

Lissa

From: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Lissa [lissa.scott@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2008 4:52 PM
To: extmagdrl@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [ExtMAGDRL] DOE Topic #50: Chihuahuas versus Danes!

Hi All,

This afternoon I was sitting in Jupiter's Physical Therapist's office, talking to a nice young lady who had was there with her beagle mix that had a torn ACL. She mentioned that it was the first time she'd seen a Dane up close, but she's seen many photos because a fellow researcher had investigated what causes differences in the size of various breeds of dogs.

I hadn't heard about this study, so I asked her to explain. She said that although there are size variations in every animal species, dogs are the only species with huge size differences (think Chihuahuas and versus Danes!) She said wolves are generally around the same size, yet domestic dogs vary greatly although they have nearly the same genetic makeup as wolves. Clearly selective breeding by humans has resulted in this difference, but if canine genes are virtually identical to wolves, what actually causes these differences?

I Googled this topic after we got home, and found the links below. Sharing with all so that unlike me, you won't feel like you're the only one who doesn't know this! LOL

Doggy DNA: Scientists have dog size mystery licked

CHICAGO (Reuters) - By Julie Steenhuisen

A single gene makes some poodles purse-sized while allowing a Great Dane to look a pony in the eye, U.S. scientists reported on Thursday in a finding that may shed light on human size differences and diseases....

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN0520459920070405>

Researchers Identify Gene Affecting Dog Size

by David Kestenbaum

Morning Edition, April 6, 2007 · You don't find people the size of insects or giraffes; humans are all roughly the same size. The same is true of most species. There isn't a huge difference between the biggest and the smallest....

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9348104>

Ancient Genetic Material Keeps Pups Pint-Sized

The small piece of DNA is not a gene, but is known as a regulatory sequence. It is located on dog chromosome 15 next to a previously known gene named IGF1, for insulin-like growth factor 1. The gene and regulatory sequence together are known as a haplotype or variant, and that haplotype was found in all breeds of small dogs, showing it "is a major contributor to body size in all small dogs," the research team reports..... <http://www.unews.utah.edu/p/?r=032807-6>

Always aiming to educate! ☺

Lissa Scott
Feeding Raw Meaty Bones since 2001
AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator #9661 since 2003
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MAGDRL events: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/MAGDRL.htm>

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings



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