

Saluki-specific heart study

by MaryDee Sist, DVM

Saluki Health Research, Inc.
Thanks in part to letters of support from the Saluki Club of America (SCOA) and The Saluki Club of Canada (SCOC), the American Kennel Club's Canine Health Foundation has approved Grant #01859-A: Evaluation of Occurrence of Ventricular Arrhythmias in Normal Saluki Dogs. Principal Investigator: Dr. Robert Sanders, dip ACVIM (cardiology) Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Michigan State University.

An arrhythmia is a disturbance in the electrical activity in the heart causing an abnormal rhythm or rate of the heart beat. The causes of irregular heartbeats can include: infections, injuries, ingestion of poisons or toxins, inherited defects within the heart, or other underlying heart diseases. Some dogs live a healthy life with a mild or occasional irregular heartbeat and have no symptoms, while other dogs are

affected more severely. Severe arrhythmias can lead to coughing, fainting spells, trouble breathing, rapid breathing, constant fatigue, inability or desire to engage in any activities, and sudden death. Identification of arrhythmias requires electrical monitoring (ECG) of the heart. A short ECG may not

This study involves placing Holter monitors on 25 normal Salukis. The monitor records the heart rate and rhythm for up to seven days. To ensure that normal Salukis are included, a full cardiac work-up, including a detailed echo with Doppler exam will be done at no charge to the owner. If there is

Thanks to the generosity of the Saluki folks donating items for the auction and the bidders, Saluki Health Research, Inc. received a check for \$900.00 as their portion of the proceeds from the Annual ASA Celebration Silent Auction held in July 2012 at Tempe, California. This contribution will help further investigations of health concerns in our special breed.
—MaryDee Sist, DVM, President, SHRI, Inc.

fully evaluate the true frequency, complexity and therefore severity of the arrhythmia. Longer term monitoring, as the dog goes about his normal activity in the home environment, is required to determine the significance of the arrhythmia.

no evidence of heart disease, both sides of the chest will be shaven and the leads applied. The Saluki will wear a vest containing the Holter monitor for seven days. The data collected will then be analyzed to determine the frequency and significance of arrhythmias that may occur in Salukis.

Saluki Health Research, Inc. and the Saluki Club of Canada have helped financially support this study. Part of this includes donations that have come from proceeds of the ASA's Celebration auctions. I hope the SCOA will support this study through a contribution from their CHF Donor Advised fund. Other Saluki clubs and organizations, plus private individuals, can also make donations to the CHF for this study.

I encourage Saluki owners to have their Salukis participate. Contact me at Salukihealth@aol.com if you are interested in having your Saluki scheduled. This study will help to characterize the healthy Saluki heart and further our knowledge about our ancient breed.

