

INTERNATIONAL SILKEN WINDHOUND SOCIETY, INC.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA "LOTUS" RESEARCH PROGRAM

The University of Pennsylvania has grant monies to research a genetic defect similar to our "lotus" pups and requested we send them our lotus specimens to help in the project to find a pre-test to determine the carriers. There are other dog clubs participating in this research too. It is a great opportunity and an answer to our prayers. Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to the Silken Windhound breed.

Regarding the U of P research project, Francie Stull (breed founder) stated, "I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is to be prepared to do this. Nobody likes lotus puppies, although we can learn to deal with them. But if they can develop a test to identify carriers, we can rid our breed of it. We are such a tight group and all love the breed enough and we still have enough control over our population that the results could be very gratifying. Plan ahead if you are planning a litter."

It does not cost the club or any individual money to test the "lotus" pups. Therefore, it is imperative and vital to the interests of the SWH breed that the U of P receives **ALL** pups that exhibited the classical appearance of "deformed joints", including any pups that did not survive for whatever reason.

The University of Pennsylvania DNA tests all pups sent to the "Lotus" Research Program.

However, for registry purposes, if the affected litter is a dual-sired litter, swab all pups prior to sending them to the University of Pennsylvania. (Download the DNA Parentage Verification Test Form from the ISWS website—www.silkenwindhounds.org/registry.html; complete and return to the registrar. Upon receipt of the DNA Submission Form from the registrar, send the form and swabs of all pups to be tested to VGL.)

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!!

1. **DO NOT FREEZE ANY OF THE PUPS!** Keep them in the refrigerator in a plastic bag and do your best to send them to the U of P within 24 hours.
2. Wrap each pup in paper towels and then put each one in a plastic bag; put them in a box; surround them with ice packs (be sure ice packs are double-wrapped so the package doesn't leak). Regular ice or ice packs are just fine. It's not always easy to get dry ice and if someone doesn't wrap the pup well enough, it might get freezer burn from the dry ice.
3. Send the package overnight (preferably within 24 hours) via Fed X, or UPS to:

Dr. Margret L Casal
Section of Medical Genetics
VHUP Room 4018
3900 Delancey Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010

