

PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation

Minutes February 1, 2023

Present: Donna Bruce, Bob Cohen, Karen Clugston, Kevin Curran, Jo Anne Hacker, Helen Ingher, Laura Liscum, Jill Otto, Gisele Romanace, Sue Smyth

Absent: none

Guest: Veronica Scheer

President's Report-Laura called the meeting to order at 7:02. Executive session.

Vice President's Report- Jill-NNTR

Secretary's Report- Karen moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Jill seconded. All voted in favor. Letters of Intent due: Bob, Laura & Gisele

Treasurer's Report- Jo Anne reporting: As of 2/2/2023 the Foundation has \$809.90 in our checking account and \$93,649.62 in our Money Market account for a total at TD Bank of \$94,459.52. We have \$.64 in PayPal.

Amazon Smile announced they will wind down their Charitable Program which served thousands of small non profits to make way for them to "make meaningful change" (thereby insulting all the thousands of nonprofits who have been part of this program). This will take effect on February 20, 2023. The Foundation will receive a one time "its over" donation equivalent to three months of what was paid out in 2022.

The Foundation Treasurer was informally notified that the late Jerry Faust left a bequest of \$32,000.00 to the Health and Rescue Foundation. The Foundation is forever grateful for this generous gift from Laura's husband.

Committee Reports

A. **Health/Education/Research-**Helen & Laura reporting: SRMA request for DNA- Helen spoke with The Kennel Club Genetics Centre (headed by Dr. Cathryn Mellersh). They are collecting cheek swabs from affected dogs to continue research on SRMA. The tests are free. This will be announced in Saber Tails, on the Foundation website & on FaceBook (see flyer below). Laura sent Dr. Jerry Bell's article about the AKC repro bank to Foundation members to review. Contact Laura or Helen if you have questions about the article. Laura will also post it on the club website and will write a synopsis for Saber Tails. In the past we have paid part of the cost of an ophthalmologist's examination at \$50/dog for full PBGVCA members and \$25/dog for associate members. Karen moved to continue to offer this reimbursement during 2023. Helen seconded. All voted in favor. Some basset hounds with epilepsy have been diagnosed with Lafora Disease. BHCA offered free tested at their 2022 national; over 1,000 samples have been collected so far. Many bassets were found to be carriers!

B. **Policy and Procedures-**Bob and Sue: NNTR

C. **Rescue-**Sue reporting: This report is also about what Rescue is not doing: Sandy was notified by a basset rescue group that PBGVs, Grands & Bassets were being sold at an auction in Missouri. The basset rescue group paid \$300 at the auction for a PBGV puppy & placed it in a foster home. A local vet tech adopted the puppy. Sandy has been in touch with the vet tech and has offered to help her by answering

questions about PBGVs. The basset rescue group was told the Puppy Mill breeder who submits these 3 breeds to the auction was ill and had adults for sale. Sandy contacted the breeder (Mrs. Smith) and offered to take the PBGVs & place them in homes. Mrs. Smith said she had plenty of kennel help so she could continue to breed even if she was sick and we could buy her current PBGV puppies for \$1,000 each. Sandy said that PBGV Rescue does not purchase PBGVs. Sandy offered to take the adult PBGVs saying we would do all necessary vet care then find homes for them. Mrs. Smith said she already had someone coming to purchase them.

- D. **Social Media**-Gisele will be posting a number of items including documents from a North Carolina Vet School.
- E. **Saber Tails**-Helen and Laura reporting: the fall issue was delayed. The next issue will include articles on POAG and CHF grants the Foundation has funded. Laura will write a synopsis of Dr. Bell's article, an article about the SMRA cheek swab collection for affected PBGVs, and our eye reimbursement program.

Old Business

a. **Activities at the 2023 PBGVCA National Specialty**

1. **Health Speaker-Dr. Sarah Hamer** (estimated expenses: 1 night hotel, mileage/ 400 miles, \$260 meals, honorarium \$500). Helen moved to fund the speaker up to \$1,000. Jill seconded. All voted in favor.
2. **Clinic**- none at this specialty
3. **Catalog ad** in the Nationals catalog (Jo Anne will list our 2022 donors)
4. **Items for 100 Welcome Bags**-pens, a flyer, toothbrushes(?)
5. **Pet Oxygen Masks**-Kevin will look for a local group to make a donation
6. **Foundation Ambassadors**- available to answer questions at the National

New Business

- a. **Pedigree Database-Veronica reporting:** she started a PBGV pedigree database in 2005. In 2015 a professional programmer was brought onboard. The database contains 8,000 PBGVs, 69 kennels, 136 clinical reports, etc. It is International. All health records are vetted. Recommended upgrading to a genetic reporting system to analyze reports. Will the Foundation consider funding the annual maintenance for the database at approximately \$2,500/year and the cost of upgrades? A commercial database is not the way to go because commercial databases are proprietary and for profit and will never release the information for the purposes of scientific study such as might be required should we have another POAG type of emergency. An upgrade could cost \$10,000. Veronica suggested adding a coefficient of breeding calculator to the database. Donna volunteered to work with Veronica in order for the Foundation to take over the database if PBGVCA agrees to relinquish it to the Foundation. Donna will present a plan of action at our next meeting. Veronica will offer suggestions to the PBGVCA Board at their next meeting. Helen suggested looking at the Berner-Garde Foundation and its database which allows owners to submit/update information and allows breeders to carry out test matings.

b. **2024 National in Ohio**-need ideas for a health seminar Attendees in Kerrville will be surveyed to determine interest in seminar topics.

Helen moved to adjourn at 8:33.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Sue Smyth, Secretary
STERIOD RESPONSIVE MENINGITIS ARTERITIS (SRMA)

Steroid responsive meningitis arteritis, also known to us as neck pain or aseptic meningitis is an inflammatory disease of the central nervous system in young dogs. PBGV owners in the US have been aware of the condition in PBGV since the 1990's.

In the PBGV, SRMA is described by owners as a painful condition of the neck and body, with lethargy and possible fever. The condition usually affects young PBGV and cases up to two years of age have been reported. Veterinarians recommended treatment includes steroids such as prednisone with additional medications as needed. Patients are slowly weaned from medications. Inadequate treatment may lead to relapses and a chronic form of the disease. At this time no genetic predisposition has been recognized, but it is ill-advised for any affected PBGV to be used in breeding.

This disease impacts the quality of life of affected dogs and their owners. A better understanding of SRMA is needed. With this in mind, the BGV Club in the UK has arranged for The Kennel Club Canine Genetics Centre in Cambridge to collect DNA of PBGV affected with SRMA in the US..

To request a DNA swab kit, contact:

Fiona Buchanan at tarmachangbgv@gmail.com who will arrange for a DNA kit to be sent directly to you. A five generation pedigree and veterinarian report will need to accompany the DNA swab. There is no charge for this collection and your details will remain confidential.

Helen Ingher, Chairman

Health Committee

PBGVCA

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