



Cancer Genetics Branch
National Human Genome Research Institute
National Institutes of Health
50 South Drive, Bldg. 50, Room 5347
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-8000
Phone: (301) 451-9390
Fax: (301) 594-0023

Bladder Cancer in the Scottish Terrier: An Update

The Ostrander Laboratory at the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH would like to thank all Scottie owners who attended the Door County Scottie Rally for their great response to our request for samples for research on transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) of the urinary bladder in their breed. As you know this is a devastating disease with genetic underpinnings and our ultimate goal is to identify the genetic variants responsible for susceptibility to the disease in the Scottish Terrier.

Because of your great support the Ostrander Lab collected a total of 113 samples from Scottish and West Highland White Terriers at the 2006 and 2007 Scottie Rally. This is a tremendous addition to our sample collection for TCC research. At present we have collected DNA samples from 330 Scottish Terriers and 150 West Highland White Terriers.

To determine the genetic component of TCC, researchers at the Ostrander Lab have designed a whole genome association study which is now entering a critical stage. In order for a sample to be analyzed the DNA must first be extracted from the blood. Our task is then to interrogate each chromosome with a set of DNA based markers to determine what portions of the genome affected dogs share that unaffected dogs do not. We anticipate that we will have this initial genome scan completed by the end of this year. However, it is difficult to predict when studies of complex diseases such as this will be completed.

Your continued participation in this study is critical. We are still in need of more blood samples from dogs affected with TCC now!

If you are willing to participate, know someone who is interested, or have questions please contact the Ostrander Lab Study Coordinator, Dana Mosher, for more information. Ms. Mosher can be reached via email at mosherd@mail.nih.gov or by phone at (301) 451-9390. The sample you provide will be instrumental in helping to identify the genomic mutations associated with TCC. Only then can steps be taken toward developing effective therapies.

It is also equally important that any owner who has enrolled their dog either directly with the Ostrander Lab or with our collaborators at the Purdue Comparative Oncology Program complete our online survey to update us on your dog's current health status. The survey is available on our website (http://research.nhgri.nih.gov/dog_genome/) and can be accessed with the password: **Missy07**. If you have not already done so, please provide a copy of the pathology report with your dog's final diagnosis or contact information for your veterinarian

so that a copy may be requested. If your dog is still healthy, please let us know as that information is equally important for this study.

In advance, we thank you all for your continued participation. Our work would not be possible without your dedication to this wonderful breed and its health. Please contact me by phone or email with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dana Mosher, B.S.
Study Coordinator
Ostrander Laboratory
National Human Genome Research Institute
National Institutes of Health