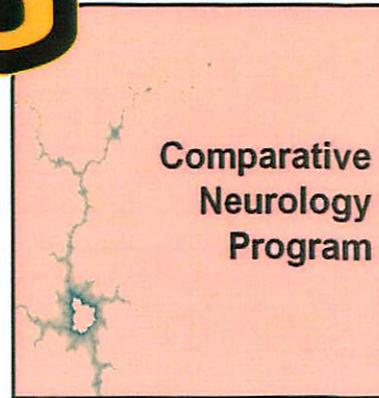


Thank You

We would like to thank you in advance for your consideration in helping us with this study. Donated tissues will advance our understanding of DM and in the development of therapies. These achievements could also benefit the ALS community.

If you have any questions about Degenerative Myelopathy or this study, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Funding sources:

AKC Canine Health Foundation

American Boxer Charitable Foundation
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America
and other participating breed clubs

ALS Association

Research to Prevent Blindness

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Help Us In Our Research
Efforts to Solve the
Mysteries Behind
**Canine
Degenerative
Myelopathy**



What is Canine Degenerative Myelopathy?

Canine Degenerative Myelopathy (DM), is an inherited neurological disease that leads to progressive deterioration of the nervous system. Early clinical signs emerge around age 8, and include muscle weakness and loss of coordination in the hind limbs. End stage signs include paralysis of all limbs. Ultimately the disease is fatal.

DM is known to occur in many dog breeds, but is most prevalent in Boxers and Pembroke Welsh Corgis. Recently, our group discovered the mutation responsible for causing this debilitating disease. We currently offer a DNA test (www.caninegeneticdiseases.net).

Interestingly, the same genetic mutation that causes DM is also associated with some forms of human ALS (known as Lou Gehrig's disease). Therefore, DM research is likely to aid in research for human ALS as well.

When an owner decides to have a Boxer or Pembroke Welsh Corgi euthanized, we would like to have the opportunity to further study the dog's tissues. Tissues obtained at any stage in the disease process will contribute to our research. We also need tissues from older unaffected dogs of these same breeds so that we can determine which tissue changes are specific to DM.

What Are the Benefits of DM Research?

Currently there are no effective treatments for DM or ALS, and both diseases are progressive and ultimately fatal. In order to develop effective therapies, it is essential to conduct further research to understand the underlying mechanisms causing these diseases. We also are trying to find ways to follow disease progression and need biological markers.

Because DM and ALS share similar characteristics, investigating and generating therapies for DM-affected dogs could translate into helping human patients diagnosed with ALS. Thus, this research could help scientists develop therapies for dogs affected with DM and as well as humans affected with ALS.



How Can I Help the Cause?

- We are requesting samples from both DM-affected and unaffected Boxers and Pembroke Welsh Corgis older than 8 years of age.
- In order to conduct our study, we require spinal cord, muscle, and nerve tissues from Boxers and Pembroke Welsh Corgis.
- We need these same tissues from older dogs (> 8 years) that are being euthanized for other reasons as well as from DM-affected dogs.
- We will provide a free DNA test for DM on any dog that the owner would consider enrolling in our study.
- If requested by the owner, we will take care of individual cremation and have the ashes returned to the pet owner at our expense.
- If you, as a veterinarian or pet owner, are interested in helping with the study, please contact the study director, Dr. Joan R. Coates (CoatesJ@missouri.edu) or Dr. Martin L. Katz (KatzM@health.missouri.edu), for information on sample submissions.