



MCONO Messenger

Newsletter of the Mastiff Club of Northern Ohio

Tammy Kinkade, Editor

February 2011

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New Data Found in Cystinuria Research

AKC Canine Health Foundation Grant 1388-A: Validation of a SNP Haplotype Associated with Mastiff Cystine Stone Formation for Use in Genetic Testing

Primary Investigator: Dr. Paula S. Henthorn, PhD

Institution: University of Pennsylvania - School of Veterinary Medicine

Sponsor(s): Danny's Fund, Joe & Carla Sanchez of Southport Mastiffs, Mastiff Club of America, Mastiff Club of America Charitable Trust

"Cystinuria is an inherited disorder that causes kidney and urinary tract stones in dog, man and other animals and has been documented in over 60 breeds of dogs. In humans, mutations in the protein-coding regions of two genes are found in affected individuals. In some dog breeds, cystinuria is an autosomal recessive trait caused by mutations in one of the genes. However, in many dog breeds, the genetic basis of cystinuria is much more complex.

We recently obtained data suggesting:

- 1) that in at least one breed of dogs (Mastiffs), DNA changes near one of the "cystinuria genes" are associated with early cystine stone formation, and
- 2) that gender and reproductive status may affect the level cystine in the urine.

Our most recent study has more

precisely defined the region associated with early cystine stone formation in Mastiffs and analyzed DNA polymorphisms from the region in additional dogs. The data generated further supports the finding that polymorphisms near one of the cystinuria genes are associated with high risk of early stone formation.

In summary, the studies indicate that it will be possible to develop a DNA-based test for breeders to use to reduce the incidence of particular (but not all) cystinuria predisposing alleles in the Mastiff."

We will share more updates as they become available! Although it appears that we are getting much closer to a DNA Marker test for at least one type of Cystinuria in Mastiffs, there is more research that needs to be done as this is a very complex disease in Mastiffs with genetic polymorphisms and it appears that there are environmental and metabolic influences that are associated with the gene expression of this genetic disease in our breed.

If you would like to financially support the next phase of this important research you can make donations to the MCOA Charitable Trust at:

<http://www.networkforgood.org/>

or you can make donations directly through the AKC Canine Health Foundation for Canine

Cystinuria Grant # 1535-A

Reminder: If you have a dog that has tested positive on a nitroprusside urine test or that has formed cystine stones, PLEASE send blood and urine to UPenn to have your dog added to the research study and let them know what you've been feeding and giving your dogs. And please share this information with anyone with a cystinuric dog to encourage them to participate in the research, too!

<http://www.mastiff.org/CYSTINURIARESEARCH.htm>

If you are planning on neutering your Cystinuria positive dogs, please contact Dr. Henthorn and make arrangements to donate blood and urine before the neuter and then monthly urine samples after the surgery.

Treat the blood & urine like you're shipping semen for a special breeding. Notify Dr. Henthorn that you are shipping the samples and let her know when they will arrive. Make sure she'll be there or that she will arrange to have someone there to receive the package. They are closed on weekends and during the holidays! Keep the samples cool in an insulated container with frozen freezer packs and ship it overnight delivery through FedEx (NOT the United States Post Office). Track the package & call Dr. Henthorn when it arrives at UPenn to make sure she received it in good condition.

Did you know???

The Mastiff Club of Northern Ohio was created in 2008 for Ohio and all surrounding areas and is gradually spreading to include Mastiff-lovers in many states. It is a slowly developing club..... starting as an excuse to gather at the dog shows and growing into a great little Mastiff support group. We are open to all ideas and suggestions to improve the club. Our members range from long-time breeders to first-time owners.

The Mastiff Club of Northern Ohio currently has 61 members covering 7 different states.



<http://www.mcoa2011.com/>

Counting Down to the Specialty

Spring is creeping up on us, and with it brings the count down to the MCOA National Specialty in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Don't forget that all Mastiffs must have an AKC DNA profile done before they can be entered in the Specialty. If you have not DNA'd your dog yet, you may have time to get it done, but the window for that turnaround time to be completed is closing quickly. You can order DNA kits directly from the AKC website (www.akc.org).

Raffle Donations

This year's specialty is sure to be a fun-filled week with plenty of great dogs and plenty of equally great people. The raffle fundraiser held at the specialty brings in plenty of interest, and the proceeds help the sponsoring clubs offset the costs of holding the specialty. Two of our very own members are in charge of fundraising and would greatly

appreciate any donations to the Specialty's raffle fundraiser. If you have items you'd like to donate, please contact

Marissa McFarland

at garmar11@verizon.net

or Kay Stivason

at kaystivason@yahoo.com

Host Hotel

If you have not made your reservations at the host hotel yet, there are still rooms available. You may make your reservations at the Crowne Plaza by calling 1-800-227-6963. Be sure to mention the Mastiff Club of America group block to receive the discounted \$109 per night rate. There is a non-refundable one-night's room rate for anyone making a reservation.

Health Seminar

Dr. Paula Henthorn, PhD, of UPenn will be sharing more about the updated research findings on "Canine Cystinuria in Mastiffs" on Friday, May 13th from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

Pre-registration is required, so please consider attending this valuable seminar. More information and downloadable registration forms are available at the specialty website.



*Can I go? PLEASE? PLEASE?
I promise I'll be good!*

Awards Banquet

Reservations for the 2011 National Specialty Awards Banquet must be made by the April 13th deadline, so don't let that date sneak past you if you're hoping to attend this wonderful evening.

The Whelping Box



Stargazer Mastiffs

6 boys, 5 girls, delivered via C-Section on February 7th. All brindle litter!



Dam



Wileyways Cosmic
Stargazer

Sire



Am. Can. Int'l CH Stonebrook Walter,
CGN, CGC TDInc, READ

For more information please contact us at temerson1215@wowway.com
www.stargazermastiffs.com

Deciphering the New Grand Champion Title

On May 12, 2010, the AKC began offering a new title for dogs with their conformation championship - the Grand Champion title. It offers already championed dogs the opportunity to go back into the ring to compete for more points and the new "Select" award.

For some, the idea of earning their dogs' Grand Championship is a great way to get a young dog out in the ring to compete for a longer period of time. It follows the same premise as is required to receive the initial AKC Champion title.

Grand Championship points are calculated using the same AKC Point Schedule as is used for Championship points. (Dogs entered in non-regular classes are not counted in the computation of Championship or Grand Championship points.) Champions of Record including champi-

ons that are non-regular class winners (i.e. Veterans Class Winners) or dogs that have been "moved up" to Best of Breed competition for the show are the only dogs eligible for Grand Championship points. Although Winners Dog or Winners Bitch can win Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex, in no case will they be eligible for Grand Champion competition.

Grand Championship points may be awarded to eligible dogs as follows:

Best of Breed – All dogs of both sexes in the breed or variety exhibited in the regular classes and Best of Breed competition will be counted

Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed – All dogs of the same sex in the breed or variety exhibited in the regular classes and Best of Breed competition will be

counted

Select Dog or Select Bitch – The total number of dogs of the same sex in the breed/variety defeated in the regular classes and BOB competition will be counted. (i.e. 2 dogs less than the total number of the same sex)

Completion of the title requires all of the following:

Twenty five Grand Championship points

Three "majors" won under three different judges

At least one or more of these points won under a fourth judge

Must have defeated at least one other AKC Champion of Record at three shows.

Encore Handling

All Breed Training & Handling



Erinn Hadley

encorehandling@gmail.com

www.coolcitydogs.com

517~862~9449

2011 National Specialty Basket



MCONO will be making a donation at the 2011 MCOA Specialty for the first time this year!

MCONO will be donating a raffle basket at the Specialty.

Our theme is **'Dog Days of Summer'** and we want to have fun with this! We are asking that every member donate, keeping a regional theme in mind. We want a basket to be proud of....our 'basket' is actually going to be a big painted trunk!

If you do not have an item to donate, please contribute to the overall cost using the Paypal button on the Members Only page.

One of the items in our trunk is a coffee-table mastiff book featuring our very own mastiffs. If you would like photos featured in this book we ask that you contribute. There is a separate Paypal button to do this on the Members Only page of our website .

Payments may also be mailed to:
MCONO TREASURER,
424 ROBINWOOD AVENUE,
WHITEHALL, OHIO 43213

Questions? email Lucy Parschauer at docsfavorit@aol.com

MCONO Limited Edition Notecards - Series 1

featuring our photo competition winners!

**Only 13
Available**



**Only 13
Available**

www.mastiffclubofnorthernohio.com/main-store.html

Check out all the great new items!



Membership Application

Mastiff Club of Northern Ohio MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

KENNEL NAME/WEBSITE: _____

INTERESTS:

☐ CONFORMATION SHOWING

☐ COMMITTEE

☐ OBEDIENCE/RALLY TRIALS

☐ START CHAT ROOM

☐ BREEDING

☐ M.C.O.A. MEMBER

☐ PET THERAPY

☐ PULLING/CARTING

☐ GET ME INVOLVED!

☐ SOCIAL

☐ PUBLICITY

☐ MASTIFF HEALTH

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$15.00 SINGLE \$20.00 FAMILY \$1.00 JUNIOR



www.MastiffClubofNorthernOhio.com

CLUB FISCAL YEAR BEGINS JULY 1ST. IF APPLYING AFTER JANUARY 1ST, SINGLE AND FAMILY DUES WILL BE APPLIED TO THE FOLLOWING YEAR. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MCONO AND FORWARD COMPLETED APPLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP DUES TO:

MCONO TREASURER, 424 ROBINWOOD AVENUE,
WHITEHALL, OHIO 43213

I/WE AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CODE OF ETHICS, CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MCONO AND THE RULES OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB. These documents can be found at www.MastiffClubofNorthernOhio.com

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____

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Available through
the MCONO Store.
Order your
custom portrait
today!



<http://www.mastiffclubofnorthernohio.com/main-store.html>