

## *Notes from Noa January, 2012*

Noa Safra DVM PhD

Dear Weimaraner lovers,

The search for the genetic cause of Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD) in Weimaraners is progressing at the Bannasch laboratory, in the University of Davis, CA, and the preliminary results look very promising.

I am very thankful for the positive response from our community and for the many samples sent to support this research. Additionally, a heartfelt thank you is extended to the generous and constant support this study is enjoying from the WCA Board of Directors, the Weimaraner Foundation Fund, and the WCA Health Committee members.

I would like to update the membership with regard to the incidence of HOD in Weimaraners.

For the 3 year period of 2009-2011, I have been continuously alerted to a minimum of two new cases of HOD in Weimaraners each month. This is a very high incidence rate, and I am afraid it is only the tip of the iceberg, as not all owners/veterinarians contact me upon diagnosis of HOD.

Currently, we require blood samples and diagnostic xrays from HOD affected puppies, and blood samples from healthy (HOD free) adult Weimaraners (over three years of age) of varied pedigrees. Free analysis of Hyperuricosuria status (HUU) will be provided for all samples received. The Weimaraner Foundation Fund will assist in defraying the cost of obtaining samples by reimbursing veterinary fees for blood samples in the case of healthy adults. Links for the sample submission forms can be found below. Please email me at the contact below to advise when samples are in the mail.

I will continue to inform and update the WCA membership as progress is made.

Please contact me with any questions regarding the HOD research study.

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While my focus is the HOD research, the Bannasch laboratory has ongoing research in the area of birth defects (e.g. umbilical hernia, cleft palate, cryptorchidism).

Anyone with an affected dog is encouraged to contact Dr. Safra for submission of a sample.

Thank you!