

4/1/05

## ABGA HEALTH SURVEY RESULTS

INTERPRETATION : MARK GRIGALUNAS – ABGA HEALTH COMMITTEE

The final statistics of the ABGA Health Survey have been published in the ABGA Bulletin, the NBGC Sprout and has been posted on the ABGA Web-site.

For those of us that can read statistics and interpret them ... the facts speak for themselves.

For those of us that need further interpretation .... There are some interesting facts presented to us.

The following information is strictly my own personal interpretation of the facts and does not represent those opinions of the Board of Directors of the ABGA.

As you all know, I have had a personal problem with Cataracts and Progressive Retinal Atrophy within my line of breeding, and have since halted any additional litters.

Although the official Health Survey reports that our #1 problem is Patella Luxation, I would like to take a more detailed observation ...

110 dogs were reported with eye problems = 14% of all dogs

- 52 dogs reported with Cataracts (non-conclusive as to how many were “Juvenile”)
- 5 dogs reported with Progressive Retinal Atrophy – these were my own dogs (all dogs reported with Cataracts should be tested for PRA – expensive and rarely done)
- 53 dogs reported “other” eye problems

If we take this total as “Eye Problems” then this becomes the #1 problem with our breed over Patella Luxation ... for a total of 110 dogs reported with eye problems verses 59 dogs with “Patella” luxation.

Although Patella Luxation is a major problem that we should be aware of, the problem is rarely debilitating and can be surgically corrected. Most dogs with this problem live a long and Healthy life. Reputable breeders could easily eliminate this problem from our gene pool.

A dog with Cataracts, and going blind, may be surgically corrected, but more than likely, is also compounded with Progressive Retinal Atrophy which is irreversible. For those that reported “Cataracts” ... it is difficult to determine how many respondents actually continued with the expensive diagnosis for PRA – which is called PRC – and requires a mild sedation of the dog.

In my opinion, “Eye Problems” is the #1 problem in our breed, and until we are all willing to talk about it openly .... The solutions will be far away.