

2018 GWP Health Survey Results

A huge thanks to the 170 GWPCA members who took the time to complete our 2018 Health Survey. The survey was established to determine how many GWP households were affected by certain health conditions. Comparatively, we had 92 participants in 2011. Skin/Eye/Dental disorders listed the most responses in this survey. Our dogs continue to suffer from allergies, heritable eye conditions, and abnormal dentition. Not surprisingly, our high drive, performance dogs continue to tolerate arthritis, hip dysplasia and cruciate ligament injury. Two members listed osteochondrosis (OCD) in the 2011 survey with 7 responses in 2018. More households reported dogs affected by this shoulder condition than elbow dysplasia. Reproductive disorders remain a concern with 24 members reporting mastitis compared to 6 in 2011. Cryptorchidism/monorchidism claimed 20 responses in 2018 compared to 4 in 2011. Hypothyroidism remains a heritable health concern in the 2018 survey with 27 responses. Pancreatitis claimed 1 response in 2011 and 13 in 2018. Pancreatic cancer also increased 5-fold compared to 2011. Nasal cavity cancer claiming 8 responses was also a surprise. There were no Addison's disease responses in 2011 and 8 in 2018 with 2 dogs from the same litter. The thyroid gland, pancreas, and adrenal gland can all be affected by immune-mediated disease. 16 households were affected by GDV-BLOAT in 2018. Nine members listed Inflammatory Bowel Disease (2 in 2011) Four dogs with colitis (0 in 2011). 18 GWP's with heart murmurs (6 in 2011). Four congestive heart failure responses in 2018 (0 in 2011). Interestingly, cardiomyopathy and subaortic stenosis were 4 in 2018 and 3 in 2011 with almost twice as many participants in 2018.

Q1 Cancer/Tumors 65 responses

Hemangiosarcoma 22

Mammary Cancer 11

Liver cancer 8

Nasal Cavity Cancer 8

Lymphoma 7

Osteosarcoma, Mast Cell Tumor, Melanoma, Squamous Cell Carcinoma 6 responses each

Pancreatic cancer 5

Q2 Neurological/Muscular 47 Responses

Epilepsy 11

Vestibular Syndrome 11

Intervertebral Disc Disease 4

Lumbosacral Stenosis 3

Laryngeal Paralysis 2

Exercise Induced Collapse and Degenerative Myelopathy 1 response each

Q3 Skin/Eye/Dental Disorders 106 responses

Food/medicine allergies 26

Seasonal allergies 15

Alopecia (hair loss) 11

Entropion/ectropion 12

E1 Cataract- suspect not inherited 7

Juvenile Cataracts 5

Senile Cataracts 5

Persistent pupillary membrane, corneal dystrophy, dry eye 3 responses each

Underbite 24 (2011-18)

Missing teeth 17 (2011-17)

Overbite 13 (2011-3)

Crossbite 6 (2011-2)
Craniomandibular osteopathy 1

Q4 Liver/Kidney/Gastrointestinal 32 responses

Bloat 16
Inflammatory Bowel Disease 9
Hepatotoxicity, Colitis, Bladder/kidney stones 4 each

Q5 Orthopedic Disorders 72 responses

Arthritis 40
Hip Dysplasia 30
Cruciate ligament rupture 23
OCD 7
Elbow Dysplasia 5
Panosteitis, spondylosis, hypertrophic osteodystrophy 4 responses each

Q6 Blood/Lymph Disorders 4 responses

Anemia 2
Autoimmune hemolytic anemia 2
von Willebrand's Disease 2
Hemophilia, Idiopathic thrombocytopenia, Phosphofructokinase deficiency 1 each

Q7 Endocrinologic Disorders 56 responses

Hypothyroidism 27
Pancreatitis 13
Addison's Disease 8
Cushing's Disease 6

Q8 Reproductive Disorders 66 responses

Mastitis 24
Cryptorchidism/monorchidism 20
Irregular heat cycle 14
Pyometra 13
Failure to conceive 11

Q9 Cardiac Disorders 23 responses

Heart murmur 18
Cardiomyopathy 4
Congestive heart failure 4
Subaortic stenosis 4

Q10 Other Health Issues of Concern and member suggestions:

Required testing for Degenerative Myelopathy (1) OCD (7), EIC (1) Hemophilia B (1) von Willebrand's disease (2)
vWD required for non-US dogs
"Recertification" hips
Two littermates with Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism)
Require echocardiogram for cardiac clearance

Temperament test- concerns about behavioral issues- separation anxiety, phobias, anxiety as a genetic issue
An asterisk/notation for dogs that have completed CHIC requirements with abnormal results
Effect of spaying/neutering timing on potential joint problems- dog size and height relative to joint problems
All GWP owners might use this Health Survey to become more aware of health problems affecting our breed.

Members breeding German Wirehaired Pointers might:

- 1) Ask more questions before choosing a sire or dam. Has idiopathic epilepsy, bloat, or hemangiosarcoma been a problem in the line? Has anyone diagnosed cardiac disease or detectable cardiac murmurs in puppies from previous litters? Is there a history of knee problems? A large percentage of cruciate ligament injuries are the result of a genetically- influenced degenerative process involving the stifle (knee) joints. Considering the numbers, we need to be concerned about this problem in our athletic dogs as well as hip dysplasia.
- 2) Take time to actually look in a dog or puppy's mouth and closely inspect eyes. It is assumed allergies have a genetic base as part of their mechanism. Take a close look at coats, feet, and ears. Expect puppies may have problems if a relative shows excessive scratching or hair loss. Like allergies in humans, clinical signs vary from mildly seasonal to year-round severe. Consider consulting with an owner who "manages" an allergic dog to learn how time consuming and frustrating it can be.
- 3) Specifically identify their dogs' strengths and weaknesses. Perform health clearances prior to breeding and openly share what they know and learn. The OFA website provides health test results on individuals, as well as depth and breadth of pedigree health information on closely related individuals. Only disorders with a defined test for normalcy are included, such as hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, and hypothyroidism. That list continues to grow as OFA now includes a database for shoulder OCD and Dentition.

To request the 2018 Health Survey in its entirety, please contact me at gwpoint@aol.com