Update on Rottweiler research at Nottingham Vet School

We would like to thank all of the owners and breeders that have continued to support the osteosarcoma project. We are overwhelmed by the response we have received and are continuing to receive.

We would like to give you a further update on our progress with osteosarcoma project. Following the successful presentation of the questionnaire study data by Shareen at the BSAVA veterinary conference in Birmingham this year, we have resumed collection of DNA swabs and are keen to collect further completed questionnaires. We will be contacting owners and breeders that are already enrolled in the study and have already completed questionnaires later in the year – between October and November, to review whether the health of their dogs might have changed. This will enable us to determine whether the findings from the initial review of the project data are still valid. We continue to have an amazing and courageous response from owners of Rottweilers with bone tumours, allowing us to have samples. We thank everyone for being involved in this part of the project; we understand how emotional this decision is, we could not do this without your support. The analysis of the samples so far has provided some very exciting findings, which we hope will have an important impact on this awful disease. We will be able to provide you with further more detailed information in the not too distant future.

We have now been able to add an additional arm to our osteosarcoma project. **We are able to offer a free histopathology service to help confirm the diagnosis where your vet may be very suspicious that an osteosarcoma is present but has not yet taken a biopsy or requires confirmation with a second biopsy.** This is something that we hope will aid with reaching a diagnosis and help determine the most appropriate treatment for your dog in addition to providing helpful information for the research project. We hope this will be seen as a helpful step. If your vet has suspicion of an osteosarcoma and would like to take avail of this service then please ask them to contact us on the address below.

We have also reviewed our preliminary plan for the project investigating whether Rottweilers respond effectively to parvovirus vaccination. We are likely to begin by circulating a questionnaire to collect Rottweiler owner’s thoughts and experiences around vaccination. In the light of that information we will consider the best strategy for the project and the most appropriate time to collect samples. We will circulate a separate flyer for this project once we have decided on the finer details. It is however something that we would like to begin before the end of the year.

If you have any questions or queries about this aspect of the projects please contact the sv-dogs@nottingham.ac.uk

With best wishes

Mark Dunning