



Golden Retriever Club of America

Pigmentary Uveitis Research

A critical current need for the research to find the gene causing Golden Retriever pigmentary uveitis is DNA from older dogs that are unaffected with the condition. The best way to be sure the individual is not affected with pigmentary uveitis is to have histopathologic (microscopic) examination performed of the eyes. Therefore I have a request for owners of older Golden retrievers (12 years or older), especially those who have sent blood samples either to me (Dr. Townsend) or who have DNA on file in the CHIC DNA database. When your beloved Golden passes away, could you please consider having your veterinarian send me the eyes for histologic examination?

I know what a difficult request I am making. I know that is such a difficult time. However it would be such a tremendous benefit. We have to be absolutely sure that the Golden retrievers we think are clear of pigmentary uveitis truly are clear as we start screening genes. Otherwise if we have the status listed incorrectly it will greatly muddy the waters and make finding the gene nearly impossible. At the end of the study you will receive information about what was found when your dog's eyes were examined.

The eyes can be placed in formalin normally, just as your veterinarian would send out other samples for histopathology. Then they can be sent to me:

Attn: Dr. Wendy Townsend
Purdue University
625 Harrison St.
W. Lafayette, IN 47907-2026

Please feel free to contact me at 765-494-1107 or Townsenw@purdue.edu if you have any questions.

Also, if your dog does not have DNA stored at the CHIC DNA Repository or you have not previously sent a blood sample to me, please collect 5-10 ml blood in a purple top tube and send with the eyes. Many veterinarians will waive their professional fees for these procedures in the interest of supporting research. However, some financial assistance may be available to help when there is cost to the owner.

Thank you so much,

Wendy

Please print this page and ask that it be placed in your dog's veterinary chart for immediate access if needed.