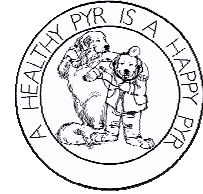




GPCA Health Committee



CHF Grant (s) Description: 2009/10
Supported & Funded by the GPCA

The GPCA Health Committee and Board of Directors have approved the support of three studies through the AKC Health Foundation (CHF). One is studying a adjuvant treatment for canine osteosarcoma and two are investigating aspects of hemangiosarcoma in canines.

The first study (Grant # 00982), "Evaluation of Efficacy of Fasaret in Dogs with Osteosarcoma" seeks to find an adjunct treatment to standard therapy for osteosarcoma in canines which has been largely unsuccessful with less than 20percent of dogs surviving more than 2 years from diagnosis. A new gene-based therapy has been developed that has shown promise in laboratory animals (mice) protecting them from tumor challenges that would otherwise be lethal. This study will evaluate if Fasaret, the therapeutic agent, will safely and effectively activate the immune system to recognize and kill the tumor cells in affected dogs as it has in mice. The study will evaluate if Fasaret can be administered safely as an addition to standard care for dogs with bone cancer. Quality of life, overall survival and side effects will be part of the evaluation to define the safety and efficacy of this adjunct therapy. The research is being conducted by Dr. Don Bellgrau, PhD., with ApopLogic Pharmaceuticals, LLC.

Our funding of this study will be \$2,500.00.

The second study (Grant # 01139), "Immune Targeting of Canine Hemangiosarcoma Using a Canine Derived Single Chain Antibody Approach" seeks to find a novel approach to the treatment of hemangiosarcoma. Most dogs with canine hemangiosarcoma have evidence of metastatic disease at time of diagnosis and rarely exceed 6 months survival. Using advanced molecular techniques, it is the aim of this research to use a novel canine synthetic antibody system to specifically target the tumor and deliver cytotoxic agents directly to both primary and metastatic lesions. This work hopes to develop the first canine-derived, tumor-specific targeted approach to the treatment of hemangiosarcoma that will result in decreased side effects and increased therapeutic efficacy. It may also provide a proof-of-principle for a similar approach to many other tumor types in this species in vivo. The primary investigator of this study is being conducted by Dr. Nicola Mason, PhD, at the University of Pennsylvania - School of Veterinary Medicine.

Our funding of this study will be \$2,500.00

The third study (Grant #01355-A), "Expression of Vascular Endothelial Markers in Canine Hemangiosarcoma and their use in Diagnostic Cytology Using Immunocytochemistry", addresses the diagnostic challenges for suspected hemangiosarcoma in deep tissue or organs. Canine hemangiosarcomas occurring in locations other than the skin have a poor prognosis and require aggressive treatment. Diagnosis is most often pursued by surgical biopsy due to the need for adequate tissue sample but this carries many risks. Fine needle aspiration is much safer but the diagnosis is more difficult using this method due to the sample size and the similar appearance microscopically to other cancerous cells. The goal of this study is to identify a special cell marker which will differentiate the hemangiosarcoma cells from that of similar cancers. This will allow canine hemangiosarcoma to be diagnosed more reliably through the use of fine needle aspiration and avoid costly and invasive surgery. The primary investigator of this research is Dr. Kimberly Weber, DVM, at the University of Illinois.

Our funding of this study will be \$500.00

Currently, no samples from Great Pyrenees are being requested for any of the above studies. These are single year studies for our purpose, no further financial commitment other than that stated above is required.

All of the above will be funded with half coming directly from Health Committee funds donated by members & held by the GPCA and half coming from the GPCA donor-advised funds held by the Canine Health Foundation, which is funded by donations made by Purina through the Purina Parent Club Program via our members sending in weight circles from Purina Pro Plan foods. FMI on this program go to purinappcp@purina.com