

### **SM Update from Tessa Gaines**

I thought it might be helpful to give an update on SM research for Griffons. The Research at the Georgia University, USA is now starting under the Grant 1004# to which both the GBBA and the Northern GBC subscribed. Probably as a direct result of our country's help it looks as though we are being given the opportunity to participate in the research. We have to submit to Dr. Simon Platt (Director of the Research) filled application forms just as soon as possible. He will then decide if he wants all or any of our dogs and if he does will make arrangements for the tests and scans to be done at one or two ☐enters in this country. If you have access to a computer you can learn more about this and at the same time download a form from <http://www.vet.uga.edu/hospital/smallanimal/neurology/syringomyelia.php> If you cannot access a computer then you can phone Carol Ritchie and she will post a form to you. When you make your application I suggest you send it airmail directly to Dr. Platt at the address at the bottom of the form.

Then the next item is the fact that more research is to be done in this country and help is on hand from the £2,500 donated by the GBC. At the moment I understand that Dr. Clare Rusbridge and researcher Penny Knowler have in mind that the monies will be used to have five to six years old Griffons MRI. They are also considering helping with the cost for stud dogs.

On top of all this, the GBBA has been accumulating some monies especially for SM (Syringomyelia) and the Officers and Committee are considering the best ways of helping with MRI.

At the GBBA AGM last year it was to pay for the grading of MRIs by one person, and Dr. Clare Rusbridge has agreed to do this, it will cost on a one off basis £50.00 or if the discs are collated and sent in a batch then the price will be £35.00 each. In consequence I have been asked to co-ordinate this and the discs should be sent in the first instance to me when I will forward them on when there are three or more. Even if you have three or more MRI at a time do please send them to me as I may well be sitting on just one disc waiting for some more to arrive! At the same time I shall arrange for the GBBA Treasurer to issue the necessary cheque. The grading certificates will be sent direct to yourselves but one thing of which you should be aware is that if you accept any help with any of the MRI schemes and costs, then you will be under an obligation to allow those results to be collated and too if it is a stud dog, to declare the grading to any potential client. It is only by being transparent in these matters that we shall be able to keep our Griffons healthy in the future. The more Griffons we can process through the more work that can be done by Sarah Blott on pedigrees and the best way forward. One thing is for sure we do not want to end up with a similar situation as the Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

Finally, you should be aware that the CKCS has said that Griffonites are welcome to attend any of their SM meetings such as those in which Sarah Blott will be talking about the pedigree work. These meetings are mentioned on the Cavalier Clubs special SM website. [www.thecavalierclub.co.uk/health/syringo/mriscan.html](http://www.thecavalierclub.co.uk/health/syringo/mriscan.html) where you will also find all of the ☐enters where reduced cost MRI are done. You must mention when booking an MRI that it is for SM at reduced cost.

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(Note that there are links to the above websites through our own site)