



**DOBERMAN
PINSCHER**
— HEALTH FOUNDATION —



Doberman Pinscher Health Foundation Spring 2021

President's Message

Welcome to the Spring 2021 Newsletter; that feels good to say!

We know that 2020 was a hard year for many people, but with the vaccines starting to be delivered, there is hope of returning to some degree of our normal lives.

This newsletter will do what many of us have been doing since the start of the year. We will look back on the year that was 2020 and look forward to what we have planned for 2021.

We have a lot of news about our grant process to tell you about. We will be sharing information about our 2020 grant recipient and have exciting news about our 2021 grant process.

Along with grant funding, this issue includes an article from Dr. Kelli Rosen that updates us on research based on the two known DCM genes.

In Fundraising news, 2020 brought us unique challenges due to COVID19 impacting some of our traditional fundraising events, which forced us into creative thinking and new avenues for fundraising. We will have a recap of those projects as well as some brand-new announcements and products for 2021!

As always, we are grateful for all the support we receive. Take care of yourself, your family and your dogs. Keep positive thoughts of the promise this year holds.

We hope you find our newsletter informative and enjoyable.

2020 Grant Process

We were not certain how the COVID-19 pandemic would affect our 2020 grant process. With so many schools operating virtually, we were uncertain if we would

receive any applications.

We are very happy to tell you that we did receive multiple applications and awarded our annual grant to Penny Regier, DVM, MS, DACVS-SA, Assistant Professor, Small Animal Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida. Her project relates to diagnosis and treatment of bloat and torsion which several deep chested breeds, including Doberman Pinschers, can be prone to.

When torsion occurs and the stomach rotates, the entry and exit points for gas are blocked. This results in pressure on blood vessels in the stomach causing reduced blood flow, and eventually the death of stomach tissue if it occurs for a prolonged period

In order to address this emergency condition, surgery is required to return the stomach to normal position. As part of that process the surgeon evaluates the health of the stomach. This is currently a subjective process in large part due to the limited view available to the surgeon during the procedure. Unfortunately, failing to remove part of the stomach which contains dead tissue, can result in the death of the dog.

Dr. Regier's proposal addresses this problem by using a new imaging technique, called near-infrared fluorescence (NIRF) . This process involves using an FDA approved dye injected into the blood vessels, and then using noninvasive imaging to view the distribution of dye in the blood vessels of the stomach. This process has been proven in humans and is used in dogs for some treatments of cancer, but has not been used for treating bloat and torsion.

If proven, this technology could result in less deaths due to incorrect subjective evaluations of the stomach, as well as less removal of inaccurately assessed stomach tissue.

The research committee believes, if successful, this technology could be deployed in most 24 hour emergency clinics resulting in improved treatments of dogs. Additionally, if this technology is proven effective in this application, it is anticipated the use might be expanded for other surgical applications.

2021 Grant Process

The DPHF is thrilled to announce, that due to an extremely generous donation from one of our supporters we will be offering two separate grants this year.

One grant will be restricted to studies involved in dilated cardiomyopathy research. The other study is open to any research into genetic diseases affecting the Doberman Pinscher.

This will be by far our largest funding year with both grants individually offering our highest grant awards to date.

The Board is very excited to see what we will receive due to these expanded funding opportunities.

We are grateful to all our supporters for your roles in our continued success.

DCM Genetic Marker Assessment Study

Summary by Dr. Kelli Rosen

New research published in the JAVMA titled “**Assessment of *PDK4* and *TTN* gene variants in 48 Doberman Pinschers with dilated cardiomyopathy**” looked at DCM in Dobermans and made some interesting conclusions. They wanted to evaluate the frequency of variants in the pyruvate kinase dehydrogenase 4 (*PDK4*) and titin (*TTN*) genes in a group of Doberman Pinschers with dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), and wanted to see if there were unique clinical attributes to each variant. They hoped to find some way to figure out if a dog had one or the other variant by how they presented clinically.

The study looked at dog age, body weight, left ventricular dimensions and fractional shortening, the presence of ventricular and supraventricular arrhythmias, and heart failure. The number of dogs with the *PDK4* (4 dogs), was much smaller than the number of dogs with *TTN* variant (28 dogs). Let’s hope that is because we are testing and have not been breeding animals with the *PDK4* gene. There were 6 dogs diagnosed with DCM that had NEITHER the *PDK4* nor the *TTN* variant gene. There were also 10 dogs that had both *PDK4* and *TTN* variant genes.

The researchers’ concluded that the dogs with both abnormal genes did not appear clinically any different than the dogs with 0 or 1 known variant gene. So, clinically, all the DCM dogs looked the same. They did note that the *PDK4* dogs mean age was younger but there were only 4 dogs so it could be due to such a small sample size. I think it is safe to say that there is no clinical reason to treat any of the DCM affected dogs differently when it comes to medication. Since they were identical in clinical assessment, it is safe to say they would respond to treatments the same.

The big surprise, for them I think, is that there were dogs with DCM and no known gene to blame. I hope research will continue. We need to be funding DCM research not only into another gene variant, but into other factors like diet, environment, etc. which may play a part in the dogs that did not carry either of the variant genes.

Fund Raising

In 2020 the DPHF was not able to have two of our annual raffle fundraisers that we use as a basis for our annual budget. As a result, we needed to find other revenue sources to fill that financial need. Thank you to everyone who helped make that a success.

2021 Calendar

The DPHF was thrilled with the response to our 2021 calendar. Thank you to everyone who submitted photographs, voted, shared our project, and ordered the calendar. Because of your support we sold 190 calendars and raised \$2,590 after expenses that will be used to help fund additional research.



We are considering making this an annual event. If we do this, we would like to get started early this year on the 2022 calendar, but we need your feedback.

What are your thoughts on the calendar? Is this something you would like to see as an annual project? Are there changes to the calendar you would like to see?

Please reach out and let us know your thoughts.

You can reach us at:

INFO@DOBERMANHEALTH.ORG

On-Line Auction

Thank you to everyone who participated in our online auction. Through your donations and support we earned \$1000 which will be used to fund future research.

We know there were a few hiccups with the Facebook auction, especially with refreshing, and the scramble at the closing time.

We have more great items to auction off and we are considering the best way to do that to avoid any issues that people encountered in our first auction.

If you have any suggestions on running an online auction we would love to hear it.

Stay tuned for more information.

Existing Products

DPHF Facemasks

DPHF is very thankful for the amazing support we received for our facemasks. The facemask is a soft triple layer, machine washable, [DPHF Face Mask](#).



We know that some States are starting to roll back mask requirements but, in many areas, it looks like we will be wearing facemasks for the foreseeable future.

If we are going to be wearing masks they might as well make a statement. The DPHF facemask is the perfect accessory as dog events are beginning to reopen, as well as daily public activities.

DPHF now has a package deal that includes a leash for your facemask. A leash allows you to keep the facemask around your neck when not in use, eliminating the possibility of leaving it in your car or placing it on a possibly contaminated surface. In addition to being a convenient way to store your mask, the leash can be used to secure the mask with an adjustable band that can be tightened around the back of your head. This can help take stress of your ear cartilage or add extra comfort for those who find the mask a little tight.

Consider adding a leash to your order!

First Aid Kits

Are you looking for the perfect gift for the dog (or cat) lovers in your life? The DPHF has got you covered! We have refreshed our stock of the extremely popular DPHF Pet First Aid Kit. This makes a great gift for any dog lover!



This kit, in an attractive black case featuring the DPHF Logo, contains the following essential items:

5 - Benzalkonium Chloride Antiseptic Towelettes

- 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 [here](#) for immediate delivery.

New for 2021

The DPHF is thrilled to announce a partnership with two small businesses to assist in the marketing of DPHF products.

DPFH Collars

The DPHF would like to thank Collarati Collars for selecting DPHF in their "Collars for Causes" program.



The DPHF collar is a 1.5" printed biothane collar, with buckle hardware. It is available in blue with white printing or brown with black printing.

Biothane is a fantastic product that has the feel of leather, but is easier to clean and maintain.

With the two color choices available, Dobermans of any color have an option to look great, and show their support for veterinary research!

You can find the collars [here](#)

DPHF Embroidered Products

DPHF is partnering with Studio 134 to provide

embroidered merchandise. This merchandise will feature our logo attire as well as other unique Doberman related designs.

The offerings from Studio 134 will be updated and rotated on a regular basis, so if you see something you like, make certain to get it while it is still in stock!



Our first products will feature either our official logo or a DPHF Sunrise logo on a shirt or tote bag

You can find the current available products from Studio 134 [here](#)

What's Next?

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

We are planning an article about copper storage disease as well as updates on existing grants for our next newsletter.

If 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!

Sincerely,

DPHF Board of Directors:

James Barron
Jenn Cannerelli
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