

PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation

Letter from the President



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The mission of the Health & Rescue Foundation is to promote the welfare of the breed by providing funding for research, education, and rescue.

Canine Genetics Centre

In 2015, the laboratory of Dr. Cathryn Mellersh identified the genetic mutation that leads to primary open angle glaucoma in PBGVs. This discovery changed the course of history for our beloved hounds.

The finding was made possible by the dedication and expertise of Dr. Mellersh's group. But it was also made possible by the Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of Great Britain, the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America, and the PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation. Our blood collection drives were instrumental in helping the Mellersh lab make their discovery. Glaucoma is no longer a major threat to PBGVs thanks to their work, the subsequent genetic test, and the advice we received from many canine geneticists.

Now Dr. Mellersh needs our help.

Dr. Mellersh heads the Canine Genetics Centre at the University of Cambridge, UK. Sadly, they are facing a funding gap that jeopardizes their ability to continue their work. While they are actively working to secure stable funding, they sent out a call for help – and we responded.

The Health & Rescue Foundation joined the Basset Griffon Vendéen Club and over 50 (as of March 1) other breed clubs and societies in pledging a donation to the Centre.

Our pledge is an investment in the PBGV's future. Among other research initiatives, the Canine Genetic Centre is striving to identify the genetic variants associated with the development of idiopathic epilepsy. We are fortunate that the PBGV is a relatively healthy breed, but epilepsy is a health concern in the PBGV. It is critical that this work continues.

The goal of the Canine Genetic Centre is "to understand the genetic basis of inherited diseases in dogs and to develop DNA tests which, together with breeding advice, will improve the health and welfare of generations of dogs." We are grateful for Dr. Mellersh's dedication to canine health. Her past work improved PBGV health and we support her future work with confidence.

Our work is made possible by the generosity of our donors. Thank you!

<https://pbgvhrf.org/donate>

