

## PORTUGUESE WATER DOG FOUNDATION UPDATE

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Many years ago I wrote a column soon after the beginning of the Portuguese Water Foundation. There are many PWD owners and others who do not know of this foundation and it's wonderful work, hence this column.

The Portuguese Water Dog Foundation was formed in 1997, became incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1998 and in 2000 was granted IRS status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations made to the foundation are tax deductible. All officers and board members of the foundation serve as unpaid volunteers.

The Portuguese Water Dog Foundation was started by a group of people who loved the breed and had a mission of: "to generate significant resources for funding research of genetic and other canine diseases to improve the quality of life and health of our Portuguese Water Dog companions." Over the many years since it's founding, the PWD Foundation has made major contributions towards the health and well being of this breed.

Research funding has included:

JUVENILE CARDIOMYOPATHY: with investigators at the University of Pennsylvania.

Objective: "Finding the gene responsible for JCM in the PWD and developing a test to detect carriers."

CANINE HEMANGIOSARCOMA: with investigators at the University of Colorado and the University of Minnesota.

Objective: "The detection of circulating canine hemangiosarcoma cells using multi-parameter flow cytometry."

PROGRESSIVE RETINAL ATROPHY: with investigators at the University of Pennsylvania.

Objective: "Develop a mutant-based DNA test that identifies the actual mutant gene that carries PRA in the PWD."

The PWD Foundation has also supported research being co-sponsored with the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Research here has included the following topics:

Addison's Disease, Canine Hemangiosarcoma, Canine Lymphoma, Canine Hypothyroidism Osteosarcoma, Transitional Cell Cancer and Melanoma

And, the PWD Foundation also supports ten additional research projects co-sponsored with the Morris Animal Foundation.

The PWD CLUB of America greatly acknowledges the wonderful work of the PWD Foundation. For continuity, the Foundation "communicates directly with the PWDCA Health Committee staying updated on newly identified health concerns and allowing them to identify priorities in health research."

DONATIONS: your support and generosity would be greatly appreciated by the PWDF to help and insure the ongoing research "to improve the quality of life and health of our PWD'S." Various donor levels are available, both personal and/or "in memory or honor of a friend, or loved one, whether human or canine."

For further information about the PWD Foundation please go to their web site:

[www.pwdfoundation.org](http://www.pwdfoundation.org). My personal thanks to the dedicated PWD owners who initiated the founding of this organization, to those who continue to serve the foundation and to all who have contributed financially to this most worthy cause.