



## Rottweiler Health Foundation, Inc.

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Familial Sub-Aortic Stenosis (SAS) Study Approved – More Samples Desperately Needed**

*September 18, 2009* - The Rottweiler Health Foundation is excited about upcoming research managed by well-known canine cardiologist and sub-aortic stenosis (SAS) researcher Kate Meurs, DVM, assisted by resident cardiologist Josh Stern, DVM. Dr. Meurs is about to initiate a new research study in November targeted at familial SAS discovery. This study will identify the genetic marker of SAS, eventually allowing for the development of the first SAS genetic test.

Many Rottweiler owners have already responded to the call for samples, but the study is still in need of more blood DNA samples from both SAS-cleared and SAS-affected dogs. This particular research will involve a laboratory array of SAS-clear and SAS-affected submitted samples. The start date is November, 2009 – so we are requesting Rottweiler owners to seriously consider offering their part to this important study. If you have already tested your dog via a canine cardiologist using Doppler, or if you are considering testing your dog, Dr. Meurs research team could use your dog's blood DNA sample. Please see the following document for blood submission instructions.

Your effort to submit a sample for the Familial Sub-Aortic Stenosis Study will offer a piece of the puzzle to SAS inherited distinction; and ultimately will help both the Rottweiler and their breeders. Many thanks for your consideration in support of this valuable research.

Contact either:

Liz Wertz  
President, Rottweiler Health Foundation  
[admin@rottweilerhealth.org](mailto:admin@rottweilerhealth.org)

Donna Banker Rice  
Secretary, Rottweiler Health Foundation  
[dbr0803@bellsouth.net](mailto:dbr0803@bellsouth.net)

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The Rottweiler Health Foundation encourages your participation in the:

## **Rottweiler Familial Subaortic Stenosis Study**

Principal Research Investigator: Kathryn Meurs, DVM

Assistant: Dr. Josh Stern, Resident Cardiologist

### **FALL, 2009 UPDATE ON FAMILIAL SUBAORTIC STENOSIS STUDY STATUS** **\* URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SAMPLES TO IMPROVE STUDY RESULTS \***

To make it easier for people to participate, Dr. Josh Stern will be expanding the SAS studies. Dr. Stern is a cardiology resident who is working on a PhD specifically in the area of inherited aortic stenosis. He is really enthusiastic about the Rottweiler project and is very happy to be of assistance to anyone who has questions or concerns about the study! We will be working together on the study and Dr. Stern will be specifically focusing on SAS in the Rottweiler and Golden Retriever on a daily basis. We are very hopeful that by having him so focused on this project will really help move our understanding of SAS along!

He has updated the web site <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/deptsVCGL/Rottweiler/index.aspx> and has offered to be available to answer any questions about the studies: [Jstern@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:Jstern@vetmed.wsu.edu)

Thank you! Kate Meurs, DVM

**We are currently looking for DNA samples from Rottweilers with a diagnosis of Subvalvular aortic stenosis (diagnosed by Doppler echocardiogram) or proven clear of Subvalvular aortic stenosis (as cleared by a cardiologist) to advance our study to identify a gene for the disease.**

- For the technique to work well, we need DNA samples from 20-30 affected dogs and 20-30 clear dogs
- **Please return the form on Page 2 with your sample and mail to:**

**VCGL – WSU  
Post Office Box 605  
Pullman, WA 99163-0605**

### **Sample collection**

Please ask your veterinarian or a veterinary technician to pull a blood sample into an **EDTA** tube. Most veterinary hospitals have these readily available.

1. Blood drawn into a Standard EDTA Tube does not need to be refrigerated.
2. Blood draw volume should be 1 to 2 ml, if possible.
3. Please label tube well, with dog's call name and family last name and send the samples to our lab via the address above.

Blood drawn does not need to be mailed back with ice packs or be shipped overnight. However, if possible please try to send the sample within a few days by standard mail. Until the blood can be mailed, it is a good idea to refrigerate it (i.e., if the blood was drawn late Saturday and cannot be mailed until Monday, it's a good idea to refrigerate it between Saturday and Monday).

### **Questions?**

Dr. Joshua Stern, Washington State University  
Email: [jstern@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:jstern@vetmed.wsu.edu) Phone: 614.390.1516 (or)  
Kathryn Meurs, DVM, Washington State University  
Email: [meurs@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:meurs@vetmed.wsu.edu) Phone: 509.335.6038

Please visit the Familial SAS Study web site at:  
<http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/deptsVCGL/Rottweiler/index.aspx>



The Rottweiler Health Foundation encourages your participation in the:

## **Rottweiler Familial Subaortic Stenosis Study**

Principal Research Investigator: Kathryn Meurs, DVM

Assistant: Dr. Josh Stern, Resident Cardiologist

**Please return this form to: VCGL – WSU Post Office Box 605 Pullman, WA 99163-0605**

**Dog Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Birthdate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a xerox copy of a pedigree and any echocardiogram information. All individual dog test results and information will remain strictly confidential for the purpose of Dr. Meurs study only.**

Comments (*optional*):

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### **Questions?**

Dr. Joshua Stern, Washington State University  
Email: [jstern@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:jstern@vetmed.wsu.edu) Phone: 614.390.1516 (or)

Kathryn Meurs, DVM, Washington State University  
Email: [meurs@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:meurs@vetmed.wsu.edu) Phone: 509.335.6038

Please visit the Familial SAS Research Study web site at:  
<http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/deptsVCGL/Rottweiler/index.aspx>

***Thank you very much for your participation in the study!***