

*****GPCA Health Bulletin*****

German Pinscher Cataract Study

In late 2005, OptiGen agreed to open its cataract study of many breeds to include the German Pinscher. At that time, a call went out from the breed club, and paperwork for many German Pinschers with cataracts was submitted to OptiGen. A few of the first respondents were asked to send samples and they did so, however more samples will be needed in order to conduct the research.

At this time, it is OptiGen's hope there will be a breakthrough from a large sampling of Labrador Retrievers soon. Once this occurs, further breed mapping is in order, and it is hoped, the process shortened for all following breeds.

We are at a place where samples are needed for German Pinschers. You can help solve the cataract problem in German Pinschers by sending blood for Long Term Storage (LTS) to OptiGen. The research needs twenty (20) **unrelated** affected dog samples, and twenty (20) **unrelated** old clear dog samples. The clear sample dogs must be at least seven (7) years old when they were diagnosed clear. It is most important for the dogs to be as **UNRELATED** as possible. It would be ideal if within each group (affected and normal) there were individuals with no grandparents in common –although we understand that this may be very hard to do. So if you have a group of siblings that are all Affected with cataracts, only 1 of those dogs should be chosen for the study.

The GPCA Health Committee has committed to subsidizing this storage fee for the **first** fifteen (15) samples of clear old dogs, and **first** fifteen (15) diagnosed affected dogs received by OptiGen. The cost will be \$15.00 for this storage fee, **(those submitting samples will be responsible for this \$15.00 fee, the GPCA will pay the remaining \$20.00 of this fee)** rather than the \$35.00 Long Term Storage fee charged the public. This DNA sample will be owned by you. If you need a DNA sample for any other purpose, you will have it for years to come and can have it sent to any other research or testing facility by contacting OptiGen. (There is a shipping and handling fee for this service.)

Submission of samples are completely confidential, only OptiGen will have access to names. The GPCA only is assisting in the payment of these storage fees, to facilitate samples being there when the research is ready for them. Old clear dogs will not be around forever, and can lend very important information to this study.

Attached is the information needed for you to draw this blood sample, and instructions on packing and shipping. Also, the form you will need to fill out to accompany the sample is attached. A four or five generation pedigree and a copy of the dogs last eye exam is requested.

NOTE: If you have already submitted this paperwork on your dog for this study, please indicate this on the Submission form, and they will match this up with your sample when it arrives. No need to resend this paperwork.

For further information please go to <http://www.optigen.com/> . Please try not to call Optigen, as they have a small office staff. The GPCA Health Committee can also assist if needed. Also information is available at www.german_pinscher.com .