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The Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America in collaboration with Dr. Joshua A. Stern, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (cardiology) at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, would like to request your assistance in a research study to determine the genetics behind subvalvular aortic stenosis (SAS). Dr. Stern is a board-certified veterinary cardiologist and his laboratory focuses on the identification of genetic variants associated with inherited and acquired heart disease.

SAS is one of the most common inherited heart conditions reported in the DDB breed. It is characterized by a ridge or ring of fibrous tissue located below the aortic valve resulting in an increase in aortic outflow velocity (AoV). Mildly affected dogs may have a normal lifespan, but moderate to severely affected dogs are at risk for developing severe cardiac complications and have an average lifespan of 19 months. To date there is no medical intervention available to significantly expand the lifespan of affected dogs, highlighting the need of a genetic study to help reduce the prevalence of SAS in the DDB breed. For this study, we are currently enrolling both SAS affected and unaffected DDB, with the goal of attaining a sample cohort to conduct a comprehensive genetic study.

To participate in this study, we require dogs to be cardiac phenotyped via echocardiogram by a board certified veterinary cardiologist. We also require submission of 2-3 ml of whole blood, a copy of the DDB pedigree, and completed enrollment form to Dr. Stern's Comparative Cardiac Genetics Laboratory. If you have questions regarding this study or sample submission please contact sterngenetics@ucdavis.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Stern".

Dr. Joshua A. Stern DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Cardiology)