

2015 National Specialty Clinic

The members of the health committee voted to provide DNA collection to be stored with CHIC/OFA for the purpose of supporting research. This decision was a departure from prior clinics when OFA testing was provided at a reduced fee for the participants with the results of the screening being sent to the owners and the owners paid for the clinic and OFA fees.

Since researchers prefer blood DNA to cheek swab DNA, we hosted a blood draw clinic. We thank Angela Aleksa, who did the blood draws and John Hanover, DVM who supplied the syringes needed for the blood draw. We also thank Eddie Dzuik, who took the samples back to OFA with him so we did not incur overnight shipping fees. We collected samples from 17 Pyrs and the cost of processing the samples was underwritten by the health committee. Owners of the dogs collected receive a certificate from OFA indicating that their Pyr has submitted DNA to the bank.

The following information was provided by Eddie Dzuik from OFA: "As of April, 2015 there were just over 150 Great Pyrenees samples in the DNA Bank. Samples in total represent over 150 different breeds. Over 3000 samples have been distributed to researchers. Institutions receiving CHIC DNA include: University of Missouri, University of California – Davis, University of Tennessee, Cornell University, Clemson University, North Carolina State University, Iowa State University, University of Buffalo, Animal Health Trust (United Kingdom), Van Andel Research Institute, Broad Institute (MIT/Harvard), University of Pennsylvania, University of Minnesota" (Source: CHIC – DNA Repository Fact Sheet).

Submitted by Flo Laicher