

Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy

Announcing a New Study on HOD in the Irish setter

Anne Marie Kubacz
ISCA Health Chair

ISCA Health Committee in conjunction with ISCA Foundation is proud to announce our latest grant in conjunction with AKC Canine Health Foundation and the Bannasch Lab at the veterinary medical teaching hospital at UC Davis.

Throughout the years, ISCA has sponsored several studies on HOD (Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy) that have led.....well frankly nowhere! In August 2013 I attended the AKC CHF Parent club conference along with Dr. Linda Kalmar and Jan Ziech. We attended a lecture by Dr. Dannasch and found out that a study in HOD and Weimaraners was ongoing at her lab. At the conference I mentioned to the AKC CHF that ISCA would be interested in learning more about sponsoring a grant with this lab at UC Davis.

It is reasonable for all ISCA members to wonder--what about this study makes us hope for a different outcome than the dead ends that the other studies we have sponsored have had? In May 2013 a peer reviewed study was published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association by Dr. Noa Safra et al entitled "Clinical Manifestations, Response to Treatment and Clinical Outcome for Weimaraners with HOD-53 cases". This was ground breaking work, as it was the first **peer reviewed** article to conclude that in the Weimaraner, corticosteroids was superior to NSAIDs in the treatment of HOD. ISCA is fortunate that our own Dr. Gary Brown has been so helpful to those with affected HOD puppies, and for his protocol for treating Irish setter puppies with HOD, but this was the first peer reviewed article supporting the similar protocol which Dr. Brown has been advocating.

So when Jan, Linda and I had the opportunity to speak to the head of the lab, Dr. Bannasch, where the research had been conducted, it was exciting to realize how dedicated Dr. Safra and other members in the lab were to finding out more about HOD. It was time to pursue due diligence in deciding if a study of this kind in conjunction with the Dannasch lab was a good choice for funds from the ISCA Foundation!

My next step was to call the Health Chair for the Weimaraner Club of America. This parent club has supported HOD grants/studies in the past, and met with disappointing results too. We spent many hours on the phone with each other, and she was not only supportive of what her club had gotten from Dr. Safra, but told me that Dr. Safra is a Weim breeder who had a litter affected by HOD, and that fueled Dr Safra's passion for this study.

After my first conversation with Dr. Safra, I felt so positive that we were finally on a course that could yield results. After sending information about this proposal to the ISCA Health Committee and the ISCA Foundation board, numerous emails went back and forth with questions to which Dr. Safra promptly replied.

On April 22, 2014 ISCA Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with AKC CHF, which is the first step in approving the research grant itself. Representing ISCA Foundation during the grant review will be: Anne Marie Kubacz, Connie Vanacore, Gary Brown DVM, Dr. John Savory & Barbara Riegle. The grants review process should be completed by June 1, 2014.

In anticipation of approval, Dr. Safra and I have worked on the announcement of the project. This June issue of the Memo contains all the documents pertaining to the study. One key difference between this study and others on HOD that we have conducted is that the researchers require that radiographic evidence of HOD be submitted along with the blood samples and patient history.

What can YOU do? It is urgent that word about this new study be spread to owners of Irish setters world-wide. **Without HOD affected cases, this study cannot go forward.** For those of you who own an HOD affected dog PLEASE help us get the samples to Dr Safra! If there

are any financial constraints preventing you from either getting or sending the samples, PLEASE let me know and I will help you with Fed Ex shipment and costs associated with getting copies of radiographs or blood samples. Many times if you explain to your vet that you are participating in a research study, your vet can waive or discount fees. Some clinics have technician appointments, where you can have blood drawn at less expense if you are a regular client. PLEASE don't let finances prevent you from sending samples from your HOD affected dog! PLEASE don't delay in putting the steps in motion to sending the HOD affected samples to Dr. Safra.

HOD is a painful and frightening disease that affects Irish setter puppies--do your part to help ISCA and the ISCA Foundation be successful in our quest to discover more about this devastating disease. Irish setters across the globe will be grateful for your participation! Below is a copy of the announcement that we will be sending out via emails, Facebook and the ISCA website.

A CALL FOR IRISH SETTER DNA SAMPLES FOR A 2014 RESEARCH STUDY ON HOD

YOUR dog's participation in our study will help!

The ISCA Foundation and the ISCA Health Committee are excited to announce that a research study on Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD) is gearing up at the Bannasch Laboratory, at the veterinary medical teaching hospital, at UC Davis. This project is led by Noa Safra DVM PhD, the author of the article: "Clinical manifestations, response to treatment, and clinical outcome for Weimaraners with hypertrophic osteodystrophy: 53 cases (2009-2011)", published in JAVMA on May 2013. The goals of this research are to study the role of the immune system in HOD disease manifestation, and to uncover genetic markers associated with HOD in the breed.

Samples from HOD cases and HOD-free controls are required.

The success of this project is directly related to the number and quality of DNA samples provided for research.

We implore all Irish Setter enthusiasts, worldwide, to participate in this unique opportunity to advance the health and wellbeing of the breed so dear to all of us.

Please contact Dr. Noa Safra in order to send a sample. Confidentiality is assured.

Contact information for sample donations and inquiries:

Email address: nsafra@ucdavis.edu ; Phone: 530-752-1317 or

Anne Marie Kubacz ISCA Health Chair rsetter@att.net Cell 908 216 2357

For the lay abstract of the study click [HERE](#).

What forms need to be sent with samples of HOD affected dogs?

An email should precede sample shipping to alert Dr Safra that the sample has been sent/ is in the mail.

Tracking numbers are highly recommended !!!

1. Patient history of Irish setter affected by HOD: click [HERE](#) for form
2. Sample identification form: click [HERE](#) for PDF form Click [HERE](#) for Excel version of form

What samples need to be collected and how should they be sent?

1. Sample Collection and Shipping info: click [HERE](#) for the form

2. For instructions on sending radiographs contact Dr. Safra directly at nsafra@ucdavis.edu ;
Phone: 530-752-1317

Protocol for treatment of Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD) in Irish Setters.

HOD is a serious illness affecting puppies, usually between 4-7 months of age. It is characterized by fever, pain, swelling of the joints, lethargy, lack of appetite. If left untreated permanent deformity of the front legs may occur. The [treatment protocol](#) recommended here has been developed by ISCA member, S. Gary Brown, DVM, an orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Brown may be contacted at gary@vetortho.com . It is recommended that the dog's veterinarian be the contact with Dr. Brown for most efficient and timely treatment