

# PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation 2023 Annual Report



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

## HEALTH and RESEARCH

We are so fortunate that the PBGV is a very healthy breed. Primary open angle glaucoma is no longer a major threat to our hounds, but regular eye care is still important. The Foundation has fully funded all eye exams by Dr. Greentree at the National Specialty.

For those PBGVs who are not with us in Ohio, we extended the eye exam reimbursement program through 2024. This program encourages owners to have their PBGVs examined by a local veterinary ophthalmologist and submit the test results to the open PBGV pedigree database.

It is thanks to Dr. Cathryn Mellersh that we have a DNA test for primary open angle glaucoma in the PBGV. Her research (and our blood collection drives) changed the course of history for our beloved hounds. Currently, Dr. Mellersh heads the Canine Genetic Centre at the University of Cambridge, UK, where they are striving to identify the genetic variants associated with the development of idiopathic epilepsy. Sadly, they are experiencing a major funding gap that threatens to shut the Centre down. Epilepsy is a health concern in the PBGV. Thus, the Foundation has joined over 50 other breed clubs in pledging a donation to the Canine Genetics Centre to keep their work going while they work to secure stable funding.

As always, the Foundation has teamed with PBGVCA to make a contribution to the city that hosts the National Specialty. In 2024, our donation will supply both the Wilmington and Fort William Liberty Township fire departments with pet oxygen masks.

## EDUCATION

A critical aspect of maintaining the breed's health is to educate breeders and owners on health issues relevant to the PBGV. The Foundation has sponsored a health seminar by Dr. Marty Greer, who will speak on neonatal care, artificial insemination, and the AKC

Purebred Preservation Bank.

## RESCUE

Nothing is more important than the work of the PBGVCA Rescue Committee. The Rescue Committee acts quickly when they hear of a PBGV that is endangered due to owner's illness or financial difficulties. The Foundation pays all approved expenses for the rescue, rehabilitation, and placement of purebred PBGVs.

## THANK YOU

You are the Foundation. Your donations allow the Foundation to support its mission. We are very fortunate that the PBGV community is dedicated to the breed and donates to the Foundation to honor them. In addition to monetary donations, we accrue funds through bequests.

### Balance in Accounts 12/31/2023

Restricted – Rescue	\$ 11,021.32
Restricted – Health	\$ 3,024.50
Restricted - Breed Preservation	\$ 9,991.53
Unrestricted	\$ 109,354.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 133,391.44</b>

We want to hear from YOU! What are your needs that fit within our mission?

**Sneak preview of a new initiative** – I am in discussions with a well-regarded veterinary neurologist who would like to carry out a survey to do the following:

- determine the prevalence of idiopathic epilepsy in PBGVs,
- document the clinical characteristics of seizures in PBGVs, and
- evaluate its heritability.

DNA will be collected from affected PBGVs via cheek swabs; this will be crucial for future work to uncover the genetic basis for the disease. The proposed study will be vetted by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, which will oversee the project for us. Only the clinical team will know the identities of affected PBGVs, not Foundation or Club members.

The only published survey of idiopathic epilepsy prevalence in PBGVs comes from Denmark. There, 8.9% of PBGVs are affected. Here in North America, it will be less, but it is a diagnosis that is devastating for affected dogs and their owners. So please participate in the survey.

We thank you for making our goals possible.

