Great Pyrenees Club of America’s

2006 Health Survey Results

The GPCA, as a part of its concern for the health of the breed, conducts an on-going health survey. In February of 2006, the Health Committee made a revision to the original survey with the hope that it would increase GPCA Membership participation. The Health Committee addressed two areas that members expressed concern – “confidentiality” and “length”.

Confidentiality: Page 1 of the Health Survey consists of ownership information. This information is kept only with an Independent Tabulator (under contract with the GPCA).

Length: Page 2, which contains only the health information on the dog, is then mailed to the Health Survey Database Manager.

2006 Distribution: To help increase participation, the Health Survey was distributed through the following avenues in 2006: New Titleholders; New Members; National Rescue Packet, Affiliated Club Representative for health, a one time printing in the GPCA Bulletin, available from the HC Table at 2006 GPCA National, inclusive in the HC Annual Meeting packs, and is available for downloading on the GPCA Health Website.

Result: The Independent Tabulator reported that a total of 70 Health Surveys were received. 43 Owners participated in completing the Survey.

Through all these efforts we felt it necessary to report and submit the results for the period of 2/2006 through 12/2006. We will continue to report “annually” to monitor the health as well as track the success of distribution. It is important to understand that a compilation over a period of years is necessary to be to identify what is a health concern vs. a trend.

In the area of “Cause of Death” and “Disorders” you will note that “Down In The Rear” has a high incidence. Therefore, the Health Committee has determined that more education on disorders, such as degenerative myelopathy, (which can cause this) be provided.

In some instances results are broken down by Origin (where the dogs are from), gender and Intact vs. Neutered/Spayed. In areas such as “overall health”, “overall temperament”, and testing, where options for combination responses were given, we have simplified it (due to space in the Bulletin) and are submitting an “Overall” for each. A full detailed report is available online at www.gpcahealth.org.
## 2006 GPCA Health Survey Summary

Prepared and submitted by Dianne Migas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Received</th>
<th>70</th>
<th>Alive - 49</th>
<th>Deceased - 21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Males</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intact</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutered</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Females</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intact</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spayed</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Submission: Origin / Distribution**

Codes: MI-Male Intact / MN-Male Neutered  FI-Female Intact / FS-Female Spayed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>GPCA Bred 45</th>
<th>Non GPCA Member</th>
<th>Rescue 13</th>
<th>Other 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Member</td>
<td>New Titleholder</td>
<td>General Member</td>
<td>Other / Not Indicated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FI</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FI</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| MI                      | 0            | 0               |            |         |
| MN                      | 8            | 8               |            |         |
| FI                      | 1            | 1               |            |         |
| FS                      | 4            | 4               |            |         |
Overall Health – The overall health are of our breed for this period is “Excellent”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Males Intact</th>
<th>Males Neutered</th>
<th>Females Intact</th>
<th>Females Spayed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Temperament – The overall temperament of our breed for this period is “Confident”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperament</th>
<th>Males Intact</th>
<th>Males Neutered</th>
<th>Females Intact</th>
<th>Females Spayed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Shy/Timid</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timid/Protective</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserved</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Res./Confident</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Res./Conf./Protective</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserved/Protective</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confident</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confident/Protective</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggression/Humans</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cause of Death / Origin / Average Age

Causes of Death and Disorders reported were high in various forms of Cancer. Osteosarcoma being the highest reported for this period. Hemangiosarcoma coming in second. It is safe to assume that Cancer is NOT a trend but indeed a problem in the Breed as it is with many breeds.

The GPCA co-funds an Osteosarcoma Grant which has been extended for an additional year without additional funding. In addition to the Osteosarcoma Grant, we have been encouraging our members to “participate” in the Dog Genome Project with the Broad Institute, which covers various forms of cancer. We ask that you if you have a dog who is diagnosed with Cancer that you please help the breed and participate.

*Note: Over the years we have been able to identify that Osteosarcoma is a problem in the Breed through the results of Surveys. This allowed us to conclude that we needed to participate in research and/or Grant. This is exactly one of the benefits and purposes of having Health Surveys.

Other causes of death were “age related”, with “down in the rear” being the most common.

The overall cause of death is technically “Euthanized”, due to disease and / or age. Out of the 70 surveys received, a total of 21 dogs/bitches were deceased. No “Intact” females were reported as deceased.

The TWO Leading Causes of Death are:

“Cancer” with a total of 9 and 1 No Diagnosis Given. Forms of Cancer, Osteosarcoma (5) has the highest incidence, Hemangiosarcoma (2), Mouth (1) and Jaw Bone (1) Males Neutered had 4 Incidences, Osteosarcoma (2), Hemangiosarcoma (1), Jaw Bone (1), and No diagnosis given (1).
No Intact Males reported cause of death due to Cancer. Females Spayed had 5 Incidences, Osteosarcoma (3), Hemangiosarcoma (1), and Mouth (1). No Intact Females reported “deceased”.

Average Age of Death due to Cancer is 8 years old.


Average Age of Death due to Age Related is 13 years old

Other causes of Death reported - Spondolyosis (1) 8 years, Seizures (due to Liver Shunt Malfunction) (1) 4 years old.

Overall Average Age at Death is 10.5 (note; GPCA Bred dogs had the highest Average Age of 11)

Overall Males Average Age - 10.75
MI – 13 MN – 8.5

Overall Females Average Age – 10.5
FI – 0 FS – 10.5

Disorders - Out of the 70 Survey’s received, 40 Disorders were reported.

Disorders – 46 out of 70 dogs were reported to have one or multiple disorders, with a total of 40 different disorders (note; Deceased dogs where owner indicated are also factored in). Musculoskeletal had a total of 17 various disorders, ranging from a high incidence of Spondolosysis and a low incidence of Hip Dysplasia.

Cancer was next with various forms, Osteosarcoma having the highest with Hemangiosarcoma following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allergy</th>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FS GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Skin (DX not given)</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Allergy</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autoimmune</th>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FS GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Addisons</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS Rescue</td>
<td>Addisons</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Auto.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood Lymphatic</th>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total B/L</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer</th>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FI GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Inflammatory Breast Carcinoma</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FI GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Subcutaneous Lymph Carcinoma</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS Rescue</td>
<td>Hemangiosarcoma</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS Rescue</td>
<td>Mouth</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS Non-GPCA</td>
<td>Osteosarcoma</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS Other</td>
<td>Osteosarcoma</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS Rescue</td>
<td>Osteosarcoma</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorder</td>
<td>Age of Onset</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous Basal Cell Tumor on Neck</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemangiosarcoma</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaw Bone</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Indicated</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteosarcoma</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteosarcoma</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteosarcoma (Dog not Deceased)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Cancer:** 14

### Dentition/Oral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blocked Salivary Gland (surgery)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Dentition/Oral:** 1

### Ears

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deafness</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Ears:** 1

### Eyes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cataract</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distichiasis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipid Deposit OD</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Eyes:** 3

### Endocrine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hypothyroid (not AutoImmune - MSU DX)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothyroid</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Endocrine:** 2

### Gastrointestinal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.B.S.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Gastro:** 1

### Kidney

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Indicated</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Kidney:** 1

### Musculoskeletal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spondolosysis</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADL - due to Injury</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spondolosysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip Dysplasia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxating Patellas</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLD Rt. Elbow due to Trauma</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spondylosis</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Musculoskeletal:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>Non-GPCA</td>
<td>Hepatic Encephalopathy</td>
<td>10 Wks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Neurological** 1

### Reproductive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Enlarged Prostate</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Monochroid</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Pyometra</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Uterine Inertia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Uterine Inertia</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Reproductive** 5

### Skin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Seborrhea</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Chronic Hot Spots</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Seborrhea</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>Rescue</td>
<td>Currently Working Up</td>
<td>11 Mo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Skin** 4

### Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Age of Onset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>GPCA Bred</td>
<td>Prepuce Discharge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>Non-GPCA</td>
<td>Protosystemic Liver Shunt</td>
<td>2 Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>Rescue</td>
<td>Valley Fever</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>Rescue</td>
<td>Seizures (Cause not indicated for duration of 1 yr)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Other** 4

---

**Testing** – Total of 28 Dogs/Bitches reported to have tested. 13 Males and 15 Females. All dogs that were bred and had litters were tested for at least hips.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Males Intact</th>
<th>Males Neutered</th>
<th>Females Intact</th>
<th>Females Spayed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAER</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERF</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hips (OFA/Penn Hip)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elbows (OFA)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>CHIC Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulders/OCD (OFA)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patella (OFA)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autoimmune Thyroiditis (OFA)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIC Number</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>