



Doberman Pinscher Health Foundation Spring 2020

President's Message

I would like to welcome you to the Spring 2020 DPHF Newsletter.

I can't start this newsletter without acknowledging everything that is going on in our world. The Covid-19 virus has turned our world upside down. Many of us are sequestered in our homes, practicing social distancing. The world economy is suffering because of the closure of many businesses while we ride this pandemic out. In times of economic and personal uncertainty, donating money to charitable causes becomes far less of a priority and in many cases impossible. I want to acknowledge that and send my appreciation for the support that has been given us in the past. I am hopeful that those who have supported us, will continue to when circumstances allow, however, my main concern is for the health and safety of all of our supporters and their families.

Many of us are longing for a chance to attend competitions with our dogs again. The thrill and companionship we experience in those events provide us a special bond with our dogs and competitors alike. I am missing that myself. I would offer though, that it is at times like this that our animals can provide us the most support. Whether it is going on a walk, playing ball, or just laying beside us, their love and companionship can help give us a sense of normalcy in these uncertain times.

DPHF is also trying to do what we can to maintain a sense of normalcy. We are continuing to do all we can to promote the health and welfare of the Doberman Pinschers who give so much to us. To that end we are sending out our newsletter to let you know what we are working on and how your money is being spent. We take the responsibility of being stewards of your money as our highest priority.

DPHF Annual Grant

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, DPHF reviewed five grant proposals last year during our open grant period. The research committee reviewed the proposals on well-established criteria including: Scientific Merit, Impact, Relevance, Attainability of Objectives, Appropriate Budget and Technical writing.

Our initial grant recipient was Tamas D. Ambrisko, DVM, PhD, DACVAA, DECVAA Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management at the University of Illinois at Champaign – Urbana, School of Veterinary Medicine. The one year study explores the use of High-Frequency QRS Electrocardiography to detect occult dilated cardiomyopathy in Doberman Pinschers. The goal of this research would be to create an inexpensive, accurate, high speed diagnostic tool, that can be used for early diagnosis of cardiac disease. If this is successful, it could replace the need for a 24 hour Holter.

Thanks to the generous support of our Donors, DPHF was able to reopen our grant process and award two additional grants at the beginning of 2020.

The first grant was awarded as additional funding for last year's grant recipient. The new grant of \$6500 was awarded for the purpose of testing additional Dobermans. Dr. Ambrisko indicated that while he had a good response to his initial collection of data, not all of the participants had provided the follow up data that he needed to complete the study. DPHF is committed to making this study a success and we need your help to do that. If you participated in this study, please contact Dr. Ambrisko with your follow up 24 hour holter testing results.

Dr. Ambrisko also informed us of another unrelated research project that they are currently considering at the University of Illinois at Champaign. This potential study would use machine learning to predict human patients who are affected with COVID-19 and are more likely to suffer with cardiac complications as a result of the illness. One of the challenges this project would face is the ability to collect enough human cardiac data to build the statistical information needed for a machine learning model. In an effort to speed that process up, DPHF was contacted about using the data previously collected in the project we funded to form a statistical model for their machine learning project. DPHF has authorized the use of that data to assist in the initial development of the model, however this project, like all University lead research, is dependent on obtaining funding to move forward. While we are not certain this research will actually be funded and proceed, we wanted to let you know about it. We are encouraged that the work we fund may be leveraged for far reaching research, and believe it embodies our commitment to be good stewards of your generous donations.

The second grant we awarded this year was \$8500 to Amara H. Estrada, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (Cardiology), Professor of Cardiology, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, for a gene splicing research project. The study will include both the "PDK4"(DCM1) gene as well as the "Titan"(DCM2) gene. The process will involve growing heart cells in a petri dish and measuring flexibility response to certain fuels. The bad genes will then be removed and replaced with good genes and the response to those fuels will be measured again. If there is no response in flexibility it will indicate that there is another contributing factor that has not yet been identified.

If the result is a normal response to various fuel sources it is believed the issue has been identified and this could be the first step in developing a treatment to DCM. The results of this study also have the potential to be useful in human research into inherited DCM.

We hope you see the same value in the research we are funding that we do. Your continued support will help us further our mission.

Puget Sound Doberman Pinscher Club Fundraiser

DPHF would like to once again thank PSDPC for having us back at their annual Christmas Agility Trial December 14-15, 2019. We are extremely grateful to be their charity of choice at this event. In addition to our annual raffle, we sold our popular first aid kits. In total over the course of the weekend DPHF raised over \$2000 that will be used to further our mission. Thank you also to everyone who supported us at this event

We would also like to thank everyone who provided raffle prizes for our annual raffle at this event. Along with individual donors, we received support from many of our local performance clubs including Puget Sound Doberman Pinscher Club, The Club@Argus, River Rat Barnhunt, and Pacific Northwest Barnhut. The support from local clubs continues to be one of our most valuable and appreciated resources.

First Aid Kits

Good News, our popular first aid kits are back in stock! Thanks to overwhelming demand, our first aid kits sold out very quickly. We have a brand new supply ready for those who missed out or want to add an additional kit for their home or car.

These compact kits are sized for easy transport. Don't let the size fool you, they are packed full with essential equipment including:

- 5 - Benzalkonium Chloride Antiseptic Towelette
- 2 - Gauze Pads - 5.1 x 5.1 cm (2" x 2") - Sterile
- 2 - Gauze Pads - 7.6 x 7.6 cm (3" x 3") - Sterile
- 1 - Conforming Stretch Gauze Bandage Roll - 5.1cm (2")
- 1 - Conforming Stretch Gauze Bandage Roll - 7.6cm (3")
- 1 - Cloth Tape - 1.3cm x 4.57m (0.5in x 5 yd)
- 3 - Povidone Iodine Prep Pad
- 1 - Paramedic Scissors 5.5"
- 1 - Metal Forceps/Tweezer - 8.8 cm (3.5")
- 2 - Examination Gloves (Pair) - Large
- 1 - Abdominal/Combine Pads - 12.7 x 22.9cm (5" x 9")
- 12 - Cotton Tip Applicators
- 2 - Hand Cleansing Towelettes
- 2 - Sani-Hands Hand Sanitizing Wipes
- 1 - Self-Adhering Wrap Bandage 2"
- 1 - First Aid Guide for Pets
- 2 - Non-Adherent Pads - 5.1cm x 7.6cm (2" x 3") - Sterile
- 2 - Non-Adherent Pads - 7.6cm x 10.2cm (3" x 4") - Sterile
- 1 - Mylar Emergency Rescue Blanket
- 1 - Emergency Flasher with Clip
- 1 - Thermometer, Oral, Rectal, C/F
- 1 - Eyewash Solution, 30ml, Bottle
- 2 - Tongue Depressors
- 1 - Penlight, Paramedic, Disposable
- 1 - Oral Syringe, 10cc
- 1- kennel lead
- 1- Styptic powder

These kits are priced at just \$35 each and are available to order and ship today. The kits can be purchased [here](#).

What's Next?

We hope you have found this issue of the DPHF Newsletter interesting and useful.

Do you have questions or ideas for useful information for our newsletter, please let us know!

Remember, none of this is possible without the generous support of our donors!

Our next scheduled newsletter will be our Summer issue 2020. It is our sincere hope that our world will have returned to some semblance of normal, we will all be back to doing the things we love, and DPHF will have more exciting news to share with you.

Until then, stay safe, stay healthy, and pet your dogs!

Sincerely,

DPHF Board of Directors:

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