

## HELLO, USA BRACCO OWNERS!

I have some exciting news regarding health research in the Bracco! The Bracco Italiano Club of America and the Bracco Italiano Health Foundation are working with the University of Florida to conduct the first organized research project evaluating kidney disease in the Bracco Italiano.

As many of you know, an often rapidly fatal, hereditary kidney disease has been reported in the Bracco over several generations. Amyloidosis has been diagnosed in some dogs, but non-amyloid diseases occur in the same family lines. We currently are in the infancy of understanding this disease (or group of diseases).

Starting in June, 2019, we will be conducting a study to estimate the prevalence of kidney disease in the breed and define the most common changes seen in bloodwork and urinalysis. We will also be collecting samples for DNA banking. We expect this to be the first of three phases of research. Our first goal is to characterize the kidney disease(s) seen in this breed. Then, we will evaluate kidney biopsies and perform gene sequencing (DNA analysis) on affected dogs. Our ultimate goal is to identify a DNA marker which can be tested for in dogs prior to breeding.

**The current study will aim to enroll 60 apparently healthy Bracco Italiano dogs between the ages of 6 months and 14 years.**

**You will get a chemistry analysis, complete blood count, urinalysis, urine protein:creatinine ratio (measure protein loss in the urine), and serum amyloid A levels run on your dog FREE OF CHARGE.** All that is required is a routine blood draw and a free catch urine sample. Also, **we will collect blood and cheek swabs for DNA banking FREE OF CHARGE.** The results of this testing will be available to you if you wish, otherwise the individual results will be kept strictly confidential and only available to the veterinary research team.

If your dog is present at the 2019 BICA National Specialty, the samples will be collected on site. If you are not able to attend the National Specialty but still want your dog to be involved, then you can have the samples collected by your primary care veterinarian and overnight shipped to the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. Unfortunately, we cannot cover shipping costs - but the testing will still be at no charge to you.

**We will begin collecting samples for the study in June, 2019.**

To provide more information so that everyone best understands why and how this research will benefit the breed — I will be making a series of 3 short videos to share with you.

- Video 1: [https://youtu.be/gMsnk\\_cqHxw](https://youtu.be/gMsnk_cqHxw)

Also, while we are applying for outside funding, at some point we will likely need financial support from the Bracco Italiano Health Foundation to make this project as successful as possible. Please, consider a donation to help us move forward in understanding the diseases this breed faces. If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please contact me!

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