

HAEMANGIOSARCOMA IN GERMAN SHEPHERD DOGS - RESEARCH INTO TUMOURS OF THE ABDOMEN

Dear German Shepherd Dog owners and Veterinary Surgeons,

I am the Breed Health Co-ordinator for German Shepherd Dogs, appointed by the Kennel Club. You will also find my details on the Kennel Club web site.

German Shepherd Dogs are the second most common breed affected by this tumour and are lucky enough to have a research programme dedicated to our breed, being run by Prof. Mark Dunning at Nottingham University. It is believed to be a genetically inherited condition in GSDs and I have almost 200 pedigrees of affected dogs (191 at the moment) to support this. Many are directly related for three generations, so it is important to collect as many samples, together with their pedigrees, to try to ascertain the facts. I have lost a grandmother and granddaughter with this tumour, so know what a shock it is to lose a dog so quickly. All pedigrees will be kept in the strictest confidence.

I would like to ask you to be aware of this research and to contact me if your dog is diagnosed with this tumour. Time is critical, I'm afraid and it is never easy for an owner to give permission, when they are just about to lose their dog, but there is no other way to collect viable samples.

It is also a difficult time for the veterinary surgeon involved, but there is no other way to proceed.

I have the forms here and the fixative – if needed – and will be happy to send them through to the Vet. concerned for the sample collection and onward journey to the university. I have donations to pay for the postage if needed. The sample can be stored in a refridgerator for several days if necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact me

via e-mail : chrishazell44@gmail.com or

telephone me on : 01544 327104

Thank you in advance for any help you can give in trying to get some answers to the inheritance – if it is inherited, which looks likely – of this form of cancer.

Please pass this information on to anyone who owns a German Shepherd Dog who may be interested in helping with this vital research (owners, breeders, working dog owners, etc.)

We also need to contact as many veterinary surgeries as possible.

Thank you.

Mrs Chris Hazell

German Shepherd Dog Breed Health Co-ordinator