

Photo Courtesy Amy Jenkins



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# HealthNotes

Fall, 2015

## Dog Aging Project

Welcome to another podcast brought to you by the AKC Canine Health Foundation. In this podcast we are speaking with Dr. Matt Kaeberlein, Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Washington. Dr. Kaeberlein discusses his groundbreaking work in aging and his interest in using pet dogs to evaluate a novel anti-aging compound. Dr. Kaeberlein completed his BS at Western Washington University in Seattle, followed by his PhD at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge Massachusetts. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington that led to a faculty position within the Department of Pathology.

Photo Courtesy Teresa Bradley



Listen to the podcast here:

<http://www.akcchf.org/news-events/multimedia/podcasts/dog-aging-project.html>

For millions of people, pets are considered part of the family. Unfortunately, companion animals such as dogs age rapidly and have relatively short life expectancies. Scientists at the University of Washington want to change this.

Research in the biology of aging has made tremendous strides over the past several years, with a few interventions found capable of slowing aging and extending lifespan in small mammals such as mice and rats. These same interventions could provide dogs with two to five or even more years of additional healthy, youthful life.

This project is a bold campaign to do just that, to raise awareness and funding for the Dog Aging Project.

We believe that improving healthy lifespan in pet dogs is a worthy goal in and of itself. To be clear, our goal is to extend the period of life in which dogs are healthy, not prolong the already difficult older years. Imagine what you could do with an additional two to five years with your beloved pet in the prime of his or her life. This is within our reach today.



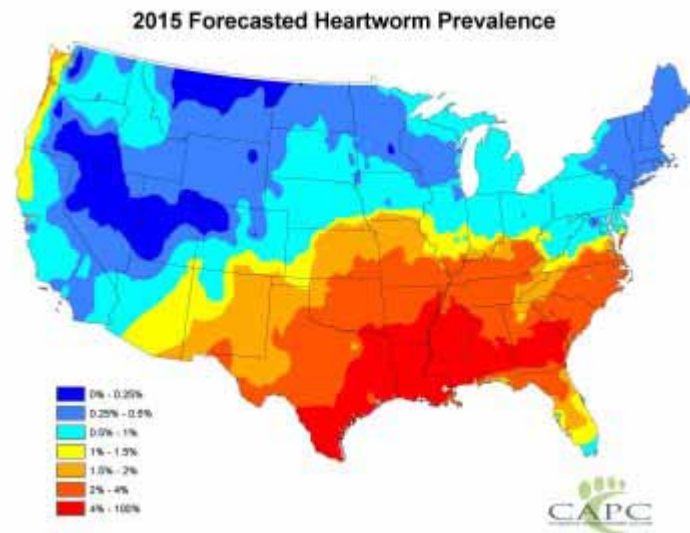
Photo courtesy Catherine O'Donnell

# 2015 HEARTWORM DISEASE FORECAST: HIGHER THAN NORMAL RISK FOR SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

Authors: Dwight Bowman, MS, PhD and Rick Marrinson, DVM

## The Outlook For 2015

The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) is predicting another active season for transmission of heartworm in 2015. Higher than normal levels of infection are predicted for several areas of the country, including Idaho and the Upper Midwest (Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota). Lower than normal activity is forecast for areas including New England, New York, the West Coast, and the Lower Mississippi, however the risk remains high. Heartworm diagnosis is predicted to peak in winter months for the Pacific Northwest Coast and Great Lakes Shoreline areas. In the Southeast, the risk of heartworm remains much the same all year. So be sure to consult your veterinarian, and follow recommendations to protect all of your pets.



## A Preventable Disease

Heartworm disease is common in pets, and yet this life-threatening infection can be prevented. It starts when mosquitoes that carry the heartworm disease draw blood from a dog (their natural host), cat or other animal. Just one mosquito bite can transmit heartworm larvae into a pet's bloodstream. Once inside, the worms find their way to the heart and large blood vessels of the lungs, where they grow and multiply. In just 6 to 8 months, an adult heartworm can

grow up to one foot, enough to fill the small heart of a dog or cat, and cause serious disease. And, just in case you've heard that heartworms don't always grow to the adult stage in cats, remember, they can still cause severe reactions and illness even if they don't.

## Pets Need Year-round Protection

Based on statistics from areas where heartworm is common, a very high percentage of dogs that are not on preventive medication will develop heartworm infection. However, it's much easier to prevent heartworm disease than to treat it. That's one of the reasons CAPC recommends year-round heartworm protection for every pet. Many different products are available (including some that defend against several types of parasitic worms), and your veterinarian can recommend the best one for your pet. The wisest course to follow is to have all dogs, even those on heartworm preventive, tested annually during the pet's visit to the veterinarian.

## How CAPC Forecasts Are Made

CAPC Parasite Forecast Maps are based on many factors, such as temperature, precipitation, humidity, and reported cases of heartworm infection. A team of expert statisticians incorporates these key factors into a complex equation, and then continually refines the results by analyzing current and historic data on prevalence of the disease in dogs. CAPC Parasite Forecast Maps are further refined by the collective opinion of world-leading parasitologists who are involved in ongoing research into changes in the prevalence of parasites and transmission of infection.

## Stay Up To Date Wherever You Go

CAPC also provides Parasite Prevalence Maps that show how many pets have been infected with a specific parasitic disease, by state and county. For example, the Heartworm Prevalence Map shows how many dogs have been infected by the worm that causes the disease. The real value of these maps is that they make it easy for you to check the risk of different parasitic diseases in your geographic area, all the way down to your county. As you travel with your pet, you can even consult the CAPC Parasite Prevalence Maps to stay informed about the potential infection risk for your dog throughout the country. You may also want to review the map with your veterinarian, and discuss the best parasite protection program for your pet based on forecasts for your area.

Knowledge is the best protection for your pet. And now, you can stay in the know about parasite activity in your area by signing up for automatic email updates from CAPC. Just go to the CAPC Parasite Prevalence Maps page and click on "Get Updates." Enter your email address in the provided field and click "Subscribe." You'll start receiving updates as soon as they're posted. Since parasites are dynamic and ever changing, be sure to visit the <http://www.petsandparasites.org/expert-insights/how-to-sign-up-for-monthly-email-updates-from-the-capc-maps/> page and sign up. Then, talk to your veterinarian about the best way to protect your pet, all year long.

Have a  Donate to SAS Research.

Thanks to Associated Rottweiler Fanciers of Northern California, Colonial Rottweiler Club, the Southwestern Rottweiler Club of San Diego and the Sierra Rottweiler Owners for your generous donations to this vital research.



**CHF Funded Researcher Spotlight**



**Dr. Joshua Stern DVM, PhD, DACVIM**  
Assistant Professor, Cardiology  
UC Davis College of Veterinary Medicine  
Contact Information:  
University of California Davis  
One Shields Ave  
Davis, CA, 95616  
(530) 752-2475  
jstern@ucdavis.edu

**Research Emphasis:**  
The Stern cardiac genetics laboratory studies the genetics of inherited heart disease and the role of genetics in a patient's response to heart medications. A particular research focus lies in the study of subvalvular aortic stenosis, one of the most common congenital heart diseases in dogs. Dr. Stern focuses on the intersection of cardiology and a patient's DNA to identify the genetic cause of disease and factors that may influence response to medical management.

**Application of Research to Canine Health:**

- Developing breed screening tests for inherited heart disease
- Identifying genetic factors to guide the best medical therapies in canine and feline heart disease
- Understanding Subvalvular aortic stenosis in dogs: diagnosis, treatment, prognosis & genetics

**Current Club Collaborations:**  
Dr. Stern is happy to discuss genetic research with any breed club.

Current collaborations include: Golden Retrievers, Bullmastiffs, English Bulldogs, Rottweilers, and Newfoundlands to name a few.

**Biography:**  
Dr. Joshua Stern is an assistant professor of cardiology at UC Davis College of Veterinary Medicine. Originally from Bristolville, Ohio, Dr. Stern obtained his BS (2003) and DVM (2008) degrees from The Ohio State University. He stayed on at Ohio State to complete a small animal internship in 2009. Dr. Stern then began a residency in cardiology at Washington State University and completed it at North Carolina State University in 2012. Dr. Stern also recently completed a PhD at Washington State focusing on the genetics of familial subvalvular aortic stenosis in dogs. Dr. Stern's research is primarily focused on the study of inherited heart disease. Most recently, his research successfully identified a mutation responsible for the development of congenital heart disease (subaortic stenosis) in Newfoundland dogs and the discovery of a mutation responsible for sudden death and long QT syndrome in a family of English springer spaniels. His subaortic stenosis research continues in golden retrievers and Rottweilers. Dr. Stern's secondary interest is in pharmacogenomics (how genetics aids in medical therapy) and the interface between pharmacogenomics and treatment of heart failure.

AKC Canine Health Foundation | [www.akcCHF.org](http://www.akcCHF.org) | 888-682-9696

## RHF GRANTS

The RHF's grant commitments for this year totally \$20,000 was to those grants managed by the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), namely:

- Grant 01828: Mapping of Genetic Risk Factors for Canine Hip Dysplasia (Dr. Antti Iivanainen, DVM, PhD; University of Helsinki and the Folkhälsan Institute of Genetics)
- Grant 01949-A: Targeting the Cell's Activation Machinery to Halt Tumor Metastasis in Canine Osteosarcoma (Dr. Shay Bracha, DVM, MS; Oregon State University)
- Grant 01557: Narrowing the Search for the Genetic Basis of Histiocytic Malignancies (Dr. Matthew Breen, PhD; North Carolina State University)
- Grant 01872: Using Ultrasound as a Cost Effective and Non-Invasive Technique for Early Diagnosis of Solid Tumors (Dr. Nathalie Rademacher, Med.Vet., Louisiana State University)
- Grant 01949-A: Targeting Cells' Activation Machinery to Halt Tumor Metastasis in Canine Osteosarcoma (Dr. Shay Bracha, DVM, MS, Oregon State University)
- Grant 01787: Clinical Advancement of Cancer Vaccine in Dogs (Dr. Nicola J Mason, BVetMed, PhD, University of Pennsylvania)
- Grant 01585: Evaluating a Safer, Less Toxic Radiation Therapy in Treatment of Lymphoma (Dr. Michael A. Deveau, DVM, MS, Texas A&M Research Foundation)

In addition, we offered second year funding of AKC CHF grant:

- Grant 1889-G: Developing Markers to Diagnose and Guide Cancer Treatment in Golden Retriever Based on Newly Discovered Heritable and Acquired Mutations (Jaime F. Modiano, VMD, PhD, University of Minnesota)

## SAS RESEARCH

In March, 2015 the CHF Program Manager contacted us as one of five breed organizations for collaborative funding of the Identification of Genetic Mutations Responsible for Subvalvular Aortic Stenosis (SAS) headed by Dr. Josh Stern. The requested amount was \$45,000 per solicited breed organization. Due to the seriousness of SAS and its propensity in the Rottweiler, the RHF board voted to support this research over a two-year time period. A SAS research summary along with a funding solicitation was sent to all Rottweiler clubs. A note of thanks is offered to Associated Rottweiler Fanciers of Northern California, Colonial Rottweiler Club, the Southwestern Rottweiler Club of San Diego and the Sierra Rottweiler Owners for their generous support of Dr. Stern's SAS research.



Photo courtesy Ellen Calnan

## RESEARCH SAMPLES NEEDED

Canine health researchers throughout the country are looking for dogs to help them better understand disease. In some cases you and your dog need to live close to the research institution. In other cases you can participate no matter where you live. Learn more about the significant impact you can make on canine health research through your participation.

### Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA Repository



The CHIC DNA Repository, co-sponsored by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), collects and stores canine DNA samples along with corresponding genealogic and phenotypic information to facilitate future research and testing aimed at reducing the incidence of inherited disease in dogs. DNA samples from any purebred dog may be submitted at anytime. Researchers may then access these samples to be included in their canine health studies. Learn more at the CHIC website.

### Canine Comparative Oncology and Genomics Consortium (CCOGC)

The CCOGC collects tissues and fluids from dogs with specific cancer types following strict SOPs. These procedures ensure all samples are of high quality and can be used consistently across multiple research projects. The samples are assessable to any research project with scientific merit. You can learn more about CCOGC and find a collection site near you at the CCOGC website.

### Clinical Trials

If your dog has recently been diagnosed with a disease, there may be a clinical trial in your area investigating a treatment for that disease. Enrolling in a clinical trial brings with it a commitment to follow through on therapies and testing. The benefits can include access to cutting edge medicine and the chance to help future generations of dogs. Resources for finding clinical trials can be found at <http://www.akcchf.org/research/participation-needed/clinical-trials.html>



## 2000 Circle Nominee

V-1 CH Exodus Heart of A Patriot  
UD BH HIC TT TDI CGC

“Tedy”

owned by John and Carol Costa  
and Sue Cohen

12-28-05 to 5-5-15

was inducted into the Rottweiler Health foundation Circle 2000 by the Colonial Rottweiler Club.



## Circle 2000 Inductee



In remembrance of long-time professional handler and friend of the Rottweiler, Walter Kuberski - a group of individuals and the Colonial Rottweiler Club have donated funds to induct him into the RHF Circle 2000 Registry.

Walter will be remembered for his superb dog handling skills, great demeanor and humor, and true love for the Rottweiler breed. We are pleased he has a place in the Rottweiler Health Foundation Circle 2000.

Donors:  
Grace Acosta  
Khalid Ahmad  
Margaret Brandel  
Susan Chodorov  
Sue Cohen  
Colonial Rottweiler Club  
Robert Crane  
Rebecca Forry  
Nancy & Olin Garrett  
Denise Gross  
Renee Hoover  
Eleanor Jackson  
Roberta Martin  
Dorothy Murphy  
New England Canine Institute, Inc.  
Marilyn & Peter Piusz  
Donna Rice  
Karen & Harold Riddle  
George & Mary Ann Schneider  
von Bruka - Bruce, Robin,  
Doug & Karen Billings  
Elizabeth Wertz

All the people at the 2015 Nationals who purchased and donated the baskets in memory of Walter's Circle 2000. CRC, Roberta Martin, Donna Rice, the Texican basket, the California basket and Dorothy Muprhy's Pidney piece.

### Rottweiler Health Foundation Contact Information 2015 - 2016

**Michelle Amtower DVM**

[turstadt@charter.net](mailto:turstadt@charter.net)

**Lin Beenen, Treasurer**

[linbeenenrhfbboard@yahoo.com](mailto:linbeenenrhfbboard@yahoo.com)

**Teresa Bradley, Donations**

[rottylers@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rottylers@ix.netcom.com)

**Sherilyn Canady**

[rotsmom@msn.com](mailto:rotsmom@msn.com)

**Denise Gross, Web Master**

[ddgcr@gmail.com](mailto:ddgcr@gmail.com)

**Amy Jenkins**

[jfamily89@att.net](mailto:jfamily89@att.net)

**Roberta Kelley-Martin, President**

[robertarhfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:robertarhfoundation@gmail.com)

**Katie McCasey**

[kmccasey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmccasey@sbcglobal.net)

**Donna Rice, Secretary**

[dbrrfh@gmail.com](mailto:dbrrfh@gmail.com)

**Jeff Shaver, Vice President**

[jshaver522@yahoo.com](mailto:jshaver522@yahoo.com)

**Kelly Skiptunas**

[ks4rotts@dejazzed.com](mailto:ks4rotts@dejazzed.com)

**Diane E. Voss DVM**

[ivossrotties@aol.com](mailto:ivossrotties@aol.com)

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Ellen Calnan, Membership**

[redtileservices@gmail.com](mailto:redtileservices@gmail.com)