

# PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation 2021 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 and rescue activities.*

## HEALTH and RESEARCH

We are fortunate that the PBGV is a very healthy breed. A critical aspect of maintaining the breed's health is to educate breeders and owners on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of health issues relevant to the PBGV. Here, we partner with the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF). The following AKC CHF grants were sponsored by the Foundation in 2021:

CHF 02809: Microbial and cytokine signatures of **periodontitis** in dogs  
Dr. Santiago Peralta, DVM; Cornell University

CHF 02931: Assessment of frequency of seizures and antiseizure drug efficacy by electroencephalography for dogs with **epilepsy**  
Dr. Fiona M.K. James, DVM, MS; University of Guelph

CHF 02861-A: Cardiovascular complications of acute **pancreatitis** in dogs  
Dr. Harry Cridge, MVB, MS; Michigan State University

CHF 02875: Canine pituitary adenoma organoids as an *in vitro* model for canine **Cushing's disease**  
Dr. Karin K. Sanders, DVM, PhD; Utrecht University

CHF 02851-A: Development of regional anesthesia techniques to treat chronic **painful** conditions of the stifle and elbow in dogs  
Dr. Diego A. Portela, DVM, PhD; University of Florida

CHF 02850-A: Potential reduction of systemic and pancreatic inflammation using fenofibrate in **diabetic** dogs  
Dr. Chen Gilor; University of Florida

CHF 02930: A dose finding study of cannabidiol in dogs with idiopathic **epilepsy**  
Dr. Stephanie McGrath, DVM, MS; Colorado State University

CHF 02899: How do maternal, environmental, and genetic factors contribute to acquisition and evolution of the enteric **microbiome** in dogs?  
Dr. David A Williams, PhD; University of Illinois

CHF 02829: Investigating the potential of phage therapy to tackle *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* **infections** in dogs  
Dr. Gavin K Paterson, PhD; R(D)SVS and Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh

CHF 02880: Enhanced surgical margin imaging with polarization-sensitive optical coherence tomography in canine soft tissue sarcoma and mammary **tumors**

Dr. Laura E. Semic, BVetMed, MPH; The Ohio State University

We extended the eye exam reimbursement program through 2022. This program encourages owners to have their PBGVs examined by a veterinary ophthalmologist and submit the test results to the open PBGV pedigree database.

As always, the Foundation teamed with PBGVCA to make a contribution to the city that hosts the National Specialty. This year, 17 pet oxygen masks were donated to the St. Louis Fire Department.

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## EDUCATION

In August, the AKC CHF held the **2021 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference**. Participants included representatives from AKC parent clubs and foundations, veterinarians, veterinary students from across the US, AKC Board members and staff, and animal health company representatives. Usually, the 3-day conference is held 'face-to-face' in St. Louis, MO; however, this year the conference was held virtually so that participants did not have to travel and risk exposure to COVID-19. This meant that several Foundation Board members were able to view the presentations. A report on select presentations was published in *Saber Tails*.

Over the past year, I have collected data on **PBGV litter size** from breeders in the US, using the Pedigree Database as a starting point. The reasons for this analysis were threefold:

- There are data from other breeds indicating that litter size declines as the breeds genetic diversity decreases (and coefficient of inbreeding increases).
- Anecdotally, many people claim that PBGV litter size is declining.
- Data from the AKC indicate that in the past decade the number of PBGVs registered has gone down more sharply than the number of litters. This could mean that there are fewer pups per litter or that fewer pups are being registered.

I analyzed the litter size for years 2009, 2020, 2017, and 2018. Here is what I found.

In 2009, for 14 litters the average number of pups was  $5.1 \pm 1.7$ . Most common were litters with 5 pups.

In 2010, for 20 litters the average number of pups was  $4.4 \pm 2.0$ . Most common were litters with 6 pups.

In 2017, for 12 litters the average number of pups was  $4.5 \pm 1.8$ . Most common were litters with 4 pups.

In 2018, for 18 litters the average number of pups was  $4.6 \pm 1.5$ . Most common were litters with 5 pups.

Thus, there was no discernable decline in litter size over that time period. A canine population geneticist I consulted said that litter size likely declined well before the time period I tested. Unfortunately, it is difficult to get complete data for litters in earlier decades.

p.s. The award for biggest litter in those four years goes to Karen Clugston for a January 2009 litter with 9 pups!

## 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. Thankfully, in 2021, the Rescue Committee was able to provide care for PBGVs in need without incurring expenses.

## THANK YOU

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, matched donations, and Amazon Smile. We thank you for making our goals possible.

