

HEMANGIOSARCOMA

The Breen lab at North Carolina State University of Veterinary Medicine is researching the genetics of hemangiosarcoma in Dachshunds.

This is a heartbreaking cancer that strikes with little or no warning and often takes a dog's life within days of the onset of symptoms. (See articles, "The Silent Killer, Hemangiosarcoma" in the Summer 2008 issue of "The DCA Newsletter," and "Hemangiosarcoma" in the Spring 2011 issue.)

Tissue and blood samples are desperately needed to conduct meaningful research, but owners of afflicted dogs are rarely aware of what must be done to submit samples and are certainly not thinking about scientific research while dealing with the severe illness or loss of a beloved pet.



**"Blue"
a victim of
hemangiosarcoma**

To be prepared to further the research in case your Dachshund succumbs to this dreadful disease, PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS SHEET and ask your veterinarian to keep it in your dog's file, along with a copy of the consent form that must be sent with the samples. The consent form can be downloaded at http://www.breenlab.org/docs/other_2008-01.pdf

If your Dachshund is diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma, please have your veterinarian submit samples to the Breen lab as outlined on the checklist on the back of this sheet. Additional required or requested paperwork can be submitted later, but your signed consent form must be submitted with the samples.

The DCA Health & Welfare Trust Fund will reimburse the cost of shipping the samples to the Breen laboratory.

Submit copies of shipping invoices to: Ruth Robins,, Trust Administrator,
DCA Health & Welfare Trust Fund, 4314 Westport Terrace, Louisville, KY 40207-7014

MORE RESEARCH

Breen Labs will collaborate to share its samples with all three research laboratories that are studying different aspects of the disease so materials sent will go a long way. Breen Labs is going to be the sole contact for Dachshunds for the groups that will be studying this type of cancer.

THE VAN ANDEL INSTITUTE is studying only naturally occurring tumors, so we need the assistance of owners with dogs who develop Hemangiosarcoma, Osteosarcoma, Lymphoma, Malignant histiocytosis, Melanoma (oral and digital). We are requesting fresh (NOT in formalin) tumor samples when the dog has surgery, a biopsy or is euthanized. We also need 3 mls of blood in an EDTA (purple top) tube. If a tumor sample is not immediately available, (a dog who has had surgery, for example), a blood sample is still useful.

If your dog is scheduled for surgery, please contact VARI ahead of time so we can FedEx a tumor collection kit to your veterinarian. You can contact the CHCC at 616-234-5569.

You may also email Dr. Roe Froman, Senior Veterinary Research Scientist, Van Andel Institute, 333 Bostwick Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 at roe.froman@vai.org. Consent forms and more information for veterinarians can be accessed and downloaded from our website, www.vai.org/helpingdogs.

SYMPTOMS OF HEMANGIOSARCOMA:

Symptoms may be seen only hours before death. If noticed beforehand, there are short periods of time, usually not more than a half hour, when the dog is unusually quiet, then goes back to usual behavior. A regular panel of blood work does not show anything unusual, and only a sonogram might. Listlessness, pale gums and, often, rapid collapse follow the sudden splenic rupture. During emergency treatment vets may first detect anemia then the abdomen filled with blood and perform a transfusion that is often temporarily quite effective. A splenectomy may follow and a biopsy will discern if it is a benign hemangioma or a malignant hemangiosarcoma. Usually there is no rupture with the benign hemangioma, just the tumor. Removing the spleen will not cure the cancer for it is not located in the spleen, but is already circulating in the blood of the dog. Chemotherapy may give the dog a few additional months of life.

PLEASE KEEP THIS FLYER IN A CONVENIENT LOCATION

Dachshund Cancer Sample Submission Instructions for Breen Lab

Please call (919-513-1466) or e-mail (info@breenlab.org)
if you would like further clarification with these instructions.

BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS REQUIRED:

Check List

- 5-10mls of blood in EDTA tubes (lilac top). Keep cold in a refrigerator then ship overnight with a cold- pack in a well- padded container.
- Clean, representative, blueberry- size tumor biopsy sample (or at least 2 tru-cuts, 14 gauge) in a sterile empty tube. Please keep tissue samples and blood cool in the refrigerator and then ship cold **(not frozen)** overnight.
- Clean, representative, blueberry-size tumor biopsy sample (or at least 2 tru-cuts, 14 gauge in 10% formalin.
- Please ensure these samples are all collected in the correct clinical specimen collection container and each is sealed well to prevent leakage.
- Please ensure that each sample tube is labeled with the dog's first and last call names, breed, the date of collection and the tissue type.
- For safety, please ensure that the shipment packaging complies with the regulations of the carrier used.

PAPERWORK REQUIRED:

- A copy of the pedigree and AKC number. Please tell us also the call name and last name of the dog on the consent form.
- A copy of any relevant diagnostic pathology report.
- A copy of relevant recent (last three months) clinical history and treatment protocols and/or any planned protocols not yet administered.
- A signed copy of the study consent form that can be downloaded from <http://www.breenlab.org/recruitment.html>.

We understand if there is a delay with pedigree and pathology info and we can receive this later by fax to 919-513-7301 to the attention of Breen Lab, but the consent form **MUST** come with the samples.

**Please call 919-513-1466 or
e-mail info@breenlab.org to let us
know that samples are coming.**

Please send package to:

BREEN Lab Room 330A,
Dept. of Molecular Biomedical Sciences
CVM Research Building NCSU
College of Veterinary Medicine
1060 William Moore Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607