

BAER Testing and DNA Sample Collection by the ABCA Health & Education Foundation, Inc.

The ABCA Health & Education Foundation (HEF) will be sponsoring a BAER Testing and DNA Sample Collection Clinic at the NCA Finals on Thursday and Friday, June 15-16. **There is no cost to participate.**

What is BAER testing, and why do I want it?

BAER testing can tell you how well your dog can hear, whether he may be hearing-impaired in one or both ears, and whether he might have an inherited condition called EAOD (Early Adult Onset Deafness). EAOD typically comes on at anywhere from 2-7 years of age. It's in the lines of some of our outstanding working dogs, and typically strikes after a lot of training time has been put into a young dog. A dog may have trained up well, but then his work deteriorates. What you might chalk up to stubbornness and "blowing me off" may in fact be because the dog is having trouble hearing commands. In such a case, the BAER test can help you find out which it is.

Why is HEF paying for this?

Two reasons. First, so you can get important information about your dog's hearing. Second, because we want to find the genetic cause of EAOD. If we can locate the genetic cause, it may be possible to ensure that no more dogs are produced who go deaf in early and mid life. For example, Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA) is a genetic disease that no dog needs to have anymore, because it was found to be caused by two recessive genes, and a test was developed to let you know in advance of breeding whether your breeding pair carries that gene. If one of them is free of the mutation, then you can breed them together confidently, knowing that none of the pups will be affected. The research that produced that CEA test was sponsored by the ABCA. ABCA HEF is currently sponsoring the same kind of research to find the genetic cause of EAOD, and you and your dog can help that research succeed by participating in this clinic. We need dogs with good hearing to take part as well as dogs with suspected bad hearing.

What do I have to do?

(1) You need to fill out a health questionnaire about your dog. It focuses mainly on hearing, but also asks about some other issues as well, so it can be used for future research. At the bottom is a consent form for you to sign, allowing us to share your dog's information and DNA sample with the researchers. The information you give will be treated as strictly confidential, and will not be disclosed to anyone else. (2) You need to have the BAER test given to your dog. It does not hurt, and you can be with her the whole time, and hold her if she squirms. It is being administered by one of the most qualified BAER testers in North America. (3) You need to have a DNA sample drawn from your dog by our participating vets or vet techs. (4) Bring your dog's registration number or a copy of your dog's registration paper (preferred). That's it. Dogs are eligible to take part if they are registered with the ABCA or the CBCA. Dogs do not need to be entered at the Finals to be tested.

For more information, please contact the NCA office.

**Consent Form and Questionnaire for
BAER Test and/or DNA Sample Collection**

*Name of Owner: _____

*Address: _____

*Email: _____ *Phone: _____

*Dog's Name: _____ ABCA Registration Number: _____

*Dog's date of birth: _____ Dog's Gender: ___M ___F

*This dog is currently (check one): ___hearing normally ___hard of hearing ___deaf

If now deaf, when did you first notice hearing deficit? _____

*Has this dog ever been BAER tested before? ___Yes ___No

*If yes, please give details (date, location, tester, results): _____

*Have any immediate relatives (sire, dam, progeny, littermates, full or half siblings) of this dog been diagnosed with early adult onset deafness (EAOD)? ___Yes ___No

If yes, please give details: _____

*Is this dog affected by (please mark with an A), known to carry (please mark with a C), or tested normal for (please mark with an N) any other disease or disorder thought to be inherited? ___Epilepsy ___Hip Dysplasia ___CEA ___IGS ___TNS
___Other _____

*Has this dog had one or more distinct episodes of abnormal posture, gait, disorientation or collapse that occurred during or immediately after exercise or excitement? ___Yes ___No

*Has the ABCA HEF collected DNA from this dog at any other time in 2016 or later?
___Yes ___No

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I consent to the provision of the above dog's BAER test results, and the above dog's pedigree, to the ABCA Health & Education Foundation, Inc. (HEF). I understand and agree that the above dog's DNA sample, BAER test results and health questionnaire will be retained by the HEF and may be used for health and genetic research. I further understand that none of the health information or test results will be disclosed to any outside person other than the dog's owner in any form which would permit them to be connected with any individual dog.

Date

Printed Name

Signature

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BAER date _____ BAER tester _____ DNA sample date & type _____