

Dear Lowchen Lovers,

As part of the 2008 National Specialty event for the Lowchen Club of America, the board of directors has voted to underwrite a DNA blood sample clinic. The samples will be stored in the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) repository for future use in research into health issues affecting our breed.

In an effort to increase the scope and impact of this project the board further voted to invite all Lowchen owners to participate. The only criteria set by the LCA board is that the dogs participating in the project be registered with an AKC recognized registry.

There will be an actual physical clinic at the National specialty; however those unable to attend can submit samples under the cover of the same clinic. The OFA will accept samples starting immediately and ending October 24, 2008, the day of the clinic. The LCA will cover the fees set by the OFA. Those wishing to participate separate from the specialty will be responsible for their vet fees and the postage to ship the samples to the repository.

Those wishing to submit samples should fill out a form (attached) for each dog and return it to the OFA at the provided address. The OFA will then send you a packet with a set of instructions and bar code labels for each dog. The labels can be taken to your vet for dogs collected at home or brought to the specialty for dogs attending. Be sure to tell your veterinarian that these samples are for research, most will ask a minimal fee or do the draw free of charge. After the draw has been done mail the samples as instructed making sure the samples do not arrive over a weekend when there will be no one to receive it.

Of vital importance are samples from dogs with documented health conditions. These samples will be accepted by the OFA free of charge.

This clinic is an opportunity to build a research repository that will have an impact on the lives of our Lowchen now and for many years to come. It is also a chance for Lowchen owners worldwide to come together for the good of our breed.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Janette Swindler
LCA Health Chairman
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