Congenital idiopathic megaesophagus in the German shepherd dog is a sex-differentiated trait and is associated with an intronic variable number tandem repeat in Melanin-Concentrating Hormone Receptor 2

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Maxx is a German shepherd dog affected by a gastrointestinal motility disorder termed megaesophagus. During and following meals, Maxx sits in a chair designed to keep his esophagus vertical, thereby promoting the passage of food into his stomach. Bell et al. uncovered a male sex bias and identified a variable number tandem repeat, intronic to MCHR2, that is strongly associated with congenital idiopathic megaesophagus in German shepherd dogs.

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