

January 16, 2018

Ms. Marion Mitchell
Epil-K9 Foundation, Inc.
185 Rim Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Marion and the entire Epil-K9 Foundation:

We want to extend our sincere appreciation for your ongoing support of Emma's Fund at NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine to benefit epilepsy research in companion animals. Since the inception of this fund in 2007, Epil-K9 has contributed an incredible total of **\$61,500** towards Canine Epilepsy Research, Education and Outreach. Funding that has been raised and donated by individuals affected by canine epilepsy. Funding that has truly made a difference in the past, and will continue to support advances in the understanding, treatment and outcome for pets with epilepsy as well as their caregivers.

The following highlights of 2017 have been made possible with your support:

- An abstract of the results of a pharmacokinetic study evaluating the disposition of the extended release formulation of levetiracetam in dogs with epilepsy was presented at the ACVIM Forum in June. A copy of the poster "**Pharmacokinetics of Extended-Release Levetiracetam in Epileptic Dogs When Administered Alone, or with Phenobarbital or Zonisamide**" is attached. The full-length manuscript has been submitted for publication and is currently under review. This study was initiated as an intern project for Dr. Arturo Otamendi, who is currently completing the final year of his neurology residency training program at Texas A&M University. Epil-K9 was also instrumental in publicizing the study and finding participants that met the study requirements.
- Initiation of a pilot study evaluating the prevalence of exposure to the bacteria *Bartonella* in dogs with idiopathic epilepsy, in order to explore infection as a potential risk factor for the development of disease. The study is being undertaken by Dr. Liz Curtis, a current small animal intern, under the direction of Drs. Karen Muñana and Ed Breitschwerdt.
- Publication of the study "**Evaluation of the Impacts of Epilepsy in Dogs on Their Caregivers**" in the *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association*. A copy of the manuscript is attached. Findings from this study have been presented at local, regional and national veterinary conferences. In addition, the study captured the attention of VetVine, an online continuing education veterinary platform, that did a short feature on the findings which included an interview with Julie Nettifee. Dissemination of this information is helping veterinary professionals learn more about the impacts of epilepsy and ways to further support the client-patient-veterinary team as a whole.

- Continued and extensive connections with pet owners all across the globe that would not have been possible without the connections from Epil-K9. As of the end of 2017, we have more than 644 entries included in our *Database of Pets with Epilepsy* from all over the globe!
- Ongoing assistance with recruitment for clinical studies. For every study, there are specific inclusion criteria that a patient and client must meet. Locating appropriate cases is often the most difficult part of a study, and is critical to the successful completion of the project. With Epil-K9's help, we met our recruitment goal for the Microbiome study funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and continue to identify cases for the Accelerometer study funded by Morris Animal Foundation.
- Continued support in promoting educational and outreach events with publicity of the Canine Epilepsy Symposia held at NC State College of Veterinary Medicine in April 2017. More than 55 participants took part in this event, which provided information on caring for a pet with epilepsy as well as care for the caregiver, and allowed us all to connect further.
- Technical support for the Canine Epilepsy Research Program. We are very appreciative for your consent to use Emma's Fund to cover a small gap in Julie Nettifee's salary for 4 months in 2017. Your financial assistance ensured that the program had continuous technical support, which is vital to the success of our clinical studies, as well as education and outreach efforts.

And the list continues....

It has also been an incredible journey for us – being provided with essentially a “front-row seat” to the growing interest in research and education on canine epilepsy and the important role that Epil-K9 is playing in this process. Once again, we continue to be honored to be the recipient of donations from the calendars and overall mission of Epil-K9. We absolutely love taking part in the calendar, with the knowledge that behind each and every submitted photo are caregivers that are contributing to the success of the mission and are truly making a difference for all.

As we begin 2018, we are continuing to explore research projects with the goal of advancing the understanding and treatment options for our canine companions affected by epilepsy. We will be hosting a Canine Epilepsy educational program again in April 2018, in efforts to continue to support more caregivers facing epilepsy in their pets.

With Sincere Appreciation,



Karen Muñana, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)



Julie Nettifee, RVT, BS, VTS (Neurology)

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