

Legg-Calve-Perthes Study: Update October 2009

The Legg-Calve-Perthes (LCP) study at Clemson University is preparing to run preliminary experiments. Thanks to all of the owners who have submitted samples. Thus far, we have received 32 Westie samples: 17 affected and 15 unaffected. We are still short of our minimal number of 20 affected and 20 unaffected, and are still actively recruiting samples from both affected and unaffected Westies.

The most important aspect of our work is the proper classification of dogs; this is achieved by radiographic examination of the hips. LCP causes structural changes in the hip(s) which can be observed throughout the dog's life. **We are finding a surprisingly high number of subclinical affected dogs**, or dogs that are affected with LCP, have classic lesions in the bone, but show no outward clinical signs (i.e., limping, lameness, pain, atrophy). Our grant submitted to the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation was approved; in it, we allotted funds for radiographic examination of hips for Westies. We will

begin collecting radiographs from the dogs already entered in the study and we can cover up to 15 additional dogs. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr. Alison Starr and follow the instructions provided on the Westie Foundation webpage for current research (www.westiefoundation.org/currentresearch/dna-lcp.htm).

We are moving forward with our genetic analyses of LCP. We have examined the only candidate gene for LCP and ruled it out as causing LCP in Westies. We are planning to complete a pilot study which will allow us to scan ~100,000 places in the genome for an association with LCP. This experiment will hopefully identify narrow regions of interest for us to further examine. We hope to have preliminary results available early 2010.

It was a pleasure meeting and talking to those of you attending the Centennial National Specialty in Lancaster and it was a pleasure to share the results of our research thus far. Thank you to all who attended our seminars!



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FOR THOSE WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT STUDY, FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE FOUND AT westiefoundation.org. CLICK ON THE LEGG-CALVE-PERTHES LINK IN THE SCROLLING BOX

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