

Dear Breed Club members

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a complex and poorly understood respiratory illness that results in exercise intolerance, coughing, and breathing difficulties. Veterinary surgeons often hear “crackles” when they listen to the dog’s chest. IPF is usually diagnosed in Terrier dogs especially the West Highland White Terrier, but also exists in other breeds such as the Schipperke, Cairn Terrier and Miniature Pinscher. The disease is difficult to diagnose and hard to treat, and is currently associated with a poor prognosis.

In collaboration with Professor Cécile Clercx at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Liège and the European LUPA project, we are involved in a study to better understand this disease. The specific aims are to improve early diagnosis through blood tests, to understand the genetic background of IPF (with the hope of identifying strategies to reduce the transmission of the disease to future generations), and to investigate the mechanisms of development of the disease (with the hope of identifying potential treatments). Further information is available at http://www.cvu.ulg.ac.be/cms/c_460478/fr/etudes-cliniques/-/clinical-studies

In order to achieve this, we need help from breed clubs to publicise the project and help us identify dogs with suspected IPF. The attached leaflet contains further details of the study and we would be very grateful if you could circulate this letter and leaflet amongst your members. If any of your members know of a dog suspected to have IPF, we would be very happy to discuss the case with their veterinary surgeon and consider the dog for potential inclusion in the study. Even if referral to one of our centres is impractical, we would still be very grateful for any clinical details and tissue samples.

With many thanks for your support

Yours sincerely



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