Investigating Genetics Behind Primary Glaucoma in Cocker Spaniels

GOALS Glaucoma is one of the most common causes for irreversible blindness and pain in dogs. Primary glaucoma is typically a bilateral disease and its consequences are always heartbreaking. Among all the pure breed dogs, Cocker spaniels are one of the most commonly affected breeds where approximately 5% have glaucoma. Primary glaucoma is a multifactorial disease, where breed, gender, age and environmental factors all play a role in its development. In order to understand the genetics behind primary glaucoma we will compare the genome of normal unaffected Cocker spaniels with primary glaucoma affected Cocker spaniels.

ELIGIBILITY Normal, unaffected Cocker spaniels must be age 8 or older and have normal intraocular pressures. Affected Cocker spaniels must be age 8 or older with primary glaucoma confirmed by gonioscopy or histopathology to confirm the presence of an angle closure.

COMPENSATION All eligible dogs brought to the Cornell University Hospital for Animals (CUHA) for an appointment with any service who agree to participate in this study will have a free, thorough, ophthalmic (eye) examination by a veterinary ophthalmologist.

OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES If you agree to let your dog participate in this study, you will be asked to bring your dog to the CUHA for a single visit for an ophthalmic exam and to draw a small amount of blood. We can also coordinate receiving results from other veterinary ophthalmologists around the country. You will be responsible for any costs unrelated to the study.

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