

GRF sponsored DNA collection

Beginning in 2005, at the GRCA National Specialty, in Gettysburg, the GRF has sponsored DNA collections clinics at the National Specialties. We also support individual clubs who wish to run a DNA "Mass Collection Clinic" at one of their local events.

The blood collected, or occasionally cheek swabs, is sent to 2 locations. One is the OFA-CHIC DNA bank located at the University of Missouri. The samples are used to supply researchers with DNA, so they do not have to spend the time and effort to do their own sample collection. There is a fee for submission to this "bank". GRF will pay the submission fee for Golden Retrievers collected at a "mass collection clinic" Our goal is to have 4,000 unique samples in the "bank" So far we have almost 2,000 and the largest representation of any AKC breed.

The other portion of the blood/DNA is sent to The Broad Institute. (long 0000 in Broad) The Broad is part of MIT, (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and a member of the Canine Cancer Consortium. The members of this group have banded together to share samples, technology and ideas to fight the battle against cancer in dogs. The samples we send are accepted at no charge, and shared with other researchers.

The histories and pedigrees supplied to the researchers are used to enable them to trace family units and help determine the hereditary characteristics of the disease or disorder being studied.

The samples have been used not only in cancer research, but orthopedic disorders as well. The researchers do not use the samples to find out which animals are affected, but rather to determine if there is a way to screen dogs for a specific disease or disorder, or develop tests that can give us more information about response to chemo-therapy, for example.

The researchers are **NOT** going to notify the donors that their dog has "X" Cancer , or even if their dog is more susceptible to developing cancer. That is not what this initiative is all about. It's about supplying the researchers with samples to help keep the research going. The ultimate goal is to find the cause, ways to diagnose, prognosticate and treat these awful hereditary problems.

