

# AussieGENES

*Australian Shepherd Genetic Epilepsy Network & Education Service*

## **It is a sad day for epilepsy research....**

### **What has happened & why?**

According to John Duffendack of VetGen, they have discontinued their epilepsy research work "because of lack of breeder support" and the fact that several other labs are also investigating the disease.

### **What implications does it have on the samples that were already submitted to them?**

Samples that were previously submitted to VetGen have been given to the University of Michigan to use to complete the candidate gene search they previously had underway.

### **What do we do now?**

Despite the fact that VetGen has withdrawn from the field, research on canine epilepsy continues at several universities in North America. This includes those involved with the Canine Epilepsy Network ([www.canine-epilepsy.net](http://www.canine-epilepsy.net)) spearheaded by the University of Missouri. They ARE still accepting samples from affected Aussies and their kin. To date the University of Missouri has samples on 99 aussies, 16 of whom are affected with epilepsy (the rest are relatives.) They are going to need a lot more support that this if we expect them to keep working with our breed and have any chance of finding us the genetic marker we so desperately need to eliminate this terrible disease from our breed.

### **If you sent samples on your dog to VetGen but have \*NOT\* submitted to the University of Missouri, then what?**

If your dog is still alive or tissue is otherwise available (stored blood, semen, etc.) contact the University of Missouri and ask if they would like a sample.

### **If you have an Aussie with epilepsy and have not submitted samples to any research organization, then what?**

Go to the Canine Epilepsy Network's website ([www.canine-epilepsy.net](http://www.canine-epilepsy.net)) and fill out their seizure survey. If your dog has a known pedigree, follow up with an e-mail or phone call to their Research Coordinator, Liz Hansen ([HansenL@Missouri.edu](mailto:HansenL@Missouri.edu), 573 884-3712.)

Unlike the VetGen study, **the Canine Epilepsy Network study will accept samples from the affected dog alone**, though they do like to get samples on relatives, too, if at all possible.



## **AussieGENES**

(Genetic Epilepsy Network and Education Service)

a program of the Australian Shepherd Health and Genetics Institute, Inc.

[www.ashgi.org/aussiegenes](http://www.ashgi.org/aussiegenes)

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