

HOLTER33.TXT

Re: Hanna's holter reading

Hi Bobbie and Listers.....I have been debating the value of Holters for the last 3 months. My Deeva was diagnosed with BCM in May of 99. At that time, she reported 700+ VPCs. In October of 2000, she reported 965. Ten days after what I thought to be a syncopal episode (Dr. Braz-Rui vo thinks it may have been an seizure) in May of this year, she reported 39 VPCs!!! After confirming that this was the correct report for Deeva, I started having serious doubts. What if this had been Deeva's first Holter report? I know she would have been bred again. Then it went further...How can I believe any of my B-kids are clear, even with successive good Holter reports? If Deeva's Holter reports can swing so drastically, can I believe any report on any dog? At this point, I am of the opinion that all a Holter report tells us is the dog in question was free of symptoms on that day. It won't tell you that your bitch is free of BCM on the day she is bred or that your dog is free on the next time he is used for stud. Holters may be a good research tool, but I don't know that they are a good testing tool or diagnostic tool. On the other hand, do we test until we get a bad Holter report, or have faith in the good one? Or believe in the good ones until we get a bad one? This is like being stuck between a rock and a hard spot!!

At 08:23 PM 9/12/2002 -0400, Bobbi Compton wrote:

>I just got back the results of Hanna's most recent holter and she had TWO
>vpc's. This should be cause for great joy, right? Wrong. Let me
>backtrack a bit. Hanna was first holtered at the age of one year and she
>had 69 vpc's. We made the decision not to breed her since that seemed
>like a LOT of vpc's for a puppy. She was holtered at age four and she had
>a whopping 7, 297 vpc's. Dr. Braz Rui vo said it was safe to say she
>definitely had BCM <g> At that time, she was asymptomatic. She was
>holtered again at the end of July. Last week, she had her first syncope
>so she's now showing signs of the disease. And yet, her holter showed
>only two vpc's. And no, she was not sedated or crated for 24 hours or
>anything else. Quite frankly, this scares me to death. What if her FIRST
>holter had shown only two vpc's? We would have happily bred her and
>possibly passed on BCM to her offspring.
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>At the same time that Hanna was re-holtered, our young male was holtered
>for the first time. He had three vpc's. A year ago, I would have been
>thrilled with the outcome. Now I'm not sure it's safe to believe that
>he's clear of BCM. Today, he is, but what about tomorrow and what about
>yesterday????
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>I'm not saying that holtering is worthless, believe me. I will continue
>to echo and holter all my dogs. However, I don't think we can ever be
>sure that our dogs are free of BCM. And certainly, one holter at age two
>is not enough to clear an animal for breeding.

Peggy Otto