

**Notice from the ASSA Research Advisory Committee – October, 2007**

**Dermatomyositis (DM) Research**

**Your Help is Needed!**

**1) Genetic Marker Study**

Blood samples from DM positive Shelties are still needed for the current DNA research sponsored by the ASSA. All you would provide is 6 cc of whole blood in a purple topped EDTA tube, a copy of a 3-5 generation pedigree and a copy of the dermatomyositis positive biopsy\* report. This should all be sent overnight with a cold pack to:

Dr. Christine Rees  
Texas A&M University  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery  
College Station , TX 77843-4474  
979-845-2351

Prior to sending the samples, it is suggested that you notify Sherry Lindsey, RN BSN at [shalainetx@aol.com](mailto:shalainetx@aol.com) or 830-620-6661, so she can alert Dr. Rees or one of her colleagues to be expecting the samples. If you explain the purpose of the blood draw, most veterinarians will draw the blood at no charge or for a minimal amount.

**2) New treatment study**

Three to 5 Shelties are needed for a study to evaluate a new drug, Dapsone, which is an oral medication found to be effective in the treatment of DM in humans. These dogs would be donated to the study and then altered, if needed, and placed in permanent adoptive homes following the drug study. Please see contact information below if you are interested in donating a DM affected Sheltie to the study. It may be altered or intact, with or without registration papers, as long as it is a purebred Sheltie.

**Contact for Dr Christine Rees, DVM and Sherry Lindsey RN BSN:**

Dr. Christine Rees, DVM, DACVD  
Texas A&M University  
Small Animal Clinic  
College Station, TX

979-845-2351  
CREES@cvm.tamu.edu

Sherry Lindsey, RN BSN  
PO BOX 310233  
New Braunfels, TX 78131-0233

830-620-6661  
shalainetx@aol.com

\* **Biopsy specimens:** We suggest that DM biopsy specimens be submitted to Dr. Joanne Mansell who is collaborating in the DM research on Shelties. Her dermatohistopathology submission form, complete with mailing address and cost, is on the DM website, <http://www.shalaine.com/DM/DM.html> , at the "Biopsy Information for Vets" page.