Dear Palm Beach Vet Society Members,

I hope that 2017 is finding each of you well. We have a great year of interesting continuing education lectures planned for you. We hope that you will find them very informative. Our upcoming lecture topics can be found on our website at www.pbvs.info/events. As always, we are looking for interesting topics and engaging speakers to bring to the meeting. So, if you have any ideas please share them with us.

Our spring social event will be Sunday March 26th at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches. We will be watching the Houston Astros take on the Washington Nationals, in a newly constructed stadium build just for spring training. This event is open to all veterinarians, hospital staff members and their families. We encourage everyone to come out and have a great time. Group tickets are $24 per person and can be purchased on our website at www.pbvs.events/springsocial.

As always, we would like to thank our new members for joining and welcome back friends that we have not seen in a while. If you have a friend or colleague who is not currently a member of the Palm Beach Vet Society, please invite them to join.

See you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,

Steve Simmons, DVM
President
Palm Beach Veterinary Society, Inc.

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For more information about membership please contact: Dr. Leanne Browne-Feldman at secretary@pbvs.info To advertise in this newsletter, please contact Dr. Randy Dugal at rsddugal@yahoo.com

Editorial Guidelines:
Letters and articles are welcomed. All submissions must be signed and author’s name will be published. Please submit entries via e-mail by the first of the month prior to the publication date to rsddugal@yahoo.com.

Ad Guidelines:
Please send to rsddugal@yahoo.com 30 days prior to publishing and payment to Dr. Scott Miller Display ads should be submitted in high resolution (300 dpi) .jpeg, .psd or .pdf format.

Join Us Today and Become A Member!
Thank you for taking an interest in our organization. At Palm Beach Veterinary Society, we strive to help and unite veterinarians who are dedicated in providing the best Animal care.

As a society, we provide a forum for veterinarians to further assist in the exchange of professional business relations and promote the exchange of professional information.

If you are a veterinarian and are interested in joining our society, please fill out the 2016 membership form on the last page. Membership cost for the year is $150.00. Membership begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st.

MEETING SCHEDULE - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 9, 2017
Veterinary Ophthalmology
Dr. Susan Carastro from Animal Eye Specialty
Mayacoo Lakes Country Club
9697 Mayacoo Club Drive • West Palm Beach, FL

SPRING SOCIAL
Sunday, March 26
Ballpark of the Palm Beaches
Houston Astros vs. Washington Nationals
Event is open to all veterinarians, hospital staff members and their families. Group tickets are $24 per person and can be purchased on our website at www.pbvs.events/springsocial

Palm Beach State College is looking for Veterinarians to join their Career Center’s Mentor Network
The Mentor Network is comprised of local professionals who volunteer to help students learn more about a particular career field, offer job search advice, etc. Your participation does not require you to leave the office, it involves only a minimal amount of your time as most volunteers are only contacted about three times per year by students seeking career advice. If you are interested, please create an account and fill in your profile information at: https://www.myinterfase.com/palmbeachstate/mentor/home.aspx
Dr. Rose Peters joined Dr. Roger Clemmons to provide 24/7 Neurology to South Florida!

Rose Peters, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology/Neurosurgery)

Dr. Rose Peters attended University of Illinois for veterinary school, then completed her residency at University of Florida. She developed the neurology service at a New Orleans multi-specialty practice prior to joining VSH.

Roger Clemmons, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Neurology/Neurosurgery)

Dr. Roger Clemmons is a world renowned expert in neurologic disorders, both medical and surgical, including brain and spinal surgery. He taught at University of Florida prior to joining VSH.

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DNA Testing of Inherited Eye Diseases in Dogs: New Tools for an Old Problem

The last 15 years have ushered in a new era of preventative veterinary medicine with the advent of DNA testing for inherited diseases in dogs. The list of DNA tests continues to grow as more mutations are characterized, offering new options for preventing serious inherited diseases through selective breeding of animals whose genotypes are determined via DNA testing. An online WSAVA database maintained by the University of Pennsylvania, provides a helpful resource for reviewing the availability of specific DNA tests for dogs and cats. Although the list is not complete, it provides a handy initial reference. To provide a bit of perspective on how to make use of current DNA testing, I’ll focus in this article on one segment of the field -- inherited eye diseases in dogs.

Study of inherited eye diseases in dogs has a long history and the mutations that have been identified in this field represent some of the first and most widely utilized DNA tests in dogs. Drs. Gus Aguirre and Greg Acland, genomics researchers and board certified veterinary ophthalmologists, have devoted their careers to identifying many of the ocular mutations that have then been transformed into diagnostic DNA tests, and even further in some cases into gene therapy for disease treatment in dogs and humans. In 1998 they were among the co-founders of OptiGen LLC, a privately owned DNA testing laboratory-- one of the first laboratories to provide DNA testing for dogs. OptiGen has since added dozens of DNA tests, maintaining a primary focus on canine eye diseases, but also offering tests for other canine inherited diseases, e.g. those of the skin, immune and nervous systems. A complete list of current OptiGen tests is continuously updated as tests become available in each breed.

The first thing one will notice when searching either the WSAVA database or looking at OptiGen’s website is that each DNA test is completely associated with a specific breed of dog. This is because in almost all cases, canine mutations occur in only a single breed or in a group of closely related breeds. For example, a mutation that causes Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) in Irish Setters is only found in that breed and its close cousin, the Irish Red and White Setter; similarly, the PRA mutation in Papillons has only been observed in that breed and its close relative, the Phalene. Currently, OptiGen offers tests for detecting 12 distinct PRA mutations and most of these, like the Irish Setter and Papillon PRAs, occur in only a single or a few very closely related breeds. An important exception to this rule is the prcd-PRA mutation, the most widely distributed form of PRA. Given prcd’s presence in over 25 pure breeds and all major canine groups (sporting, working, terrier, toy, etc.), it is a logical conclusion that this mutation is ancient and arose prior to when the breeds were segregated into their current closed breeding populations some ~ 200 years ago.

Most but not all of the known PRA mutations are inherited in a single autosomal recessive manner. In this scenario, ensuring that at least one potential sire or dam has been DNA tested and is Normal/Clear of the mutation allows breeders to focus on selection for other desirable traits and health conditions while being assured that no offspring will develop the form of PRA caused by the mutation. Through the use of OptiGen’s DNA tests for PRA, the incidence of this disease in many breeds has been dramatically lowered. Even though many breeds retain remarkably high carrier rates, they effectively avoid producing offspring that develop the disease itself. See Figure 1 for examples of a few of the breeds that have been testing for prcd-PRA over the last many years—gradually lowering the frequency of the mutation in the population while successfully avoiding the disease.

It should be noted that samples from many of the prcd-Affected dogs represented in the figure’s charts are obtained through OptiGen’s Free Testing/PRA Research program. Through this program, pedigreed dogs that have been diagnosed with PRA by an ophthalmologist may be submitted for Free PRA Testing and archived for future research on PRA. If you diagnose PRA in any pedigreed dog and would like to take advantage of this, please send an email to suepk@optigen.com for further instructions. It is through collection and testing of PRA-affected dogs that OptiGen is able to advance genetic research and also keep track of whether any uncharacterized forms of PRA are occurring in a breed. As known forms of PRA are being controlled through DNA testing, we are finding that clinically similar types of PRA have been “hiding” in the population. This is only one of the many reasons that continued routine eye exams are recommended, even when a useful PRA DNA test is available in the breed.

Not all DNA tests are created equally. Although most are highly predictive of disease, there are exceptions. For example, one DNA test which is described as a “risk allele” for PRA in the English Springer Spaniel is present in a homozygous state in 48% of the Springerers tested. In contrast, fewer than 1% of English Springerers ever develop PRA. What relationship to disease, if any, this DNA test provides remains to be determined. This points to the need for well-informed genetic counseling when it comes to the many aspects of DNA tests and this leads to the question of how to choose a laboratory for performing DNA tests on inherited diseases.

A good DNA testing laboratory will employ well informed staff and have genetic counseling readily available. Other factors to take into consideration when choosing where to send samples for DNA testing include:

- Intellectual Property/Patents governing the tests. Some of the most popular tests, e.g. EIC, VWD, prcd, CEA and mdr1, are governed by patents that have been exclusively licensed to
individual laboratories. Aside from being the ethical action, most health registries and breed clubs will only accept the official/licensed laboratory result in their records so choosing the licensed laboratory is important to owners who wish to comply with health registry rules.

- Laboratory’s reputation for accuracy and quality control. Because there is not currently any requirement for accreditation in veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the USA, there is a huge spectrum of adherence (or lack thereof) to good laboratory management and practice. Investment in the maintenance of an accredited quality control system is evidence that the laboratory places a high value on this aspect of its operations.

- Source of test development. Choosing laboratories that are endorsed by the researcher who discovered the mutation provides a direct pipeline back to the researchers in both licensing/royalty funds as well as sharing information that can advance the understanding of the disease/the test’s interpretation. Also, by working closely with the research group that develops a test, the laboratory gains critical and often unpublished insight into a test’s validity/interpretation and possible sources of concern—e.g. unpublished polymorphisms that could cause false/inaccurate test results if test conditions are not properly adjusted.

Mirroring the world of human genetic testing, it is difficult to keep up with the rapid pace of discovery in veterinary genetic medicine. For both fields, patients will increasingly need to rely on the expertise of well informed medical professionals to guide them. It will not be long before DNA tests for inherited complex diseases such as cancer and hip dysplasia are on the market and the need for genetic counseling for pet owners will become even greater. By comparison, the use and interpretation of today’s DNA tests for single gene defects will be a simple “good old days” remembrance. Being well informed at this earlier stage of the game will help lower the slope of tomorrow’s learning curve.

RELIEF VETERINARIANS

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Congratulations To Our $1000 Scholarship Award Recipient
NICOLE ROWBOTHAM

Nicole is originally from Boynton Beach, Florida and a graduate of Park Vista High School and Emory University. She is currently a sophomore veterinary student at Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. We congratulate you on your scholarship and wish you all the best in your continued education and career goals.
Veterinarians Wanted
We are seeking a Superstar Veterinarian with a smile J. We are a well-established, high quality, AAHA accredited general and dental specialty multi-doctor hospital in Weston, FL. We are also a paperless practice with all the bells and whistles. Benefits include paid vacation, continuing education, excellent pet benefits, health insurance, a retirement plan and much more. Experience with Avimark is a plus. If you are interested in joining our team please respond with your resume to vetadministrator@hotmail.com then call Paul at (954)349-5800. (Posted October 2016)

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Vapomatic Isoflurane Vaporizer
Never placed into use at practice. All reasonable offers will be considered. Please contact Dr. Karina Salvo @ 516-512-3279 or email salvodvm@gmail.com (Posted February 2017)

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ScanX Digital CR Radiograph system in cabinet with two 14x17 phosphor plates. Does not include software or computer. Price: $4500 or best offer LOCAL PICK UP ONLY Contact Collin Trollinger @ 561-790-3555 or cjtrollinger@aol.com (Posted October 2016)

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Ultima 500 High speed dental unit with suction and lighted handpiece. Used for less than 1 year Price: $2500 LOCAL PICK UP ONLY Contact Dr. Sid Lehr at 561-302-0230 or s.d.lehr@comcast.net (Posted July 2016)
Thank you for taking an interest in our organization. At Palm Beach Veterinary Society, we strive to help and unite veterinarians who are dedicated in providing the best Animal care. As a society, we provide a forum for veterinarians to further assist in the exchange of professional business relations and promote the exchange of professional information. If you are a veterinarian and are interested in joining our society, please fill out the form on page 10:

- Membership cost for the year is $150.00
- Membership begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st
- Recent Graduates qualify for complimentary membership thru Dec 31st of the year in which they graduate from an accredited veterinary school.

Join Us Today and Become A Member!
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name: ________________________________

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City: ________________________________

State: ________________________________

Zip: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Fax: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________

Website: ________________________________

License #: ________________________________

Please check the applicable box(es) below:

New Membership: YES □ NO □

If Renewal, any changes? YES □ NO □

Membership Dues are $150.00 per year (January 1 through December 31).

To pay membership dues online, go to: www.pbvs.info/join-us

To pay by check, Mail this form along with your payment to:

Palm Beach Veterinary Society
ATTN: PBVS Secretary
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Royal Palm Beach, FL 33414