

**Registry helps pet owners find clinical trials for cancer treatment (U.S. News & World Report/HealthyDay News) 6/14**

A team of veterinarians and physicians have launched the National Veterinary Cancer Registry, a cancer registry developed to match owners of pets battling cancer with clinical trials that may benefit their pet. Such partnerships may speed up the development of life-saving therapies for humans in return, since many of the same cancers that affect cats and dogs affect people as well

*Comment: While very new, this registry has the potential to provide more help with treatment research by allowing the matching of affected pets with clinical treatment trials- very similar to CHIC's DNA bank matching DNA of affected dogs to genetic research studies (don't forget to have your dog's DNA banked!!) . SEM*

**Veterinarians to test contraceptive vaccine in wild dogs (USA Today/The Associated Press) 6/20 and Birth Control implants will curb dog populations in Labrador Innu communities (Canada.com) 6/7**

Two separate projects, one on two Western Native American reservations and one in several of Labrador's Innu communities, to reduce the population of stray and feral dogs are underway. Both involve the use of a contraceptive injection to prevent litters for 18 months. All dogs involved will also be microchipped and vaccinated. The dogs will be recaptured in about one year to study the response to the implant. These communities have a significant lack of veterinary services and pet overpopulation is a serious issue which also serves as a source of rabies. To curb the overpopulation problem, many stray dogs are shot; these projects are an effort to find a more humane solution.

*Comment: Recent similar studies using the same hormonal implant, GonaCon, in wild horses have not shown the desired lack of fertility hoped for. While I can appreciate the need for such a product for use in situations such as above , I still worry about the animal welfare extremists getting hold of this product and using it inappropriately(also seem my comment on the equine product in the Summer 2103 Newsletter). SEM*

**UNF Researchers Make Big Discovery About Lyme Disease (<http://news.wjct.org/post/unf-researchers-make-big-discovery-about-lyme-disease>)**

A University of North Florida associate professor of public health and his colleagues, have identifies two previously unknown Lyme disease bacteria, *Borrelia americana* and *Borrelia andersonii*, in symptomatic human patients in the Southeastern US. The lone star tick is thought to be possible to transmit these Lyme bacteria; this tick is not currently thought to transmit the classic Lyme disease caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi*. This finding may explain the "unreliability" of human Lyme tests.

*Comment: This is a very interesting human study. Whether these bacteria can cause Lyme disease in our dogs is yet to be determined as well as whether the current Lyme test will identify these infections or not and will the Lyme vaccine, that protects against B. borgdorferi, will provide cross protection. SEM*

## Research reveals dogs of the Americas (Discovery) 7/9

According to new research only Inuit sled dogs and other Alaskan breeds have American origins. Speculation is that these dogs probably migrated together with humans via the Bering Strait. The canines became Inuit sled dogs, the Greenland dog and the Eskimo dog, while the humans became today's Native Americans and Inuits. Results for the Alaskan Malamute were ambiguous.

Comment: *It's always interesting to know the origins of different breeds. SEM*

## Update: Discovery could make allergies to dog and cat dander a thing of the past (CBC News) 7/28

A new study by scientists at the University of Cambridge reveals how cat dander (and more than likely dog dander as well) causes allergies. The cat dander protein combines with a common bacterial toxin which then activates a receptor triggering the allergic reaction. Not only was the mechanism of cat allergies found but it also identified the part of the immune system affected. This finding may lead the way to better treatments to treat allergies to cats, and possibly to treat allergies to dogs and house dust mites as well.

Comment: *This research finding may also help develop treatments for dogs and cats suffering from allergies as well if the same allergic mechanism is found in our pets. SEM*

## Research Study Notes:

### Corneal Dystrophy Research

Eye exams (at no charge) and DNA collection for this study will be being performed at this year's National. Please see information elsewhere in the Newsletter for complete information about this study and how to participate.

### Cleft Palate Research

Breeders and owners of dogs affected by cleft palate and/or cleft lip defects may contribute DNA samples to help research of the disorder. Contact Zena Wolf, a graduate student researcher at Univ. of Calif.-Davis at [ztwolf@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ztwolf@ucdavis.edu) for more information

### Hemangiosarcoma Research

Breeders and owners of dogs affected by hemangiosarcoma can contribute blood and tissue samples to help research of the disease. Owners should contact the Breen laboratory at [info@BreenLab.org](mailto:info@BreenLab.org) prior to having samples sent. Hemangiosarcoma samples can be shipped directly to the Van Andel Institute – instructions for veterinarians on sample collection, info, and consent forms for owners can be found at [www.vai.org/helpingdogs](http://www.vai.org/helpingdogs)