,

It is that time of year again to give you an update of the projects that Nottingham Vet School is working on to improve the health of the breed.

GDV/Bloat survey

We are continuing to run the GDV survey, currently we have almost 200 responses which is excellent. The new responses will be reviewed and compared to the initial project analysis. This will take place over the next few months. In the meantime, as reported during the last update, we had submitted the initial project analysis to BSAVA for presentation this year. This was accepted and Emma Drinkall, the student working on the project presented this in April. This was an excellent presentation and was very well received. We the additional analysis, we plan to submit this study for a full scientific publication. A summary of the initial work has been circulated and can be obtained from your health coordinator. When the full publication has been submitted and hopefully accepted, a summary of this will also be circulated. We would therefore like people to continue to complete the survey and the link remains active. The health group had anticipated around 400 responses to this survey when it was first discussed and so we still have some way to go! Please keep responding, all of you will directly help the future of Deerhounds with bloat by being involved.

Survey link: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Deerhound_bloat_study

Osteosarcoma research

Our research into osteosarcoma with Deerhounds and a number of other breeds who suffer with this terrible disease continues. The projects that were presented in last year's update remain active and as always, we are looking for more dogs to become involved. Specific updates for each project are as follows:

Owner perceptions of the treatment for osteosarcoma

This project examines owners' thoughts on the treatment that their Deerhound received following the diagnosis of osteosarcoma. This has continued to run and the numbers have risen since last year, although remain low. To compliment this survey, we have introduced a new phase of the project to help us specifically understand the impact of amputation on the management of Deerhounds with osteosarcoma. The issues around amputation for osteosarcoma are why we introduced this project in the first place. Given that amputation is considered part of the standard treatment for osteosarcoma and many large breed owners do not select it as part of the management, this decision may limit the survival and quality of life in those dogs. We therefore need to understand more about the decisions that influence what treatment is selected. The new phase sees 2 additional surveys added, which are looking to owners of Deerhounds that have undergone amputation for reasons unconnected to osteosarcoma and also from owners of Deerhounds that have never had a dog with osteosarcoma or undergone amputation. With these 3 surveys, we will be well placed to understand as much as we can about owners' thoughts on treatment for this disease and use this information to help revise treatment plans and future research into novel treatment approaches.

Survey link - https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/deerhound_osteosarcoma_treatment_survey

Survey link - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DH-amputation>

Survey link - https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/canine_amputation1

Osteosarcoma genetics and management research

We are continuing to investigate the genetics and managerial factors that influence the development of osteosarcoma. We have a number DNA samples from unaffected Deerhounds and a smaller number from affected Deerhounds. Whilst these samples will hold crucial information for this disease, due to the small numbers of samples from affected Deerhounds it is difficult to tell at present. We are therefore very keen to receive further samples from all Deerhounds but particularly those that have been diagnosed with osteosarcoma. These samples can be in the form of residual blood samples or via specific

mouth swabs (which we can provide free of charge). We are also still looking to receive samples of the tumours themselves obtained during the diagnostic process to discover more about the tumours directly. We appreciate this is a very difficult thing for us to ask but this provides the most important information available to help understand this disease and treat it more effectively. As always please contact the sv-dogs@nottingham.ac.uk email address for further information or to obtain DNA swabs and to have the special fixative sent to your veterinary surgeons to preserve samples of the tumours in the correct way.

We hope in providing this update on the projects we are running with the Deerhound breed, the University of Nottingham's canine health genomics team can inspire more Deerhound owners and breeders to become involved and submit samples and clinical information about their dogs. As always, we look forward to continuing to work with Deerhounds and their owners and hope that our projects have a positive impact on long-term breed health. For further information, relating to the ongoing research in Deerhounds, please contact us on the email address: sv-dogs@nottingham.ac.uk

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Dunning', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Dunning on behalf of the canine health genomics team