



Free Blood Draw!

The ABC Health Committee will sponsor a blood draw for the CHIC DNA Repository at the 2010 ABC National Specialty Event in Georgia. There will be NO charge for a limited number of dogs; it is absolutely free! Tentatively Scheduled-On Site-Thursdays, November 11, 2010 & Friday, November 12, 2010. Times will be posted at the event. Contact Claudia Williams at shilohhounds@earthlink.net for more information.

CHIC DNA Repository: The Bank is Open!

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and the Canine Health Foundation (CHF), have started a DNA Repository that is open to all CHIC participating breeds. The Repository is a bank of individual DNA samples that are available for researchers to use in genetic studies. Health and pedigree information on each dog is included with the DNA sample. This bank is not associated with the AKC DNA program used to determine parentage.

The DNA Repository has four objectives:

- 1) Make samples more readily available to researchers.
- 2) Provide samples from family groups to researchers.
- 3) Enable breeders and owners access to future DNA tests.
- 4) Foster a spirit of cooperation between breeders/owners and the research community.

What types of samples may be submitted?

Either cheek swabs or blood may be submitted, but blood is preferred because the quantity, purity, and quality of the DNA are better. The owner must complete an application and health survey and include the dog's AKC registration number. A 3-5 generation pedigree is also requested, but can be generated by CHIC using the AKC number. Follow up surveys will be mailed to the owner periodically to track any changes in the dog's health.

Researchers estimate the shelf life of these samples to be decades. Blood DNA samples, however, may have better stability and purity than the DNA from cheek swab samples.

How does the Repository affect future bloodhound research?

Future genetic research and the development of genetic tests depend on the DNA samples we send to this bank. A large number of samples from many family groups will enable researchers to easily include bloodhounds in their studies because these samples will be readily available. The bank is designed to be a "one stop" deposit and may minimize or eliminate the inconvenience and expense of sending samples to individual laboratories as new studies begin. *Please note that all information is provided to researchers in a blind format and is strictly confidential.*

As new genetic tests are developed and made available to the public, owners may request testing on their samples stored in the Repository. The owner must pay the costs associated with this testing. In the future, this may enable you to test DNA from individual dogs or family groups many generations back in your pedigrees.

How can you participate?

The success of the Repository depends on YOUR participation! SUBMIT SAMPLES! To assure future access to these DNA tests or to include your dog in many of these research studies, your dog's DNA should be stored in the Repository. Once the DNA is deposited, it will be available for decades. Samples may be submitted directly to the Repository from individual owners by following the guidelines on the CHIC website at www.caninehealthinfo.org. All forms and instructions are listed on this site. The OFA processing fee is \$5.00 for cheek swabs and \$20.00 for blood samples.

A free blood draw will be held at the 2010 National for a limited number of dogs. All expenses, OFA fees, vet fees, and shipping and handling fees, will be paid. This will enable you to support bloodhound health research at no cost to you.