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# IEDSU Receives Grant

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The Inherited Eye Disease Studies Unit at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine received a \$50,000 grant from the Frances V. R. Seebe Trust through the efforts of the Canine Eye Registration Foundation, Inc. (CERF) and Mrs. R. Kenton Musgrave, a poodle breeder. "These funds are to be used by the Inherited Eye Disease Studies Unit of the Section of Medical Genetics exclusively for research into the diagnosis, cause and cure of eye diseases," said R. Kenton Musgrave, a representative of the trust. "And specifically, to investigate the problem of progressive retinal atrophy, with emphasis on early detection of PRA, both in affected animals and in non-symptomatic carriers of the disease."

CERF, a non-profit, tax-exempt foundation, functions as a registry for *clear-eyed* dogs and serves as a center for the accumulation of vital statistics on both normal dogs, and dogs with hereditary eye disease, according to breed and disease. "There is a great need for means of

identifying carriers, particularly for the late developing types of PRA," said Mrs. Dolly Trauner, secretary-treasurer of the organization. "CERF has established an auxiliary committee which is actively engaged in raising funds for research into carrier identification. The committee is chaired by Mrs. Bernie Dolen. These funds are being raised for the IEDSU so that Dr. Aguirre and his colleagues can continue their work toward the end of carrier identification for PRA." The organization already has raised some funds and is actively engaged in contacting the breed clubs of the 79 breeds known to have forms of PRA. "It will take a great deal of money and research to find a test to identify the carriers before they become part of the breeding pool," said Mrs. Trauner. "But it is so important to identify these dogs."

"The grant received from the Frances V. R. Seebe Trust will greatly help us in our studies to provide new methods of early diagnosis of affected animals," said Dr. Gustavo Aguirre, director of IEDSU. "More importantly, it will enable us to develop alternate methods for identification of carrier animals."

## Calendar

**January 25** 16th Annual Symposium. Your Veterinarian and Your Dog

**January 29 & 30** Penn Annual Conference

**February 19** Surgical Approaches to the Bones and Joints of Dogs, Continuing Education program, VHUP

**March 22** 9th Annual Feline Fanciers Symposium

**April 16** Current Topics in Small Animal Nephrology, Continuing Education program, VHUP

## Bellwether

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