

BCOA HEALTH COMMITTEE

February Board Report

Submitted 2/7/03

FINANCIALS:

Please see the treasurer's report for recent contributions and our account totals. KC Artley provided me with a list of contributor's names that had donated \$50 or more to the health committee. The list of names was submitted to the BC by the January deadline for the upcoming spring publication. It included contributions received up to January 10th. Individual thank you notes along with the borzoi head lapel pins were sent to these contributors the week of February 3rd.

- I would like to request about 100 blank BCOA note cards so that I can continue to submit personalized thank you notes to those whose donations are so generous to our committee. If BCOA note cards are no longer available, I would like to request that the board approve funding for me to purchase/have printed BCOA Health Committee blank note cards for this and similar required correspondences.

CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION:

I have received 4 pending research proposals from the AKC/CHF with a request for financial support. The grants are as follows:

GRANT #2657:

Role of Circulating Endothelial Progenitor Cells In Physiologic and Pathologic Angiogenesis in Dogs

Requested financials: \$2000 over 2 years, with \$1000 in the first year.

Brief synopsis:

"Angiogenesis" is the formation of new blood vessels, which aids in healing wounds, resolving inflammation and stimulating the growth of tumors. Cells that are used to form new blood vessels come from the bloodstream. This research proposes to develop new essays to measure the number of these cells circulating in the bloodstream in hopes that new strategies to either inhibit or stimulate blood vessel formation in different diseases.

GRANT #2629:

Clinical and Immunological Outcomes in Dogs with Osteosarcoma Treated with Intratumoral Interleukin-Microspheres

Requested financials: \$6000 over 2 years, with \$3000 in the first year.

Brief synopsis:

This research proposes to add a new form of immune system stimulation for the treatment of bone cancer tumors (Osteosarcoma) in dogs. They propose that injection of Interleukin-12 (IL-12) directly into the cancerous limb using this new microsphere formulation, will result in slow IL-12 release within the tumor environment promoting active antitumor immunity in dogs with this affliction and lengthen their survival time.

GRANT #2667:

Cellular Genomics – A Cytogenetic Investigation of Canine Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Requested financials: \$10,000 over 2 years, with \$5000 in the first year.

Brief synopsis:

This research proposes to attempt to identify recurrent chromosome aberrations associated with soft tissue cancer, common among Flat-Coated Retrievers and Bernese Mountain Dogs. This project will identify areas of canine genome associated with such cancers for further investigation at the sub-chromosomal level.

GRANT #2646:

Characterization of Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Dysfunction in Malignant Histiocytosis

Requested financials: \$10,000 over 2 years, with \$5000 in the first year.

Brief synopsis:

Malignant histiocytosis (MH) is a form of cancerous tumors prevalent in several large breeds and currently without an effective therapy. Affected dogs have a life span of approximately 2-4 months. This research proposes to identify growth factor receptors that are dysregulated in MH to provide the foundation for future clinical application of growth factor receptor inhibitors in the treatment of MH.

I requested our veterinarian Health Committee member, Dr. Gary Nash, review the 4 research proposals and clarify the technical terminology and assess the overall benefit of each of these projects as they relate to our top 4 borzoi health concerns. While all of the research proposals are certainly very worthwhile initiatives, due to the limited funds in our current Health Committee account, I wanted to make a recommendation to release funds for proposals that would be most beneficial to our breed. So at this time I would like to recommend the following:

- BCOA support the financial obligation of **Pending Grant # 2629**

Clinical and Immunological Outcomes in Dogs with Osteosarcoma Treated with Intratumoral Interleukin-Microspheres. \$6000 over 2 years with \$3000 the first year. I need to contact the CHF by May 1st with our decision on all 4 of these proposals. A confidential information agreement form, contribution arrangement form, liaison appointment form & permission to identify sponsor form will need to be completed, signed and returned. I would request that I be named as the liaison appointment as was done on our other CHF grant sponsorship for thyroid essay study. If there are sufficient funds in the Health Committee account, I would request that we release \$3000 at this time for this research with another payment of \$3000 the following year. I will complete as much information on the forms as is possible from my end and submit to Barbara O'Neill for her signature to authorize me as the liaison. (Barbara should have received the forms by the time of this board meeting.)

I briefly spoke with Eddie Dzuik regarding our BCOA CHIC database, but will need to follow up further with him on this next week. I would hope to have this finalized soon so that I can include information regarding our CHIC program in the General Membership report for the Reno Nationals.

2003 NATIONALS PREPARATIONS:

I regret to report that I will be unable to attend this year's nationals, but I'm simply not able to arrange for it this year since starting a new position here at Ford Motor Company. I'm scheduled for mandatory department training sessions for the first 2 weeks of April and I will not be able to miss or reschedule these.

Unfortunately, Dennis Williams was unable to secure veterinarians to support Microchip, CERF eye, or Heart clinics for our upcoming Nationals in Reno. He has made arrangements for the seminar speaker. As of Jan. 20th he had still not secured a signed contract for Dr. Peterson. Since Dennis had difficulty drafting a simple contract, I created one for him and sent it on Jan. 15. I will need to follow up with him to assure that it's been signed and a copy submitted to the treasurer for reimbursement of the speakers agreed fees and expenses.

I have contacted OFA, AKC & CERF and requested that 500 copies of several of their pamphlets be mailed directly to Lynda Gillaspey for the hospitality committee to include in their hospitality bags. I have also sent

the seminar flyer to Lynda in file format so that they can print and include in the bags as well.

A request was forwarded to Rlynn Shell to update the Health Committee web site with the latest information for our Nationals seminar speaker, date, time, cost and subject matter.

An article for the upcoming spring BC was submitted including a brief update of health committee activities and information about our Nationals seminar.

2004 NATIONALS PREPARATION:

In light of our centennial celebration, I'm looking forward to providing some rather extensive opportunities for our membership for this show. I plan to request the CHF to attend and provide a brief seminar on what CHF is all about and the status of current research projects with special emphasis on those that our club has financially supported. I'm making a concerted effort to obtain some substantial discounts for both clinic fees and OFA/AKC registration fees. In addition, I would like to include several items for the auction with the proceeds to go to the Health Committee account. I would like to request that Dr. Gary Nash be designated as the Nationals Seminar & Clinic chairman as his knowledge of veterinarian specialists in the Ohio & Michigan area is vast and some may be personal, professional friends and past alumni.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Recently there was a request for participation in a sighthound research project on sensitivity to, or negative reactions to Ivermectin. Nine cheek swab samples were sent to Dr. Katy Robertson at the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory, University of California at Davis. The cut off date for sample submission was the end of January, so response time was quite short. However, Katy was very receptive to the idea of receiving as many samples from borzoi as she could receive by that deadline and has provided me with a web hotlink where the results of her study as it progresses will be posted. The hotlink will be added to our web site so that our members can see the status as well.

- Prior to the start of the 2005 Futurity nominations for bitches, I would like to propose a motion to change our Futurity nomination policy. As a proponent of taking active strides towards improving the health of our future generation of borzoi, I would like to make it a requirement that the stud dog and brood bitch be required to submit current OFA heart certification numbers when submitting a bitch futurity nomination. This represents the beginnings of an action plan to evaluate hearts on our breeding stock dogs when considering expanding the population of our borzoi breed. If the Futurity is the very essence of a breeders show case of their breeding stock, then they owe no less than this. I ask at this time that the board approve this motion.

Sincerely,
Virginia E. Jones
Health Committee
Chairman