



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION
 PREVENT TREAT & CURE

Discoveries

Issue 36 • Spring 2011



MISSION

The Foundation is dedicated to advancing the health of all dogs and their owners by funding sound scientific research and supporting the dissemination of health information to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease.

THIS ISSUE AT A GLANCE

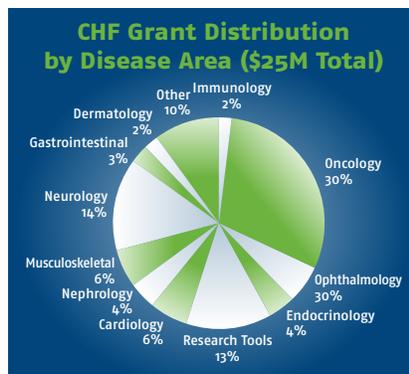
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Update From the AKC Canine Health Foundation CEO, Terry T. Warren, PhD, JD

UPDATE FROM THE CEO

The AKC Canine Health Foundation has accomplished a great deal during the past three years under the dedicated leadership of its Chair, Cindy Vogels. Ms. Vogels has personally committed her time and resources to furthering the successes of the Foundation. At CHF's recent annual meeting held on Sunday, March 6, 2011, the Board of Directors honored Ms. Vogels with an outstanding tribute applauding her for all of her efforts and her dedication to canine health. During Ms. Vogels' term as Chair, the Foundation has flourished in all areas. The Foundation has experienced a much improved financial base, is proud to have a new corporate alliance, has updated its internal systems of accountability,

communicates well with its donors, has launched a new website increasing its outreach to all pet lovers, and of course what we are most proud of is our research. Under Cindy's leadership, we have reached a hallmark of funding \$25 million dollars in research projects all furthering the health of our dogs.



The Foundation is pleased to announce that its newly elected Chair is Lee Arnold, who has been a member of the Foundation Board since January 30, 1997. With Lee's long tenure with the Foundation his leadership will continue our success. Dr. A. Duane Butherus, who has served as CHF's Grant's Committee Chair for the past five years was elected to serve as the new Vice-Chair; we are pleased that Cindy will remain on the Executive Committee serving as Treasurer; Connie Field continues her outstanding job as secretary and Steve Remspecher will serve as the Executive Committee's director at large. The Foundation would also like to thank Dr. J. Charles Garvin for his dedicated
(continued on page 5)

Watch for Dangerous Mushrooms



On August 17th, I lost my sweet little Bernese Mountain Dog puppy, Donato. To this day, I still have moments

of disbelief and will forever ask the unanswerable question, "Why?" We had been celebrating a warm summer day at a friend's house in Carmel Valley and unbeknownst to us he ate a Death Cap mushroom (*Amanita Phalloides*). Within 12 hours he was violently ill, in 24 hours he was failing, in 48 hours I knew I was losing him. Even with the valiant efforts of a team of incredible vets and vet techs at Adobe Animal Hospital, his spirit left us 60 hours after he ingested the deadly *Amanita Phalloides*.

Donato's name means gift in Italian. He was barely six months old and yet we packed in what will have to be a lifetime of memories. He ran on the beach, saw the Sierras, shopped at Bloomingdales and rode a gondola to the top of Mammoth Mountain to see the snow. With his tail always wagging, he had a boundless enthusiasm for life. He loved me and I him. We were a team ordained by the stars and had plans on going oh, so very far. I always told him he would be a very important dog. Little did I know what that would come to mean.

Since that dreadful day I have learned so much about this deadly mushroom. One of the best descriptions that I've found was on the Bay Area Mycological Society's website:

The *Amanita phalloides* is a strikingly beautiful mushroom and the number one cause of fatal mushroom poisonings worldwide. Originally found in Europe, it has proved to be highly adaptable to new lands and new mycorrhizal hosts. Death Caps now occur around the world, from

Australia to South America, but nowhere have they found a place more to their liking than in the oak strewn State of California.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, *Amanita phalloides* can be found at all times of the year. Death Caps are most abundant during the heart of our fall and early winter rainy season, but they can also appear through late spring, and even during rainless summers, in areas of coastal fog drip or in stands of irrigated oaks.

Like all amanitas, young *Amanita phalloides* are completely covered by a tissue called a universal veil. This tissue is tough and membranous. As the young mushroom expands, the veil tears cleanly. This normally results in the mature mushroom having a bald cap. Color in many amanita species can be quite variable, but a classic phalloides will have a greenish-yellow cap. Death Caps can also be green, yellow, brown or tan or (rarely) white, and often take on a metallic sheen with age and drying. The veil drops as the cap expands, to form a delicate skirt or annulus around the stipe. The scent of a Death Cap can be pleasant and sweet in youth, or foul and fishy as it decays.

— from the page "*Amanita phalloides*: Invasion of the Death Cap" (http://bayareamushrooms.org/mushroommonth/amanita_phalloides.html)

What puppy wouldn't give a sniff to that? Though the highest density of occurrences of Death Caps is around the San Francisco Bay Area, there are two distinct ranges in the United States. One is along the west coast (as far south as Los Angeles County and north to Vancouver Island, Canada) and the second is on the East Coast (from the Atlantic Coastal Plain of Maryland northward to the White Mountains of



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New Hampshire and east to the coastal islands of Maine). In California, Death Caps are associated with Coast Live Oak trees, in Oregon with chestnut or filbert trees and on the East Coast with pines. Death Caps contain acutely toxic amatoxins, which can result in liver failure or death. The most promising treatment is intravenous Silibinin, a derivative of milk thistle, however, even this did not help my sweet Donato. More research needs to be done and more grant money needs to be allocated. Experts say that the range of the Death Cap is spreading and they are becoming more prolific. Dog owners need to take heed.

If you see Death Caps in your yard or dog park, pick them and bag them. But as a local ranger said...err on the side of caution... pick everything, bag it all
(continued on page 3)

With Spring Comes Thunderstorms

Noise phobia is an excessive fear of a sound that results in the dog attempting to avoid or escape from the sound. It's an irrational, intense and persistent fear response that can develop at any age and in any dog breed.

For example, sounds that range from mild to severe can include loud, angry words, breaking glass, thunderstorms, firecrackers and gunshots. Becoming sound sensitive to loud noises can develop after a single clap of thunder that can morph into a full-blown phobia or may evolve gradually over a protracted period of time.

Trying to escape from the noise, a dog's normal instinctive behavior is to seek shelter to avoid danger. But things can go awry when dogs overreact to sounds that don't represent danger.

Characteristic behavior can include but may not be limited to hiding, urinating, defecating, chewing, drooling, panting, pacing, trembling, shaking, and barking. A fearful dog might seek out his human family; try to escape the noise by jumping through windows or chewing through walls, and running away.

There are no hard and fast figures on how many dogs suffer from noise phobia. However, according to the

American Animal Hospital Association and their national web conference on managing separation anxiety, 40 percent of dogs with noise phobia also experience separation anxiety.

The most common causes of noise phobia are fireworks and thunderstorms, but dogs may develop a fear of any sound no matter how inconsequential. Even a squeaky door being opened, someone using a fly swatter, or a fan being turned on can provoke a reaction from a noise-phobic dog. And, the more exposure a dog has to a frightening noise, the more intense his phobic response is likely to become.

Although we don't know why some dogs sleep through loud noises; others panic. This is in part genetic and part learned behavior.

Veterinarians recommend a health check-up for dogs experiencing a noticeable change in behavior. There are several medical conditions that could aggravate a dog's anxious and panicky behavior that need to be ruled out first. If your veterinarian determines that your dog has a behavior problem, ask your veterinarian if he/she has a Ph.D. in animal behavior. If not, contact a board certified veterinary behaviorist in your area.

Although there is no cure for noise phobia, treatment approaches include behavior modification, environmental controls and drug therapy, almost always included in the treatment where moderate to severe fears are present. Medication can include several different classes of drugs that include anti-anxiety, antidepressants and tranquilizers to alleviate a dog's fear response.

Effective treatment for dogs prone to flee from fearful sounds can be as simple as offering them refuge in a pet crate covered with a heavy blanket as a partial sound barrier. If the dog is afraid of thunderstorms, bring the dog inside and turn on an appliance or television, or play music to override the noise.

Dogs are pack animals and look to you, the pack leader, for guidance and reassurance. Adopt an easy-going manner and remain calm in the face of your dog's fear and anxiety.

(For an electronic copy of this article, please contact Erika Werne, MIM, CFRE, Director of Education & Communications for the AKC Canine Health Foundation, eaw@akcchf.org or 888.682.9696.)

WATCH FOR DANGEROUS MUSHROOMS *continued from page 2*

and throw them out. There are other mushrooms out there that can kill, i.e., *Amanita ocreata*, the Death Angel and *Galerina marginata*, the Deadly Galerina.

If a Death Cap is ingested SEEK MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY. Now, I'm sure to carry Hydrogen peroxide in my first aid kit. If I'm on a hike and my dog has ingested a mushroom, I'm prepared and can induce vomiting if necessary.

It has become Donato's legacy and my mission to spread a warning about the danger of mushroom toxicity. Let Donato help keep our loved ones safe. So far my little pup's story has saved the lives of three dogs. In the spirit of paying it forward I'm happy to say their owners are making flyers and continuing to spread the word.

Today, as I look at our beautiful California Oaks, I pause and search the

ground for mushrooms before I let my new pup, Tesoro, run and play. Let what happened to Donato and I not happen to another. This is Donato's final gift. My sweet Donato, you really have become a very important dog.

Important Links

<http://bayareamushrooms.org/poisonings/index.html> or
http://bayareamushrooms.org/mushroommonth/amanita_phalloides.html

"Mean Seeds:" A Threat to Your Sporting Dog?

Whether you own a retriever, setter, a pointing or spaniel breed, a beagle or one of the coonhound breeds, they all have one thing in common: they are canine athletes bred to perform a specific task in what can be a very harsh environment. Your sporting dog may be one that competes in field performance events or is used for hunting or both. You have invested many dollars in training, feeding and veterinary care for your dog, because he/she is worth it, he/she is your hunting companion. He/she provides countless hours of dedicated service to you as you pursue your hunting passion. And nothing can ruin your day or hunting season like when your dog is injured or becomes sick.

You have invested many dollars in training, feeding and veterinary care for your dog, because he/she is worth it, he/she is your hunting companion. And nothing can ruin your day or hunting season like when your dog is injured or becomes sick.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation, the non-profit world leader in funding sound canine health research, has allocated more than \$450,000 over the last several years to investigate prevention, treatment and cures for injuries that occur in the field. More than ten grants have been funded to study anterior and cruciate ligament rupture and nearly twenty grants have been funded to study various infectious diseases that threaten our sporting dogs including ehrlichia, bartonella, brucellosis, leishmaniasis and leptospirosis, among others.

The most recent grant to benefit sporting dogs investigates "mean seeds" and the role they play in grass awn

migration disease. In the sporting dog world, there is a perception among owners that there has been a dramatic escalation in the incidence of grass awn migration disease in the last 20 years.

Grasses occur in a single large plant family that contains approximately 11,000 species (Chapman 1996). Although the grasses share many important characteristics of their reproductive structures, only a portion of the species have awns and an even smaller group possess barbed awns of the type of concern to dogs. The awn is part of the sheath that encloses the grass "seed." The awns extend beyond the seed and those with barbs aid in dispersal of the seeds. One of the ways the seeds disperse is by attaching to things that come into contact with them. Animals and their fur are important ways grass seeds get transported to new locations. From an ecological standpoint, the attachment of grass seeds to sporting dogs is an important natural process. From the perspective of dogs and their owners, it is a dangerous threat. (AKC Canine Health Foundation Grant Application submitted)

The barbed grass awns, or "mean seeds," attach to a dog's coat and pierce the skin or are ingested or inhaled. Once in a dog's body, these mean seeds tend to migrate, leaving a trail of infection behind. These infections cause illness that is difficult to diagnose, and can even be fatal.

It is suspected that the increase of grass awn migration disease is due to inclusion of problem grasses such as Canadian Wild Rye and Virginia Rye in the approved lists for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands. The CRP was first described in the 1985 Farm Bill and it has been reauthorized in each *(continued on page 5)*



The Charitable IRA Rollover is Back... at least for now!

The official term in federal tax law for this rollover is a Qualified Charitable Distribution, and it was brought back as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2010.

Donors age 70½ or older can make a direct transfer (rollover) from their IRA to a qualifying charity or nonprofit of up to \$100,000. This distribution is TAX FREE, whereas IRA proceeds are normally taxable income.

The Qualified Charitable Distribution is a great opportunity for donors who are financially secure and do not need all or part of their IRA income. Donors can satisfy the requirement that they spend down their IRA each year without adding to their annual tax bill.

The Qualified Charitable Distribution is in place through the end of 2011. It is not clear whether it will be extended, so take advantage of the tax savings now if you can benefit from this law.

If you are interested in making a Qualified Charitable Distribution to the AKC Canine Health Foundation speak with your IRA broker today. Your support will go a long way towards helping us PREVENT, TREAT and CURE canine disease.

“MEAN SEEDS:” A THREAT TO YOUR SPORTING DOG? *continued from page 4*

subsequent Farm Bill. The first land was enrolled in 1986. The most important feature of CRP is to encourage farmers to convert their marginal cropland acreage to perennial vegetation that will protect the land from wind and water erosion (Farm Service Agency 2010). In addition to the protection against erosion, hunters and sportsman have seen the favorable response from wildlife to the CRP habitat improvements. In a large number of contracts the perennial vegetation planted consists of a mixture of grasses. Country wide there are more than 31 million acres in active CPR contracts in 2010 (Farm Service Agency 2010). (AKC Canine Health Foundation Grant Application submitted)

David Hopkins, AKC Delegate for the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois and Chair of the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Committee was instrumental in bringing this concern to the attention of the AKC Canine

Health Foundation’s grants committee. Mr. Hopkins worked with Dr. William Lauenroth of the University of Wyoming and principal investigator for the study to submit the application to the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

The primary goal of the study is to determine the frequency with which these barbed seeds are planted, so that sporting dog owners and field trialers can begin discussions with the US Department of Agriculture to modify their recommended list of grasses to be planted on CRP lands.

Dr. Lauenroth stated, “If it can be determined that there has been a dramatic increase in both the incidence of the disease and the quantity of barbed seeds planted in CRP lands, such determination would surely factor significantly into improvements in veterinary diagnostic and treatment protocols, overall education for dog

owners, and preventative or remedial measures for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s approach to CRP plantings.”

This important research has been sponsored by the Golden Retriever Foundation, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association Foundation, National Amateur Retriever Club, Labrador Retriever Club, Spinone Club of America, German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America Boykin Spaniel Society and the AKC Humane Fund.

For more information about this and other research the AKC Canine Health Foundation has funded or how you can help fund additional research visit www.akcchf.org/research.

Sources

Chapman, GP. 1996. The biology of grasses. CAB International, Oxon.
Farm Services Agency 2010. <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp> [accessed July 11, 2010.]
Lauenroth WK and Hopkins DH. 2010. Assessment of CRP plantings of grasses with barbed awns. AKC Canine Health Foundation grant.

New Club Members

New Club Members as of 3/8/11
(new since 11/24/10):

Bichon Frise Club of San Diego, Inc.
Chattahoochee Weimaraner Club
National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.

Club Members, visit www.akcchf.org/how-you-can-help/membership/ to update your Club Membership and receive the 2011 year update for your banner! If your Club is not already a Member, talk to your Club’s contacts about joining. Your Club will receive an AKC Canine Health Foundation Club Membership banner to hang at shows and other club events. Your Club will also receive 10 copies of our quarterly newsletter to keep your Club up to date on our latest research and discoveries!

**UPDATE FROM THE AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION
CEO, TERRY T. WARREN, PHD, JD** *continued from page 1*

leadership in serving as the Foundation’s treasurer for the past three years.

The Foundation looks forward to future success as we continue to work for all dogs and their owners to live longer healthier lives. The Foundation’s newly adopted mission statement and goals provide an excellent direction to further our achievements:

Mission Statement

The Foundation is dedicated to advancing the health of all dogs and their owners by funding sound scientific research and supporting the dissemination of health information to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease.

Foundation’s Goals

Within this mission, the AKC Canine Health Foundation has three primary goals:

- To fund canine health research projects to the Foundation’s capacity which address the diversity of canine health concerns and may have comparative medicine benefits for humans
- To select and monitor, through a rigorous process, research projects that meet high scientific standards and have the greatest potential for advancing the health of dogs
- To communicate to pet-owners, veterinarians and researchers, the funded discoveries that help prevent, treat, and cure canine diseases.

Focus on Research

Below is a list of new ACORN research grants that have been funded since the last Discoveries Newsletter. For detailed information about any of these studies, visit our website at www.akcchf.org to see all of the CHF funded research projects. We encourage you to make a secure online donation in support of any of these new studies.

01535-A: DNA Sequence Examination of a Gene Region Associated with Mastiff Cystine Stone Formation; Dr. Paula Henthorn; University of Pennsylvania – **\$12,960.00**

01542-A: The Effects of Baicalein on Canine Osteosarcoma Cells; Dr. Joseph Wakshlag; Cornell University – **\$12,366.00**

01544-A: Reference Values for Arterial Blood Gases in the Lean and Obese Geriatric Dogs; Dr. Elisabeth Snead; University of Saskatchewan – **\$11,923.00**

01545-A: Pilot Study to Assess Folate Receptor Expression in Canine High-Grade Multicentric Lymphoma; Dr. Michael Childress; Purdue University – **\$12,474.00**



L to R: Connie Wagner, Ann Viklund, Dr. Terry Warren, Cindy Vogels, Lou Auslander

For the 9th year in row, Nestlé Purina PetCare representatives have presented a check to the AKC Canine Health Foundation at the International Kennel Club of Chicago Dog Show representing half the earnings from the 2010 Purina Parent Club Partnership (PPCP) Program. This year more than \$220,000 was donated to the Foundation. Since the program began in 2002, nearly \$4 million has been raised for canine health research, with half the earnings going directly to the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

The same evening, a \$12,600 gift from the International Kennel Club (IKC) of Chicago and Purina was also presented to the AKC Canine Health Foundation. This marks the 13th year for the combined donation, which came from the IKC and Purina each contributing \$5 per full-priced entry for a total of \$10 per full-priced entry in the February 26th IKC Dog Show.

Both gifts—totaling over \$230,000—were presented February 26th at the Purina Invitational Ball held during the IKC Dog Show Cluster.



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED US REACH OUR GOAL IN 2010!

Together, we're helping dogs live longer, healthier lives!

Spotlight on Genetic Tests: Hereditary Cataract in French Bulldogs

Early onset hereditary cataract (EHC), sometimes also referred to as juvenile hereditary cataract, is a condition that is known to affect the French Bulldog. In the UK the condition is listed on schedule B of the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme, meaning it is considered to be an inherited problem in the French Bulldog and is officially 'under investigation.' Although there are no published scientific reports describing the clinical characteristics of EHC in this breed, anecdotal evidence indicates the cataracts usually develop within the first year of life, are bilateral, symmetrical and progressive.

Under most circumstances, there will be a much greater number of carriers than affected animals in a population. Eventually, it will be important to eliminate such carriers from the population since they represent a hidden reservoir of the disease that can produce affected dogs at any time.

The mutation responsible for HC in several breeds has recently been identified at the Animal Health Trust. Using the information from this research, we have developed a DNA test for HC in Staffordshire Bull Terriers and Boston Terriers and are now also able to extend the test to the French Bulldog. This test not only diagnoses dogs affected with the disease but can also detect those dogs which are carriers, displaying no symptoms of the disease but able to produce affected pups.

The mutation probably occurred spontaneously in a single dog but once

in the population has been inherited from generation to generation like any other gene. The disorder shows an autosomal recessive mode of inheritance: two copies of the defective gene (one inherited from each parent) have to be present for a dog to be affected by the disease. Individuals with one copy of the defective gene and one copy of the normal gene - called carriers—show no symptoms but can pass the defective gene onto their offspring. When two apparently healthy carriers are crossed, 25% (on average) of the offspring will be affected by the disease, 25% will be clear and the remaining 50% will themselves be carriers

Under most circumstances, there will be a much greater number of carriers than affected animals in a population. Eventually, it will be important to eliminate such carriers from the population since they represent a hidden reservoir of the disease that can produce affected dogs at any time. However breeders may wish to use carriers in their breeding programs to keep desirable traits within their lines. It is perfectly acceptable to cross carriers with clear dogs, as no affected pups will then be produced and, on average, 50% of the litter will be clear and 50% carriers. However, it is important that any dogs from carrier x clear matings that will subsequently be used to breed from are DNA tested to distinguish those pups which are clear from those which are carriers.

The test is available now and information on submitting samples is given below.

Breeders will be sent results identifying their dog as belonging to one of three categories:

CLEAR: *the dog has 2 copies of the normal gene and will neither develop Hereditary Cataract, nor pass a copy of the Hereditary Cataract gene to any of its offspring.*

CARRIER: *the dog has one copy of the normal gene and one copy of the mutant gene that causes Hereditary Cataract. It will not develop Hereditary Cataract but will pass on the Hereditary Cataract gene to 50% (on average) of its offspring.*

AFFECTED: *the dog has two copies of the Hereditary Cataract mutation and is affected with Hereditary Cataract. It will develop Hereditary Cataract at some stage during its lifetime, assuming it lives to an appropriate age.*

Many breeders of French Bulldogs have generously contributed samples to the research leading to our identification of the mutation in this breed and we would like to thank them for their co-operation. Without these samples we could not have introduced this test. For those samples which were used in the research, owners are offered a certificate for a cost of £5 administration fee. For those samples submitted for research but not used in the research program, owners are offered one test at the discount price of £45. To check whether your sample was used as part of the research program, please contact the address given below.
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No Cost Ways to Donate

So you're strapped for cash, but you still want to support the AKC Canine Health Foundation. No problem! There are many ways you can help the Foundation at no cost or through purchases you were going to make anyway.

Recycle:

Recycle your electronic items, like used cell phones, PDAs, inkjet cartridges, iPods, laptops, video games consoles and digital cameras to benefit the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Shipping is free and it is easy to enroll. Visit www.recycle4pets.com and select our logo when you enroll.

Employee Gift Matching:

If you have made a donation to the Foundation lately make sure you aren't leaving money on the table. Many companies match their employees' charitable donations. Ask your human resources department about gift matching procedures.

Donate your Vehicle:

Maybe you are getting ready to buy a new car and your old one doesn't

have much trade in value. You can donate your old vehicle to CHF through V-DAC (Vehicle Donation to Any Charity). The process is simple and there may be tax benefits for donating your car, truck, recreational vehicle or boat. Look for us on the V-DAC site as either "American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation" or "Canine Health Foundation."

MissionFish:

Buy or sell items on eBay and fundraise for the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Our MissionFish ID number is 32865.

Books that Benefit CHF:

Need a gift for a dog lover? Proceeds from the books *Best in Show*, by Karen LeFrak and *The Legacy of Beezer and Boomer: Lessons on Living and Dying from my Canine Brothers*, by Doug Koltavy are donated to the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Just make sure you buy *Beezer and Boomer* from www.akcchf.org/books or we will miss out on the donation.



A Special Thank You

The AKC Canine Health Foundation was created in 1995. In the 16 years of our existence, we have funded more than 500 research projects to the tune of more than \$25 million. This accomplishment is made with the help of breed clubs, foundations, individuals, and organizations who make contributions to support our research grants.

Every quarter we list breed clubs and individuals who have made significant contributions to support canine health research in the "Kudos" section of this newsletter. This quarter, in addition to the "Kudos," we'd like to recognize another group—those clubs and breed foundations that have supported research consistently over the last 16 years.

A special Thank You to all the breed clubs/foundations listed below:

American Belgian Tervuren Club
 American Boxer Charitable Foundation
 Collie Health Foundation
 Flat-Coated Retriever Foundation
 Golden Retriever Foundation
 Irish Setter Club of America
 Newfoundland Club of America
 Poodle Club of America Foundation
 Rottweiler Health Foundation
 Scottish Terrier Club of America
 Health Trust Fund
 Westie Foundation of America

SPOTLIGHT ON GENETIC TESTS: HEREDITARY CATARACT IN FRENCH BULLDOGS *continued from page 7*

Samples submitted should be cheek swabs (a non-invasive sampling method) obtainable from the Animal Health Trust. Samples should be sent together with a completed DNA Testing form and payment for each sample to Genetic Services, Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7UU.

Kits for taking cheek swabs are available by phoning 01638 555621 or via e-mail to swab.request@aht.org.uk.

Further information can be obtained by e-mailing dna.testing@aht.org.uk. The price of the test is £67, which includes both VAT and the cost of the sampling kit.

Taken from the Animal Health Trust website at http://www.aht.org.uk/genetics_cataracts.html

Champions of Canine Health: Remembering Stephanie S. Katz, BC-DMT *by Jerry Katz*

Stephanie was a remarkable woman with a broad range of interests and a multiplicity of artistic and intellectual abilities, which were to find eventual expression in her involvement with dogs. Although she was small of stature, she was without doubt a person of large presence.

Born in Baltimore, MD, Stephanie studied dance at the Juilliard School and danced professionally in New York and Baltimore. Stephanie was



The decision to breed fueled Stephanie's interest in canine genetics, health, and hereditary issues even further. Her interest in canine malignancies grew when Kahlbah was diagnosed with lymphoma in 1979.

a founding member of the American Dance Therapy Association, serving that organization in many capacities, including president. As a Dance/Movement Therapist, she worked with autistic children, severely disturbed psychiatric patients, and came to specialize in treating those who had experienced catastrophic and/or severe closed head and spinal cord injuries.

Our marriage, in 1968, brought Stephanie to Detroit. She soon became chair of the Dance Department of Marygrove College, where she was highly regarded as a gifted teacher and choreographer. She continued her work as a Dance/Movement Therapist.

Life in dogs began in December, 1968, when we bought our first Briard, "Kahlbah", G'veret Kahlbah de Strathcona, Am/Can UD, ROM, HOF, a beautiful, natural-eared black bitch. At that time, we wanted a wonderful companion, and had not the slightest thought of showing or breeding. To channel her exuberance, intelligence, and indomitable spirit, I started taking her to obedience class in 1970. Kahlbah was the first Briard to earn both American and Canadian UDs. She was number 1 Briard in obedience under one system or another from 1974 through 1979, her 11th year.

Appreciating her many attributes, experienced local Briard owners/breeders encouraged us to breed. Kahlbah was bred once, and on June 30, 1971 she whelped a litter of 8 puppies, sired by Ch. Tres Bien Chez Rogues de Brie, HOF, owned by Barbara Zimmerman. This litter produced 7 AKC champions, 2 CKC champions, 4

obedience titled, 3 HOF, 1 ROM, and 3 Rassemblement Select offspring and provided the foundation stock for several important breeders. In 1972, Kahlbah was named Kennel Review's "Top Briard Brood Bitch."

In 1994, the AKC Gazette identified her as "the most influential Briard Brood Bitch."

In developing our breeding program, Stephanie went into "research mode." We were fortunate to have the guidance of our vet and his wife, Fred and Julie Gasow, of the well-known Salilyn Springer Spaniel Kennel. We bred 8 more litters with bitches we owned, to carefully selected stud dogs, and our own males were used at stud to equally carefully selected bitches.

We were eminently successful in our breeding. As of 2005, in the 34 years since Kahlbah whelped her litter, there are 13 generations descended from her. The records through the 4th and some of the 5th generation indicate that at that point she had 353 champion offspring. Since 1975, at National Specialties, her direct offspring have won BOB/BISS 20 times (1, 4 times; 2, 3 times; 1, twice), as well as 13 BOS and 26 WD or WB. Since 1981, 17 National Specialty HIT are her direct offspring.

We showed on a relatively limited basis, always showing our own dogs, but with great success. As breeder/owner/handlers we won 5 BOB/BISS at National Specialties, including 4 times (1981, 1984, 1985, 1988), a breed record, with Am/Can Ch John's Pashtu de Strathcona HIC, TT, ROM, HOF.

(continued on page 10)

CHAMPIONS OF CANINE HEALTH: REMEMBERING STEPHANIE S. KATZ, BC-DMT

continued from page 9

The 1981 and 1988 National Specialties always stood out in our minds and our hearts. In 1981, we arrived with 4 dogs: Posh who was not quite 2; Zizi and Umbi, his mother and uncle, who were 10; and Rigolo, a full brother to Posh from a repeat breeding who was 15 months and owned by a family that was unable to come to the show. We were accompanied by the Merzes and Remy, also a 15 month old brother to Posh and Rigolo. We had never shown to Judge John Cramer. When the day was over, Posh won BOB, Rigolo won WD and BOW, Remy was RWD, Umbi won the Veteran Dog class, Zizi was 2nd in the Veteran Bitch class, and Umbi and Zizi won Stud Dog and Brood Bitch. Umbi also scored 197 in Veteran Obedience.

Posh's 1988 Specialty win was the most extraordinary experience. Richard Guevara, to whom we had never shown, was the judge. I had just finished several months of grueling, debilitating chemo at the end of June. I had lost 26 pounds, and had been unable to even take Posh for a walk around the block since early January, a change for a handler and dog who were used to running 2-3 miles every day. At the end of the show, 4 days before Posh's 9th birthday, 7 years after his first National Specialty win, Posh won the National Specialty for the 4th time and we took the Challenge Trophy home. We had tears in our eyes, as did many others.

Stephanie's background as a teacher, dancer, and researcher, as well as her studies in movement, anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, neuro-anatomy, and neuro-physiology, made her a natural to become involved in breed education. From 1990 until just a few months before her death, she either chaired or served on the BCA's breed

and judges' education committee, including developing and implementing the BCA's Judges' Education Seminars following AKC's guidelines, as well as similar seminars for BCA members. She also wrote prolifically on many topics related to the Briard.

Stephanie left us all too soon. She leaves a great legacy that will continue for many years: her warmth; her accessibility; her many talents; her vast store of knowledge; her readiness to share; her capacity for work; and of course, her opinions.

The decision to breed fueled Stephanie's interest in canine genetics, health, and hereditary issues even further. Her interest in canine malignancies grew when Kahlbah was diagnosed with lymphoma in 1979. After much research, we decided to treat Kahlbah with the then available chemotherapeutic agents. Stephanie's interest in malignancy and the canine-human interface was catalyzed even further when I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1988. We discovered that all 5 agents used to treat Kahlbah were part of the chemotherapy protocol that I was to receive, with obvious great success.

In 2005, as a member of the Medical Committee of the Briard Medical Trust, Stephanie attended her first CHF Conference. She became passionate about their work and the stunning research on canine genetic diseases, particularly canine cancers. She became the liaison for Briard owners whose dogs had been diagnosed with malignancies. She encouraged owners

to send blood and tissue samples to the appropriate researchers, and offered comfort and support as well. She also combed pedigrees and recruited blood samples from older healthy Briards, to be used as controls.

Stephanie left us all too soon. She leaves a great legacy that will continue for many years: her warmth; her accessibility; her many talents; her vast store of knowledge; her readiness to share; her capacity for work; and of course, her opinions. She will be sorely missed by those who knew her and loved her, and by all whose lives she touched in so many different ways.

Kudos

- The American Bullmastiff Association opened their hearts in February to canine health, supporting \$80,000 of grant research!
- We are grateful to all who attended the 2011 AKC Canine Health Foundation Charity Cocktail Party. Special thanks to our hosts, Friends of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, we couldn't do it without you!
- Not only did the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America raise awareness on canine health at their National Specialty Auction, they also raised over \$21,000 to benefit canine health research!
- Special thanks to Cora N. Miller who made a generous unrestricted donation to close out 2010.
- Our 2011 Living Art Calendar was exceptional due to the hard work of Miguel Betancourt and the beautifully featured canines. For information on having your dog showcased in our 2012 calendar email enk@akcchf.org or call 1-888-682-9696.

Researchers Pay it Forward

Detecting a common condition in Labrador Retrievers just got easier. Since identifying a gene linked with Labradors collapsing after intense exercise, researchers have developed a DNA test to identify an inherited syndrome known as Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC).

The test has been administered to more than 10,000 dogs at the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Diagnostic Lab since its 2008 availability, reports Jim Mickelson, PhD, professor of veterinary biomedical sciences at the University of Minnesota and co-principal investigator of the AKC Canine Health Foundation-funded study. The study has been published in the journal *Nature Genetics*.

"This test is being used to both confirm an EIC diagnosis, and also for breeding purposes to prevent producing affected dogs—both of which are very helpful," says the study's other co-principal investigator Ned Patterson, DVM, PhD, of the University of Minnesota.

More good news: Researchers have funneled more than \$100,000 from testing proceeds back to CHF for additional research funding. "We're really excited to be in the position to give back because our research program depends in a large part on the support of CHF," says Mickelson. "Grants like this are really important for research laboratories' goal of improving the health and well-being of dogs. Genetics is one way that can be accomplished—sometimes quite rapidly and with widespread results."

Echoes Patterson: "Royalties should go back to private funding foundations to help other research. I'm very proud that some of the royalties for the EIC test go back for further canine research to impact canine health."

Both researchers stress the need for reasonably-priced canine tests. "I strongly believe that researchers who receive foundation funds for grants or public money should keep genetic tests affordable, as we've done with this test costing \$65, plus any veterinary costs to get the sample," says Patterson.

Adds Mickelson: "Our goal was to develop a DNA test the public can use. The point is not to make money for a laboratory in doing these tests, but to make the test available. It's really pleasing that the public is starting to use these tests and that breed clubs are using these tests to improve their dogs' health."

While tests pinpointing canine conditions typically don't generate profits that can be fed back into research, Mickelson suggests, "I think it's largely because Labrador Retrievers are the most popular breed in the world, and this mutation has the highest frequency in this breed. So there's a need for a lot of testing."

"This test appears to be having a big impact," Patterson adds—especially since EIC is potentially life-threatening. "Most dogs that collapse recover with rest and cooling within 30 minutes or so. However, some dogs with severe episodes have died. So by breeders using the test to prevent affected dogs, it has and will help reduce deaths. People are very thankful that now we have a confirmatory test, whereas before it was a diagnosis of excluding all likely similar diseases and then a presumptive diagnosis of EIC that one still had to wonder about."



Calendar of Events

MAY 16, 2011

CHIC Presentation to Durham Kennel Club

JUNE 4, 2011

Breeders' Symposium,
University of Texas—Arlington

JULY 20, 2011

CHF Presentation at Havanese National
Specialty

AUGUST 12 – 14, 2011

National Parent Club Canine Health
Conference, St. Louis, MO

Visit Our Booth!

MARCH 23 – 27, 2011

Tarheel Cluster, Raleigh, NC

APRIL 14 – 16, 2011

America's Pet Expo, Palo Alto, CA



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THIS ISSUE FEATURES

Watch for Dangerous Mushrooms

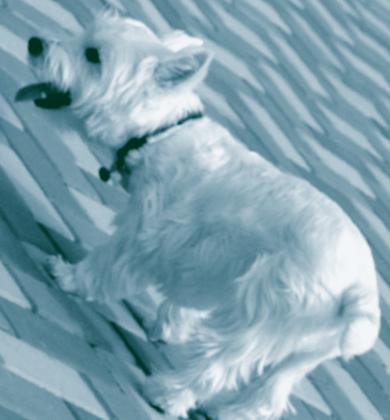
"Mean Seeds:" A Threat to Your Sporting Dog?

Hereditary Cataract in French Bulldogs

No cost ways to donate

*Remembering
Stephanie S. Katz, BC-DMT*

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