

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department
College of Veterinary Medicine*

*C339 Veterinary Medical Center
1352 Boyd Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108*

*Office: 612-625-7744
Fax: 612-624-0751*

June 24, 2008

Newfoundland Club of America
Charitable Trust Management Board
Mary Jane Spackman and Dr. Clyde Dunphy

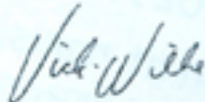
Dear Ms. Spackman and Dr. Dunphy,

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your support of our project entitled: Chromosomal regions and genes associated with cranial cruciate ligament rupture in the dog. We are very excited about this endeavor and the prospects of providing further insight into this very common orthopedic condition that affects our beloved pets. Not only is this a costly disease to treat but it also causes lifelong arthritis and lameness and affects their overall quality of life.

The Surgical Research Laboratory at the University of Minnesota is dedicated to the study of cranial cruciate ligament rupture (CCLR) in the dog. We held an international meeting here in February with the specific goal of identifying the genetic basis and predisposing factors for CCLR. The support that your club has provided will serve to fund a very significant portion of this objective.

Again, we thank you for your support and we look forward to our collaboration together. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Vicki Wilke, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVS
Small Animal Surgery
University of Minnesota - College of Veterinary Medicine