

2010 HEALTH COMMITTEE BOARD AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT

CONTRIBUTIONS:

CHF BORZOI DONOR ADVISED FUND:

The CHF Borzoi Donor Advised Fund has a current balance of \$26,777, committed to borzoi heart research. Our participation in the Purina Parent Club Partnership program netted us a matching contribution of \$847.45 from the Ralston Purina Company to our Donor Advised Fund. I encourage any borzoi owners who feed Purina products to sign up for this program and designate the Borzoi Club of America as your matching partner breed club. Contributions to the Donor Advised Fund can be made at any time throughout the year, in memory of a special dog or person, in conjunction with your BCOA dues payment or in celebration of a special show or field win. We would be proud to publish the honorary donation in the Borzoi Connection. This year, the board approved funding in the amount of \$2500 to be directed from our Donor Advised Fund to CHF research grant #01151 – Molecular Basis of Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia.

HEALTH COMMITTEE FUND:

Thanks to the generous contribution of our membership, the health fund balance as of 4/27/2010 is \$6346.37. Money from this fund is used to cover half of the costs for the eye CERF and OFA heart clinic and the total cost for the seminar speaker at this year's national's health committee events. In addition, we have annually contributed to at least one health research project orchestrated by the CHF.

My personal and special thank you to all our members who so generously donate money to our health fund initiatives! **THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!!!**

PROGRAMS:

CHIC PROGRAM:

The health committee established the CHIC program database with the OFA in the first quarter of 2003. To date there are a total of 230 borzoi included in the database – 24 more than the total from last year's report. The current required health clearances are **Eye CERF, OFA Thyroid & OFA Heart**. Optional health clearances are for Hip and Elbow Dysplasia. The purpose of the CHIC database program is to allow breed clubs to specify particular criteria for health clearance checks relevant to their specific breed, provide a centralized database of participating dogs, encourage owners to test and submit results for these specific criteria and reward and recognize the participants of the program. The BCOA health committee established an annual monetary reward in honor of Dr. Asa Mays to recognize breeders who place this health screening as a priority and are willing to share the results by honoring the Best in Futurity and Best of Opposite Sex in Futurity winners if the sires and dams have a CHIC number. In addition, a monetary reward is also offered to the Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex winner if they have a CHIC number. The Asa Mays award was started in 2005 and to date there has been no winner of any of the 4 annual awards. I find it both embarrassing and actually humiliating that the top winners for Futurity and the National specialty show in the last 5 years have never bothered to pursue CERF, heart or thyroid testing. Would you be so cavalier about your own health screenings? (Note: clinic costs: Thyroid - \$25, – CERF - \$15, heart \$20 = \$60 TOTAL!!!!) And this **INCLUDED**

all of the registration fees with OFA and CERF! The CHIC awards = \$100 each. You do the math.

DNA REPOSITORY PROGRAM:

The CHIC DNA Repository, co-sponsored by the OFA and the AKC/CHF, collects and stores canine DNA samples along with corresponding genealogic and phenotypic information to facilitate future research and testing aimed at reducing the incidence of inherited disease in dogs.

The objective is:

- Facilitate more rapid research progress by expediting the sample collection process
- Provide researchers with optimized family groups needed for research
- Allow breeders to take advantage of future DNA based disease tests as they become available
- Foster a team environment between breeders/owners and the research community improving the likelihood of genetic discovery

The CHIC DNA Repository has partnered with the Veterinary Genetics Lab at the University of California–Davis and the Animal Molecular Genetics Lab at the University of Missouri. UC Davis will receive and store all swab samples, and Missouri will receive and store all blood samples.

THIS IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PROGRAM YOUR DOG COULD EVER PARTICIPATE IN.

BORZOI HEALTH SURVEY:

At the beginning of 2008, the OFA extended an offer to all national breed clubs, to assist in conducting breed specific health surveys and the borzoi breed was one of the first breeds to get started with the on line survey. One of the things I really like about the program is that, while maintaining total confidentiality of the participants, it allows any participant to see the statistical results of the survey immediately. It is a very quick survey to fill out and yet contains a good breadth of information. To date, we have over 795 responses and increase of 314 dogs from last years report. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to enter their dog's information. I encourage everyone to go to the OFA website and participate in the survey if you haven't already done so. At a minimum, it's worth pulling up the results for a review of what the statistics provide.

Some points of interest from the overall statistics in the survey:

- There is slightly more bitches than dogs submitted
- Almost one half of the entries are spayed or neutered – up from one third last year
- The top 3 in order of significance in diseases submitted is as follows – the last 3 are equally tied for the third position:
 - Cancer/Tumors – slightly higher in bitches than dogs
 - Osteosarcoma, "other", Mammary and then liver and Hemangiosarcoma tied
 - Gastrointestinal disorders – equal incidence between dogs and bitches
 - Bloat/Gastric Torsion followed by "other"
 - Orthopedic disorders – equal incidence between dogs and bitches
 - Arthritis, "other" and hip displasia
 - Neurological &/or Muscular –higher incidence in dogs than bitches

- "Other", DM and Epilepsy
 - Cardiovascular disorders – slightly higher incidence in bitches than dogs
 - Heart murmur, Congestive Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy

In addition to providing order of significance, the survey can provide breeders with other pertinent tools relative to the dogs they've submitted and the overall total of the incidence reported. It is very worthwhile printing out the statistics and spending a rainy afternoon when there's no dog show and no field trials, studying the information.

CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION RESEARCH:

The CHF primary focus as with all health research facilities for both humans and animals is centered on cancer. Their studies include bone, blood, skin and organ cancers. The use of stem cells in their research is proving to provide some of the most promising outcomes and undoubtedly some of the most exciting times in future research! One item of significant note is that the research community has established a National Canine Cancer Biospecimen Repository as a storage facility for tumors for future research. If your dog is diagnosed with a possible cancerous tumor, prior to surgery to remove it, please have a conversation with your veterinarian about the possibility of submitting the tumor to the tumor bank. There is a specific protocol that must be followed, so it is important to contact the CHF or the storage facility prior to the surgery or the tumor sample may not be usable. The storage facility is located at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland. Handouts are available about the Cancer Consortium which implemented the Biospecimen Repository as well as specific information about the protocol for sample submission.

New BCOA supported research includes the following studies:

- CHF grant #01151 – Dr. Paula S. Henthorn, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Vet Med - Molecular Basis of Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia – The goal is to identify a mutant allele of a gene or genes responsible for TVD and once found, genetic testing procedures can be developed to identify dogs at risk for developing and passing on the disease.
- CHF grant #01355 – Dr. Kimberly Weber, University of Illinois - Expression of Vascular Endothelial markers in Canine Hemangiosarcoma & their use in Diagnostic Cytology using Immunocytochemistry. The goal of this study is to find cellular markers using fine needle aspiration that can diagnose the difference between hemangiosarcoma and other forms of cancer versus the current invasive method of surgery.
- CHF grant #01227 – Dr. Stanley L. Marks, U of C Davis - Specificity and Sensitivity of the Pancreatic Lipase Immunoreactivity (SPEC Cpl) Test for the Diagnosis of Canine Pancreatitis – This purpose of this research to develop a much improved testing method that works in conjunction with SPEC cPL to diagnose pancreatitis – the current test methods are problematic.
- CHF grant #01241 – Dr. Cristina Gobello, National University of La Plata – Detection of DNA Damage in Response to Cooling Storage in Canine Spermatozoa using Single-cell Gel Electrophoresis (comet assay) - This study hopes to identify the actual storage life of cooled sperm and develop a better extender to improve the sperm life and improved conception rate.

The first of the studies listed above was paid for from our Donor Advised Fund used to support heart research. The other 3 studies were supported by funds from our health committee fund maintained in the BCOA treasury.

NEW SIGHTHOUND FUND

While our Borzoi Donor Advised Fund is committed to heart research, there is nothing that would prevent us from establishing an additional Donor Advised Fund. There's a great opportunity to join forces with other Sighthound clubs and establish a "SIGHTHOUND DONOR ADVISED FUND" with the purpose to pool funds jointly more quickly in hopes of encouraging the pursuit of sighthound specific health research for those diseases affecting the sighthound population. I believe this holds a lot of potential for forces joined amongst breeds that most certainly share common genetic material that makes them all sighthounds. While I know that there is planning involved in drafting up a joint Fund and that it will most certainly involve a small board consisting of a representative from each club to agree on contribution amounts and research grant spending, I'm more than willing to take on the challenge and see this come to fruition. I'm asking that the board provide approval for me to begin the investigation and interest from other clubs in pursuing this initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Jones

BCOA Health Committee Chairman