

**Newfoundland Club
of America
Charitable Trust 2022
Health Survey
By Clyde Dunphy**



The 2022 Newfoundland Health Survey was created by Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) and administered by the Orthopaedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) has just closed with data collected on 1264 dogs. There was an even split of males and females.

The purpose of the health survey was to identify areas of health concern and disease in a given population of Newfoundland dogs. If we see an area that is of great concern we can ask why? Then target this area to alert Newfoundland owners and breeders of a potential problem, use education about a disease or health concern to inform owners, and use this information to target our research dollars towards the diseases and health concerns that are affecting our dogs.

The results of the 2022 health survey can be found on the OFA website www.OFA.org under Newfoundland dogs, and then click surveys. The survey was closed with 1264 dogs entered. The % of dogs affected do not always equal 100% in the categories as not all people responded to all questions, so that needs to be taken into consideration when you are looking at the results. I would encourage each of you reading this article to go to the survey results and spend a few minutes looking at the health issues affecting our dogs.

Some of the highlights of the survey - 88% of respondents reported that the dog showed no signs of aggressive behaviour, being outgoing, friendly, confident and curious; 67% of owners reported their dog had no significant health problems. While these are good numbers, some trends in 2016 surveys are evident in that the number of respondents indicating their dog as having excellent health dropped from 77% to 67%. Conversely the overall temperament assessment increased from 70% to 88%, a significant improvement.

The health conditions identified by percent affected in the survey are as follows:

- **29% (up from 24% in '16) affected by orthopaedic problems with hip dysplasia, cruciate disease and elbow dysplasia most common, 6 dogs affected with Forelimb Anomaly (CLRHL)**
- **25% (up from 18% in '16) suffered from allergies most often were atopy and food allergies**
- **21% (up from 16% in '16) affected by skin disease with the top causes listed as atopy, food allergies and pyoderma.**

- **13 % (up from 9% in '16) indicated an eye disorder with entropion, Cherry eye and dry eye being most common. However, senile and juvenile cataracts were also listed.**
- **11% (up from 8% in '16) listed chronic ear infection and otitis externa most often diagnosed.**
- **10% (up from 6% in '16) had gastrointestinal disease including diarrhoea, pancreatitis, and bloat.**
- **6% (up from 5 % in '16) had cardiac disease including SAS, dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and other misc. heart disease.**
- **8% neuromuscular disease with epilepsy, cervical neck pain, disc disease, degenerative myelopathy and 5 dogs listed with myasthenia gravis disease.**
- **6% reproductive problems with Pyometra most common.**

The CTMB looks at past health surveys to see trends and changes in the most commonly listed disease areas. I recently reviewed the 2001 health survey results and compared it to the recently completed 2022 survey.

Some noticeable health changes have occurred in the last 21 years.

- **Cancer is increasingly affecting our dogs, increasing from 6.7% to 11% of dogs affected.**
- **Hypo-Thyroidism has dropped from 7 % in 2001 to 1.8% in '22.**
- **Orthopaedic problems continue to plague our breed, however hip dysplasia has decreased by 50%, while cruciate ligament disease has increased from 3.9% to 9.4%.**
- **All cardiac disease is unchanged at 6%, however SAS has decreased from 3.8% to 1.5%.**
- **Bloat decreased from 3.8% to 1.6%.**
- **Allergies, Allergic dermatitis have increased from affecting 11.5 % in '01 to 25% of dogs in 2022.**
- **Cystinuria affected 2.6% of dogs in '01 with no reported cases on our survey in '22.**

The health of our Newfoundland dogs is constantly changing, and the Health Survey helps to guide the CTMB as to where we need to concentrate our research funds.

**Clyde Dunphy DVM CTMB Chairman
Research Advisory Committee**

Heart disease in Newfoundland dogs focus of newly funded Morris Animal Foundation study

A new grant hopes to shed light on the genetics underlying subvalvular aortic stenosis (SAS) in Newfoundland dogs. The study, funded by **Morris Animal Foundation**, will be conducted by a veterinary team at **Michigan State University**.

Led by **Dr. Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan**, Professor, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and Small Animal Clinical Sciences, and the project's Principal Investigator, the study will employ advanced tools to discover genetic determinants of SAS in Newfoundland dogs. If successful, findings could be used to genetically screen dogs for this disease, and inform breeding decisions.

"SAS is a devastating and puzzling disease – devastating for the dogs and their families and puzzling for the geneticists" said Dr. Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan. "We hope our cutting-edge genetics and genomics approaches will provide some clear and useful answers, and reveal the genetic basis of this disorder. We appreciate partnering with **Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust** and Morris Animal Foundation to achieve this goal."

Subvalvular aortic stenosis is a serious, congenital heart disease of dogs. Several breeds have a high incidence of SAS, including Newfoundland dogs. SAS is characterized by the development of abnormal tissue that obstructs the flow of blood from the heart. Dogs with the disease often have shortened lifespans and sometimes succumb to sudden death.

Current treatment options are limited to medication to improve quality of life.

"Understanding the genetics of this serious disease could lead to advances in diagnostic tests and help inform breeding decisions, eventually leading to fewer dogs suffering," said Dr. Kathy Tietje, Morris Animal Foundation Vice President, Scientific Operations. "Results from this study could have implications for all dog breeds affected by SAS."

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The Research efforts of the Trust and the Research Advisory Committee are prepared for the future as we have teamed up with the Morris Animal Foundation to fund Donor Inspired Studies. Currently, we are funding Research projects on Newfoundland Forelimb Anomaly (Congenital Radial Head Luxation) and Cranial Cruciate Ligament Disease in the Newfoundland. We recently funded a study on a new novel treatment for canine otitis externa. The Trust also funded a study on Musculoskeletal Conditions and Diseases with the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

Clyde Dunphy DVM CTMB Chairman
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