



# Westie WELLNESS

Summer 2013

**Questions? Problems?  
Suggestions?**

www.westiefoundation.org  
1-888-928-3843

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 What Can I Do For Westie Health?
- 3 PODODERMATITIS... Oh Those Feet!
- 7 Heartworm Disease and Preventative, How Important Is It?
- 9 Comparative Research and The Future For Dogs and Humans Without PF
- 10 Race Horses and West Highland White Terriers May Hold Key to Cure for Deadly Lung Disease Killing Humans, Horses, Other Domestic Animals
- 12 How I Came to Be a Westie Health Research Advocate
- 13 The Importance of Owner Involvement
- 14 Financial Report
- 15 WFA Fundraising Report
- 16 Eye Certification Registry
- 17 Legacy Alliance
- 18 Grant 01609 Progress Report
- 20 Cartoon Contest

Darlene Reilly, Editor  
Reilly Designs, LLC • reillys44@gmail.com

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Believe me when I say, "It takes a lot of passion for the cause in conjunction with motivation, self discipline, team work, and persistence to serve as an effective director on the Westie Foundation of America (WFA)'s Board. In fact, it is a calling!" We are fortunate to have such a Board of Directors (BOD) and are proud of the WFA's accomplishments which are only possible through your ongoing donations and volunteerism.



*Bebe Pinter*

Regarding donations, the WFA directors assure that monies are applied to research projects on those diseases that impact the Westie breed. For instance, the WFA has granted \$100,000+ in funding to the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF) alone. Only nine other breed foundations have accomplished this feat according to AKC/CHF records. So I am asking that you continue to donate through the WFA to assure your gift is used wisely and benefits the health of our Westies. We need the "Most Bang for our Bucks"! Your donations and bequests are tax deductible.

Regarding volunteerism, at the April BOD meeting the Directors elected two dedicated individuals to the health of the Westie breed as members of the Advisory Council: (1) Ms. Suzannah Thomson of Ashgate Kennels, United Kingdom and (2) Dr. Mahmoud Loghman-Adham, Global Medical Director, Bio Therapeutics Clinical Research, Baxter Healthcare Corporation. We are delighted to have these two professionals aboard and look forward to their input and fellowship. Please contact me if you wish to participate in the WFA's work.

In this issue of *Westie Wellness* don't miss the informative article by Advisory Council member Valerie Fadok, DVM, PhD's article "Pododermatitis... Oh Those Feet!" Dr. Fadok, a Board Certified Dermatologist, reviews the causes of common foot disease in dogs. You may remember her last article published in our Fall 2012 issue titled "Atopic Dermatitis in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Information to Help your Allergic Westie". Based upon current results of the health survey, Atopic Dermatitis is the most common health problem affecting Westies.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# What Can I Do For Westie Health?

By Kay McGuire, DVM, MS

You are in fact reading this newsletter because you love Westies! Whether you have your first darling white dog or have been owned by many, you can help the future of the breed by simply providing your dog's DNA for further research.

The Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) maintains a DNA repository which provides samples to researchers. Every Westie owner can submit a simple cheek swab or blood sample on each dog owned to further Westie health. The purposes of the DNA repository are:

- 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 read 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 (UC 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.

Please go to [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org) and click on DNA to fill out the necessary forms and the collection instructions. Permit your Westie be a pioneer to future health advances!



## Request for Samples

RESEARCH PROJECT	SAMPLES NEEDED	CONTACT INFORMATION
Genetic marker for <b>Atopic dermatitis</b>	Immediate need: 10/2012 Saliva samples from 50 normal dogs 5 years of age or older from family lines free of allergies	Cary Agler North Carolina State University 919-513-7235 casalzma@ncsu.edu
Genetic susceptibility of <b>Transitional Cell Carcinoma (TCC) (Bladder Cancer)</b>	Blood samples from dogs diagnosed with TCC and dogs over the age of nine who have no known cancers	Gretchen Carpintero Ostrander Lab National Human Genome Research Institute 301-451-9390 Dog_genome@mail.nih.gov
Genetic marker for <b>Addison's disease</b>	DNA from cheek cells and/or blood from affected dogs and unaffected dogs over the age of 7	Dr. A.M. Oberbauer UC Veterinary School (Davis) 530-752-4997 <a href="http://cgap.ucdavis.edu/">http://cgap.ucdavis.edu/</a>
Genetics of <b>Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)</b>	Cheek swab samples from dogs diagnosed with IPF and healthy dogs. *Request a free DNA kit from <a href="mailto:dogdna@tgen.org">dogdna@tgen.org</a> (list Westie DNA in subject line)	Alison Ruhe Van Andel Research Institute Translational Genomics Research Institute <a href="mailto:aruhe@tgen.org">aruhe@tgen.org</a> 530-304-4884
<b>Genetic role in Legg-Calvé-Perthes</b>	Blood samples from affected dogs and unaffected dogs	Dr. Alison Starr Clemson University 864-656-4696 <a href="mailto:astarr@clemson.edu">astarr@clemson.edu</a>

For more information about any of the above projects visit [www.westiefoundation.org](http://www.westiefoundation.org)

# PODODERMATITIS... Oh Those Feet!

By Valerie A. Fadok, DVM, PhD, Diplomate, ACVD,

North Houston Veterinary Specialists

**M**any dogs, including Westies, develop skin disease on their feet, and as for many skin lesions, there are numerous causes. For many allergic dogs, the feet are the first area to become itchy and red and they can be the hardest area in which to control itch. We will review the causes of the common foot disease in dogs, and what we can do to make dogs more comfortable.

## Parasites

One of the first parasitic diseases we often consider is demodicosis, a disease caused by the hair follicle mite *Demodex canis*. This disease is often found in young dogs, but older dogs can develop mite infestations too, particularly Shih Tzus and some of the terrier breeds. Demodex mites are transmitted to pups from their mothers, and under normal situations live in very low numbers. For reasons we don't really understand, in some dogs the mites will overgrow and create inflammation and damage. The hair follicle gets packed with mites, which causes the hair to fall



Figure 1

out and the skin to become infected with bacteria. Demodex mites are the most common cause for deep skin infections of the feet. (Figure 1) Traditionally, we have used skin scrapings to make the diagnosis, but two new techniques have been developed to help find the mites. Plucking several hairs and examining the roots by microscopy often reveals several mites (Figure 2), and this

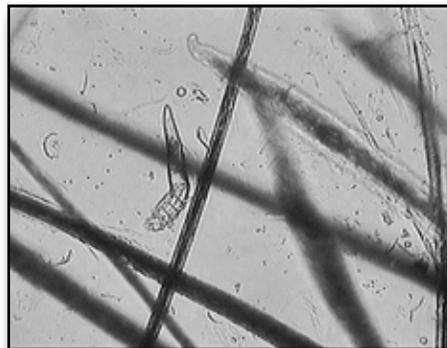


Figure 2

technique is easier to perform on feet and around eyes, where using a scalpel blade to scrape is a little more hazardous. A newer tape technique, in which clear acetate tape is pressed onto the skin, then the skin squeezed, has been shown to be effective as well. This technique might be better on the back or abdomen than on the feet in which it is harder to elevate the skin and squeeze it.

Treatment for demodicosis requires killing the mites and treating any associated bacterial infections. The two most commonly used treatments are oral ivermectin at high doses and amitraz (Mitaban) dips. It is very

important that any dog given high doses of ivermectin stop the use of spinosad (present in Trifexis and Comfortis) for flea control at least two weeks before the ivermectin is started. The spinosad increases the risk of neurological signs associated with ivermectin use. An alternative to ivermectin is amitraz (Mitaban) dipping. This dipping can be quite effective for feet as the dogs can stand in the dip solution for several minutes. We often recommend bathing once weekly with a benzoyl peroxide shampoo to help remove crusts, kill bacteria, and remove the keratin plugs in the hair follicles.

When adult dogs get demodicosis of the feet or other parts of the body, we often worry about an underlying cause. Some dogs that take steroids for itch control can develop overgrowth of these mites, so we look for alternative ways to control their allergies. Other dogs could have thyroid disease, Cushing's disease, or even early lymphoma as the underlying cause. For many adult dogs, though, the development of demodicosis later in life could reflect an aging change, and then we just manage the mites.

## Allergies

Many dogs with allergies will develop inflamed itchy feet, and the inflammation and constant licking and chewing sets them up for secondary infections with *Staphylococcus* spp. or *Malassezia*

(Continued on page 4)

(Pododermatitis continued from page 3)

yeast. The infections can make the itch associated with allergies 10 times worse, so we always try to insure that infections are under control. The most common allergic disease affecting the feet is atopic disease, a skin disorder characterized by defects in the protective barrier of the skin accompanied by an immune system that overreacts to environmental stimuli such as pollens, molds, dusts, danders, mites, and sometimes foods. Atopic dermatitis is diagnosed by history and the clinical appearance of the lesions. Dogs with atopic dermatitis are face rubbers, foot chowers, and axilla scratchers, with foot chewing and licking starting first (Figure 3). We use our skin tests and our serum allergy tests to pick allergens for the allergy vaccine. Allergy vaccines (allergen specific immunotherapy) are effective in 70-80% of our atopic dogs, and are the only biologic or nondrug way we have to control the disease in dogs. Traditionally, these vaccines have



Figure 3

been given by injection, but now we can use oral drops (sublingual immunotherapy). These drops are placed under the tongue using a special dispensing vial and are given twice daily. Allergy vaccines can take several months to be fully effective, so we have to use other methods to keep our dogs comfortable while we wait for them to work. We call our approach multimodal: we control infections by bathing and the use of antibiotics and antifungal agents, we control parasites (fleas especially), we try to rebuild the skin barrier by feeding diets enriched in fatty acids or using fish oil capsules, and most importantly, we try to control itch. We know that dogs absorb their allergens through the skin, so it can be very helpful to use unscented baby wipes on the feet and face to remove pollens and other allergens. When feet are inflamed, cool water soaks in Epsom salts can be very comforting for dogs. Sometimes we need to use corticosteroids or cyclosporine (Atopica) to help with itch, but our hope is to reduce the doses needed or hopefully stop them when the allergy vaccine is working well.

### Bacterial Infections

For most dogs, bacterial skin infections are secondary to some primary underlying cause. Bacteria tend to be opportunists, taking advantage of skin that has been damaged and inflamed. The most common bacterial infections are caused by *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*. This bacterium prefers dog skin, and like *Demodex* mites, is introduced to the skin of pups from their mothers. Most dogs carry these bacteria in their nose,

around their mouth, and around their anus, so it is always available to infect the skin if they are chewing or licking at their feet (Figure 4) or



Figure 4

other body parts. Some dogs will develop an allergic reaction to the bacteria, making the infection 10 times more itchy and inflamed. We diagnose these infections by cytology. We press a piece of clear tape on the skin of the feet, stain it, then examine under the microscope to find the bacteria and also to check for yeast. Treatment usually involves the use of oral antibiotics, although we can often use an injectable antibiotic called Convenia as well. Sometimes we have to take samples for culture and sensitivity because dogs can be infected with resistant bacteria. We then need the microbiology lab to tell us what antibiotics will be effective. We do know that bathing can really help dogs with bacterial infections, and we recommend daily bathing of the feet with a chlorhexidine shampoo or a new shampoo containing sodium hypochlorite, the active ingredient of bleach (see [www.vetsplash.com](http://www.vetsplash.com)). It is called Top Vet Splash Plus, and when used for 3-4 weeks several times a week can resolve superficial infections.

(Continued on page 5)

(Pododermatitis continued from page 4)

Some dogs can get infected with the water-loving bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. These infections seem more common in the southeast because we live in such a wet environment. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* often is found in the feet of dogs with demodicosis. On cytology, it shows up as a long rod, and our choice of antibiotic will be different from that for *Staphylococcal* spp. We rely on fluoroquinolone antibiotics such as marbofloxacin for this bug, but frequent bathing is also recommended.

For dogs that develop allergic reactions to their *Staphylococcus*, Staphage Lysate can be used by injection to help retrain the dog's immune system to kill bacteria rather than to simply become inflamed.



Figure 5

## Yeast Infections

The yeast organism *Malassezia* is a common cause of red itchy feet in dogs, and like bacteria, it often infects allergic feet (Figure 5). We diagnose it by cytology too, looking for the classic peanut shaped yeast organism (Figure 6). This disease can be treated very effectively with bathing but it has to be done daily. There are several shampoos that are good for this purpose: Malaseb (Bayer DVM),

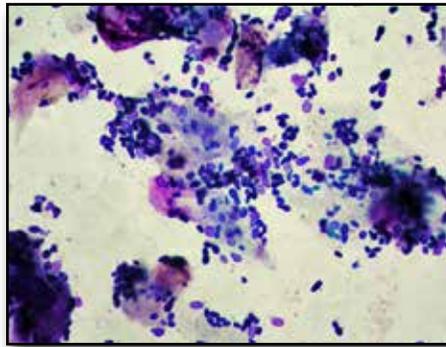


Figure 6

Mal-A-Ket (Dechra), Ketochlor (Virbac), and DOUXO chlorhexidine with climbazole (Sogeval) contain antifungal agents to kill yeast. A useful simple home remedy, though, is a mix of vinegar and water. You can mix 1 part of white vinegar with 3 parts water and use as a spray or footbath. It can also be chilled in the refrigerator to provide a cool spray or soak for hot little feet. The acid in the vinegar helps to kill bacteria and yeast and harden the keratin of the skin. We often use oral antifungal drugs such as fluconazole or ketoconazole initially to give the dog rapid relief, then we can use bathing to prevent reinfection. Some dogs will become allergic to the yeast, and then even a small number of organisms can cause severe itch. We can use serum testing or skin testing to look for an allergic reaction to the yeast, and the yeast extract can be incorporated in the allergy vaccine to make dogs less sensitive.

## Fungal Infections

Infections with ringworm (dermatophyte) fungi are less common than those with bacteria and yeast, but they can occur. (Figure 7) We diagnose these infections by



Figure 7

looking for fungal spores in the hairs, and also by fungal culture. When dogs have a ringworm infection, we treat with an oral antifungal agent along with topical treatment using an antifungal shampoo or sometimes lime sulfur dip.



Figure 8



Figure 9

(Continued on page 6)

## Other Causes of Foot Disease

There are other, less common, causes of foot disease as well. These can include deep fungal infections, some types of skin cancer (Figure 8), and autoimmune diseases such as



Figure 10

pemphigus foliaceus (Figure 9, 10), pemphigus vulgaris, the lupus disorders, and vasculitis. These diseases require biopsy for diagnosis before treatment can be started. If diseases of the feet do not respond to conventional therapy with antibiotics, corticosteroids, or bathing, it is a good idea to ask your veterinarian about skin biopsies.

## Figure Legends

1. Demodicosis in the foot of a West Highland White terrier. The crusting and the black pigmentation make us suspicious but we perform skin scrapings or hair plucks to make the diagnosis.
2. Adult Demodex mite found after plucking hairs from the foot.
3. Foot of a Westie with atopic dermatitis. The skin is red, and the hair discolored from frequent licking.
4. Bacterial skin infection associated with atopic dermatitis in a Westie.
5. Combined yeast and bacterial infection in the feet of an atopic Westie.
6. The appearance of Malassezia yeast under the microscope.
7. A Bull Terrier with ringworm (dermatophyte) infection of the feet.
8. A skin tumor called mycosis fungoides (epitheliotropic lymphoma), a tumor caused by cancerous white blood cells. Note the redness and loss of pigment on and around the pads. Diagnosis requires a biopsy.
9. Thick crusts on the footpad of a dog with pemphigus foliaceus, an autoimmune skin disease.
10. Westie with whole body pemphigus foliaceus. For this dog, the footpads were spared.

*(Product recommendations are those of the author and WFA does not endorse any service or products.)*

Heartworm disease is preventable. Learn the hows and whys of prevention when you read “Heartworm Disease and Prevention, How Important Is It?”

The WFA continues explore solutions in its campaign to overcome IPF. Discover the WFA’s role as described by Teresa Barnes’ in her article “Comparative Research and the Future for Dogs and Humans Without Pulmonary Fibrosis” and the recent press release regarding the Fibrosis Across Species Workshop on page 10.

It is heartbreaking to lose a beloved Westie. Dr. Mahmoud Loghman-Adham shares his and wife Peri’s story of Corky and his wishes for keeping Corky’s memory alive.

“The Importance of Owner Involvement” by past WFA Secretary/BOD Gail Krieger, informs us how to organize a club clinic to collect samples for WFA supported research projects. Thank you to Gail and Dr. Pam Whiting for your help. Without samples, a researcher’s project is stymied. Please contact us at [health@westiefoundation.org](mailto:health@westiefoundation.org) if you would like to coordinate a samples clinic.

If you have not entered information on ALL the Westies you own, living and deceased, in the online survey do not wait any longer. Based upon this survey, directors determine what diseases to tackle in the research and education arena. Please go to [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org), click on “SURVEYS” on the home page, and select West Highland White Terrier Survey. Make your knowledge count and help Westies live healthier lives. We are working very hard to reach all Westie owners. Please pass on this information to your pet puppy owners. We will have survey information on business cards available during Montgomery week. If you are a groomer, trainer, veterinarian, vendor, or provide other services to the Westie community, please take as many cards as you need for your current and new clients.

Your donation pledge permits the WFA to continue its work to improve the health of all Westies.

*Bebe Pinter*

The Westie Foundation of America, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, recognized by the IRS as a 501 (C) (3) organization. The mission of the Foundation is to provide financial aid and other support for medical research in order to benefit the health and quality of life of West Highland White Terriers; and to further develop and communicate information regarding the health, care, breeding and quality of life of Westies to Westie owners, Westie breeders and veterinarians.

# Heartworm Disease and Preventative, How Important Is It?

By Kay McGuire, DVM, MS



**T**he importance of heartworm preventative and flea and tick control cannot be underrated. Now that summer is here, parasite protection is very important for both you and your Westie. There are many commercial products for heartworm prevention, both topical and oral medications. Heartworm disease (*Dirofilaria immitis*) is transmitted by infected mosquitoes feeding on your dog and injecting the infected larvae into the dog's bloodstream. Because mosquitoes have a range of over a mile, any dog in the neighborhood may be the vector of disease for your animal.

Heartworm prevention products act by killing the larval stage of the parasite on a monthly basis. The life cycle of the disease is 6 months from infection of filaria to adult worms in the right side of the heart. As the infection

progresses by increasing the number of worms in the heart, these worms not only inhibit the pumping or contractility of the heart muscle but also will migrate into the pulmonary artery in the lung so heartworm disease is actually a lung disease as well as a cardiac disease. Most symptoms are respiratory in nature including the cough, difficulty breathing, and exercise intolerance. In very advanced cases, heart failure will advance to collection of fluid (ascites) in the abdomen.

It is important for your Westie to be examined by his veterinarian and also to have timely heartworm tests. Even though you may faithfully give your heartworm preventative monthly, there are instances that the dog hides the pills or may not assimilate the drug properly. If there have been lapses of preventative coverage, your veterinarian will

recommend a heartworm test and possibly again in 6 months. This is again due to the length of the life cycle of the parasite, a negative heartworm test now does not necessarily mean your animal is clear of disease. Even if the dog is started back on a monthly prevention, he may indeed turn up with a positive test result 6 months later. It is also recommended that heartworm positive dogs remain on a monthly commercial heartworm preventive product. This will ensure that more adult worms cannot develop while the dog is waiting to be treated.

There are some multiple dog owners that use 1% Cattle and Swine Ivomec in an off label usage to prevent heartworm disease. There is a very real danger of drug

(Continued on page 8)

(Heartworm continued from page 7)

over dosage and toxicity with this product as well as the probability acute death in a positive heartworm dog.

Flea and tick control is not only important for the health of your pet but also to prevent zoonotic transmission of disease to humans. Most are aware of the dangers of ticks transmitting Lyme Disease, but other diseases such as Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Bartonella, and Anaplasma can be acquired through tick bites. Fleas can transmit

Hemabartenella (a blood parasite that causes anemia) and Plaque. Again, we have many commercial products labeled for flea and tick prevention for your Westie that your veterinarian can recommend. For those people that prefer a more natural approach to flea and tick control, essential oils may be used. It is important to find the method that works best for you and your pet in your environment.

A comparison chart of commercial flea and tick products can be found at <http://www.veterinarypartner.com/Content.plx?P=A&A=2858>.

*“Heartworm disease is transmitted by infected mosquitoes feeding on your dog and injecting the infected larvae into the dog’s bloodstream.”*

## Heartworm Prevention Chart

By Kay McGuire, DVM, MS

Name	Dogs and Cats	Ingredients	Other Parasites Controlled	Application	Other Ingredient Added	Age
<b>HEARTGARD</b>	Dogs	Ivermectin	None	Oral	None	6 wk
<b>HEARTGARD PLUS</b>	Dogs	Ivermectin	hooks, rounds	Oral	Pyrantel pamoate	6 wk
<b>IVERHART MAX</b>	Dogs	Ivermectin	hooks, rounds, tapes	Oral	Praziquantel	6 wk
<b>INTERCEPTOR</b>	Dogs	Milbemycin	hooks, rounds, whipworms	Oral	None	4 wk
<b>SENTINEL</b>	Dogs	Milbemycin	hooks, rounds, whipworms	Oral	Lufenuron sterilizes fleas	4 wk
<b>REVOLUTION</b>	Dogs	Selemectin	fleas, ticks, earmites sarcoptes	Topical	None	6 wk
	Cats	Selemectin	fleas, ticks, earmites	Topical	None	8 wk
<b>ADVANTAGE MULTI</b>	Dogs	Moxidectin	fleas, hooks, rounds, whips	Topical	Imidiclopromid	7 wk
	Cats	Moxidectin	fleas, earmites, hooks, rounds	Topical	Imidiclopromid	9 wk
<b>PROHEART 6</b>	Dogs	Moxidectin	hooks	Injection	None	6 mo-7Y
<b>TRIFEXIS</b>	Dogs	Milbemycin	fleas, hooks, rounds, whips	Oral	Spinosid	8 wk

(It is recommended that heartworm prevention products be obtained from your veterinarian to assure quality control. Finding a source to save cost may not be a true value if the product obtained is low quality or counterfeit.)

# Comparative Research and The Future For Dogs and Humans Without Pulmonary Fibrosis

By Teresa Barnes

In 2007, I received an email invitation from Wayne Kompare, the then President of the Westie Foundation of America (WFA). It was an invitation to a human/canine meeting outside Indianapolis at Purdue University. At first pass, it sounded a bit of an odd combination and so I ignored the email, thinking it was 'junk'.

The second email about the human/canine meeting on lung fibrosis came a couple of weeks later. This time, it included an agenda and it seemed to me to have validity, even though I was still not convinced such an effort was real.

When I received the third email, I decided to email Mr. Kompare back and to ask him the names of experts whom he expected to attend the meeting, thinking that his response would help me determine the legitimacy of the invitation. When he responded nearly immediately, I knew based on names of attendees such as Kevin Brown, MD, Jesse Roman, MD, Amy Olson, MD and others that this was not spam and was indeed, a serious meeting.

In October 2007, I attended, along with Drs. Brown, Roman, Olson and about 20 others in human pulmonary medicine and in canine medicine, the first Human/Canine meeting on Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF, also called simply Pulmonary Fibrosis or PF).

The meeting, held by the WFA, the Canine Health Association and the Morris Animal Foundation, revealed what many in the veterinary world had suspected – the disease that was known to afflict the West Highland White Terrier (Westie) and other terrier breeds,

seemed much the same as the human form of the disease.

Though the number of affected dogs isn't known, as of yet, human and veterinary researchers believe the relative number could be similar to the incidence and prevalence in humans since the dogs share an environment with humans.

Dr. Roman and the speakers and attendees of the meeting in 2007 have finally produced a white paper from that meeting which is expected to be published in a major (human) pulmonary medical journal this summer. The paper is expected to show the benefits for studying affected Westies and other terriers that suffer from PF while trying to ascertain the similarities and differences between them and humans.

Such so-called 'comparative research' has been used successfully in the study of bladder, prostate and bone cancer in recent years and is being used in many other studies of human/canine disease areas. The argument for studying dogs and comparing them to humans may greatly benefit both – and may do so in a fraction of the time at a fraction of the cost of traditional research efforts.

Shortly after the Human/Canine IPF meeting, Mr. Kompare asked me to join the board of directors of the WFA. I was honored to be elected and have been serving since that time in an effort to help raise the profile of the WFA and draw attention to its work to improve the health of Westies worldwide.

Several months ago, working in conjunction with now WFA President



Bebe Pinter and veterinarian/board member Kay McGuire, DVM, the idea of holding a new human/canine meeting grew to one that would also include other affected species including horses and cats. The "Fibrosis Across Species" meeting is coming together well and is planned for late April 2014, just days before the Kentucky Derby, in Louisville Kentucky.

Human and canine researchers are increasingly contacting the WFA asking to learn more about the Westie and to gather Westie samples for research projects in PF. The opportunity is enormous to find faster treatments and cures for the human and canine disease.

The WFA encourages our membership and our partners to support PF research and this meeting via gifts to the foundation or through sponsorship or donation to the Fibrosis Across Species meeting. For further information, contact Bebe Pinter at [president@westiefoundation.org](mailto:president@westiefoundation.org).

# Race Horses and West Highland White Terriers May Hold Key to Cure for Deadly Lung Disease Killing Humans, Horses, Other Domestic Animals

## Human and Vet Researchers to Convene in Louisville, KY on 'Fibrosis Across Species'

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 20, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire

**R**esearchers from human and veterinary medicine want to know more about the lung disease that is killing horses, including thoroughbred horses and other domestic animals, just as it's claiming an increasing number of human lives – and are hoping the animals will hold a key to finding treatments faster for both.

Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF) is a little known lung disease amongst most of the public, yet the disease claims as many human lives each year as breast cancer. In addition to horses, the disease is also known to affect cats, and dogs, especially terrier breeds of dogs like the West Highland White Terrier (WHWT).

There are no approved drugs for the disease in the United States, though a drug has been approved in Japan, the European Union and Canada.

Researchers from human and veterinary medicine plan to convene a workshop to bring together researchers to create a roadmap for comparative research in the disease. Comparative research – or research that compares human disease to similar diseases in animals – has been used successfully in the treatment of bladder, prostate, bone and other forms of cancer. The meeting will address comparative pathobiology of fibrosing lung disorders.

The Fibrosis Across Species meeting is slated for the week of the Kentucky Derby 2014 (April 27-29) in Louisville, KY at the University of Louisville.

“We are concerned about the growing incidence and prevalence of Pulmonary Fibrosis and realize that research done the customary way has limitations,” said Jesse Roman, MD, a human PF researcher and Chair of Medicine at the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY and a leader of the meeting.

“Studying animals, in particular horses and dogs, may allow us to better understand the underlying causes of this lung disease and how to best tackle finding life-saving treatments for all affected species.”

Kurt Williams, DVM, Ph.D. is a veterinary pathologist at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University who has led research efforts in animals and has published groundbreaking

work in PF in horses. “This meeting will provide the collaborations needed to move comparative research in fibrotic lung disease forward. I am pleased to be part of this stellar team of scientists who will review important research to date in fibrotic disease in animals and humans and will pave the path forward for innovations in science and progress in a disease area that is on the brink of major discovery.”

The Fibrosis Across Species meeting will build on the success of a 2007 meeting that brought together human and veterinary scientists to discuss similarities between the WHWT and human forms of PF. Many of the key researchers in that meeting will be leading the Louisville meeting along with key canine organizations, including the Westie Foundation of America (WFA).

*(Continued on page 11)*



(Lung Disease continued from page 10)

The American Thoracic Society Assembly on Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB) supports the idea of the meeting. Chaired by Dr. Roman, RCMB members are researchers and physicians, are interested in research that helps advance understanding of the biological basis of lung health and disease.

Dr. Roman is lead author on a white paper from the 2007 meeting slated for publication soon in a medical journal that identifies the similarities and makes strong suggestions for a path forward. One of the experts' recommendations is the convening of a meeting that fits the mold of the Fibrosis Across Species meeting.

Along with Drs. Williams and Capps, Dr. Roman is working with other key scientists and PF experts to convene the meeting including Kevin Brown, MD and Amy Olson, MD, of National Jewish Health in Denver, Dennis E. Doherty, MD, of University of Kentucky Medical Center and the Lexington Veteran's Administration hospital, Patricia Olson, DVM, and Teresa Barnes and Dolly Kervitsky, both PF advocates.

The Fibrosis Across Species meeting is currently seeking sponsors in support of the effort being convened by the WFA and partners soon to be announced. For more information, email [TeresaRBarnes@hotmail.com](mailto:TeresaRBarnes@hotmail.com).

### About the Fibrosis Across Species Workshop

The Fibrosis Across Species effort includes a workshop on comparative pathobiology of fibrosing lung disorders that will bring together physicians and veterinary experts, pathologists, community advocates, and representatives of private foundations, industry and

biotechnology, and federal scientific organizations. The workshop is designed to advance knowledge in the area of lung fibrosis in domestic animals and in particular, in breeds of terrier dogs such as the West Highland White Terrier and in thoroughbred horses.

### About Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF)

Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF) is a lung disorder characterized by a progressive scarring – known as fibrosis -- and deterioration of the lungs, which slowly robs its victims of their ability to breathe. Approximately 128,000 Americans suffer from PF, and there is currently no known cause or cure. An estimated 48,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. PF is difficult to diagnose and an estimated two-thirds of patients die within five years of diagnosis. Sometimes PF can be linked to a particular cause, such as certain environmental exposures, chemotherapy or radiation therapy, residual infection, or autoimmune diseases such as scleroderma or rheumatoid arthritis. However, in many instances, no known cause can be established. When this is the case, it is called idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF).

*SOURCE The Fibrosis Across Species Workshop*



# How I Came to Be a Westie Health Research Advocate

By Mahmoud Loghman-Adham, MD

I was anxiously awaiting the results of an MRI done on Corky, our 10 year-old Westie who had recently become very sick. When the specialist called that night, the news was not good. Corky had a soft tissue sarcoma that had invaded his vertebrae and compressed his spinal cord. It had also spread to his lungs, liver and other organs. The tumor was too widespread to be removed surgically.

Corky came to our life when he was 8 weeks old. He was a quick learner and a very gentle and obedient dog. He loved to play and to be petted and slept on our bed each night. We pampered him and made sure that he saw the vet on a regular basis. Westies can live up to 18 years, so we expected him to be with us for another 7 or 8 more years. Unfortunately, this did not happen and Corky's life was cut short at the tender age of 10 years.

Corky was healthy until 2 weeks earlier when he began to lose appetite and became much less active. He was given antibiotics for a possible infection but he did not improve. One day, he stopped using his back paws and that's when we learned that he was paralyzed. We did not know the cause of this until the MRI. After we heard the results of the MRI, we decided to bring Corky home and take care of him until he reached a point that he no longer was able to eat and drink. We gave him Tramadol for pain and helped him empty his bladder several times a day. Since radiation and chemotherapy were ruled out, we started treating him with alternative herbal medicines. Research had shown that curcumin and resveratrol can slow the growth of tumors in lab animals and we had nothing to lose.

After a week of seeing his pain get worse, we finally reached the very difficult decision to put Corky to sleep. That evening, my wife and I took turns holding him and kissing him and telling him how much we loved him. We had gone over the decision numerous times. Still, we were

ambivalent and wondered if we were doing the right thing. But all the specialists had told us that this was the best solution for him.



Corky

As a medical doctor and researcher, I look to research to help prevent or cure human diseases. Despite tremendous progress in medical sciences, research in diseases of companion animals lags far behind that for humans. Surely, we can do more to help Westies and other dogs that give their love and affection without asking anything in return. I applaud the Westie Foundation of America and similar organizations that try to increase awareness about medical conditions specific to

Westies. I sincerely hope that through these efforts and generous donations, we will be able to raise money to fund cutting-edge medical research similar to the type of research that has resulted in better treatments for human diseases such as heart disease and cancer.

We can't bring Corky back but we hope to keep Corky's memory alive by donating to charities that help dogs, especially Westies. We want to help other Westies find a nice home and live a comfortable life as Corky did. They give so much love and happiness. We sincerely hope that more resources will go to research on prevention and early detection of cancer in dogs so that one day it can be cured. To learn more about Corky's life, please visit his website <https://sites.google.com/site/corkysmemory/>

# The Importance of Owner Involvement

By Gail Krieger

The San Francisco Bay West Highland White Terrier Club is lucky to have as one of its members, a veterinarian - Pam Whiting. Dr. Whiting offered on several occasions to donate her time for the benefit of the members and their Westies. The club was finally in a position to accept her offer. The plan was to hold a clinic following the annual January meeting to collect DNA samples for some of the research projects sponsored by the Westie Foundation of America (WFA). The Genetic Marker for Atopic Dermatitis, research headed by Thierry Olivry, DrVet, PhD, NCSU, College of Veterinary Medicine and the Genetics of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF), Allison Ruhe, contact at Van Andel Research Institute, Translational Genomics Research Institute projects were chosen. Contact information is available at the WFA website under Health, Current Research Projects at [www.westiefoundation.org/pages/health/research/](http://www.westiefoundation.org/pages/health/research/).

Cary Aglar, the representative for the Atopic Dermatitis project, was contacted. She requested blood samples from affected Westies of any age and blood samples from unaffected Westies five years of age or older. She requested pedigrees from the dogs, if available. All of the Westies with the exception of one were unaffected on the day of our clinic. The affected Westie that

participated is a rescued stray and his pedigree was unavailable.

Allison Ruhe, the contact for the IPF project, said samples from any age, affected or non-affected Westies were acceptable.

Blood collection kits and cheek swabs were supplied by the researchers and mailed to Dr. Whiting. Dr. Whiting collected the blood samples from a vein in the neck which seemed to cause the least amount of stress on the dogs. DNA samples for the IPF project were collected using a cheek swab brush. The kit contains



was sent to the members several weeks before the scheduled meeting asking the members to respond to Gail Krieger so that the number of supplies needed could be ordered. Two grooming tables covered with clean towels were used; one to collect cheek swabs and the other to collect blood samples. Signed consent forms and pedigrees were collected and packed with the samples for return to the researchers. Because the clinic was held in January, shipping was not a problem. It was necessary to keep the samples cool but not necessary to ship them immediately.

The day was a huge success thanks to the many Westie owners who participated in the clinic. Twenty-six Westies took part in the collections. A very special thank you to Pam Whiting for she gave the San Francisco Bay West Highland White Terrier Club and the WFA her very valuable time and energy. Her efforts helped to make the day successful and we hope someday to eliminate diseases such as atopic dermatitis and IPF from West Highland White Terriers.

---

*"The day was a huge success thanks to the many Westie owners who participated in the clinic... A very special thank you to Pam Whiting."*

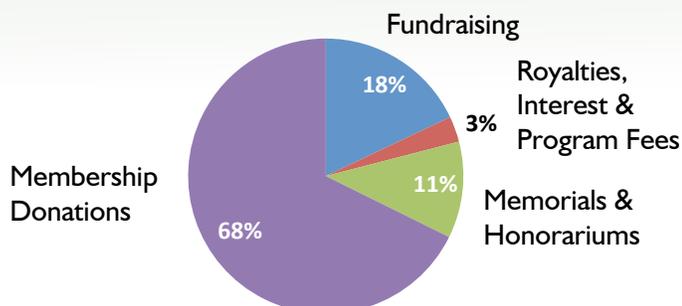
---

two brushes. One brush is rolled inside the left cheek and gum for approximately 10 seconds and the other brush is rolled inside the right cheek. The brushes are then returned to the packing envelope. All but one (very spoiled) dog cooperated and the collections took no more than five minutes per dog. They all got treats after the collections, even one spoiled puppy.

A special notice announcing the plan for a special DNA collection clinic

# Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2012

**Revenue = \$60,810**



## REVENUE

**Individual Support.** Revenue from individuals supporting the Foundation’s mission in FY12 totaled \$48,061 with an additional \$1,831 in royalties from the Westie Foundation Bank Of America MasterCard program, other Affiliate programs, and Interest, \$10,918 from fundraising efforts including Gifts sales. Support from Westie lovers like you comprised the single largest source of revenue to the Foundation!

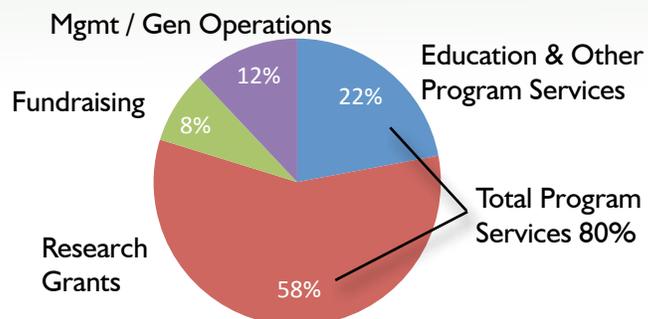
## ASSETS

**Endowment Funds.** All memorials and honorariums are added to the General Endowment Fund which now totals \$111,650. Through the legacies of Nancy Schoch and Daphne Gentry, we also have significant funds dedicated to Pulmonary Fibrosis research and a veterinary scholarship. Our Endowment Funds total almost 60% of our assets. The income from these funds may be used to fund projects, but the principal is temporarily restricted by the Board of Directors and invested carefully to maintain principal while bringing a respectable return. Our managed investments at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney continue to grow both from income and appreciation, validating the Board’s decision in 2011 to create this investment account.

**Unrestricted Funds.** The Foundation has a cash balance of \$135,531 to fund operations, research and education.

**Gifts.** Gifts inventory was valued at \$5,149 at year end, following an accounting adjustment made in 2012 to align the value of the inventory with the reported amount.

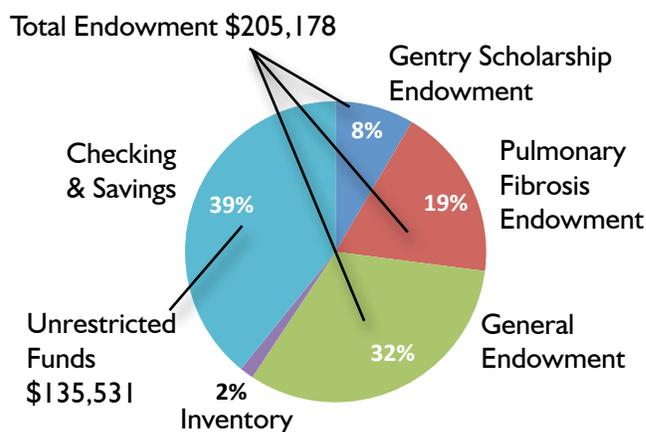
**Expenditures = \$38,893**



## EXPENSES

**Research & Education.** Last year, our expenses totaled \$38,893, with 80% going directly to research and education. Funds spent on research were almost all matched by funds from the AKC Canine Health Foundation and Morris Animal Foundation, compounding the benefits our Westies will receive. Grants funded addressed Atopic Dermatitis (\$5,000), Allergy (\$4,000), Legg-Calve Perthes (\$4,000), Transitional Cell Carcinoma. (\$3,000), T-Cell Receptor Peptide Treatment (\$3,000) and Probiotics in IBD (\$3,000). Education expenses included our website, the outstanding Westie Wellness, and our sponsored seminars. As always, operating expenses were kept to a minimum by careful allocation of resources and the fact that all officers, directors, and committee members are volunteers. These expenses were minimized to less than 12%, including the cost to manage the investments.

**Assets = \$345,858**



NOTE: IRS Form 990 EZ (Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax) is available on line at our Web Site, [http:// www.westiefoundation.org/pages/home/about.html](http://www.westiefoundation.org/pages/home/about.html).

# WFA Fundraising Report

By Tina McCain, VP Fundraising

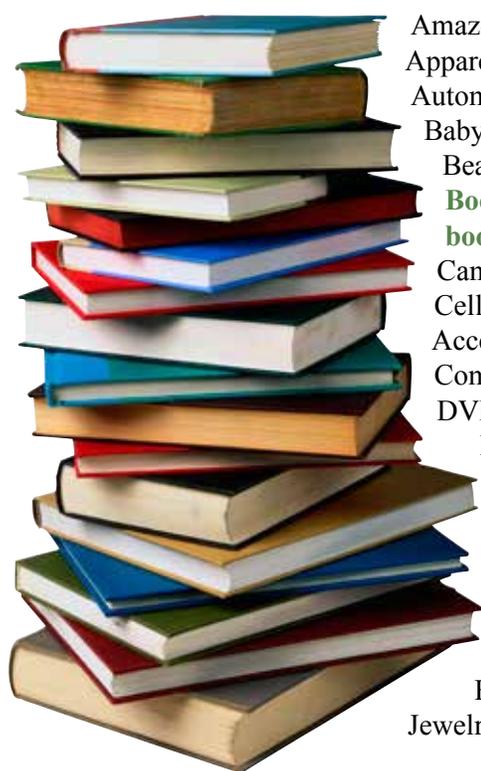
As always, your continued support of the Westie Foundation of America is greatly appreciated. While we are always looking for fundraising opportunities, I'd like to report on one of our affiliate programs.

Affiliate programs are a behind the scenes way for any non-profit to realize income. Amazon's affiliate program continues to be our most successful! I have outlined below some of the "Amazon Affiliate" report statistics for 2012 and 2013 YTD.

Between January 1, 2012 and May 15, 2013:

- 805 items were purchased
- \$17,095.69 was spent by you, the consumer
- \$1,058.37 was realized by the Westie Foundation of America Inc.
- Amazon Instant videos realized the highest percentage of purchase – 10%
- All other items purchased realized approximately between 6% - 6.5%

These are some of the items that were purchased, with the top three categories highlighted!



Amazon videos  
Apparel & Accessories  
Automotive products  
Baby items  
Beauty Products  
**Books – lots of books!**  
Camera items  
Cellphones & Accessories  
Computers  
DVD's  
Electronics  
Amazon gift cards  
Grocery & Gourmet Food  
Health & Personal Care  
Home & Garden  
Jewelry

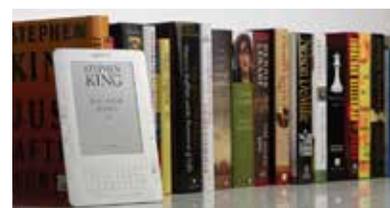
**Kindle ebooks – lots of Kindle books!**

Kitchen & Housewares  
MP3 downloads  
Magazine subscriptions  
Mobile Electronics  
Music  
Office Products

**Pet supplies – lots of pet supplies**

**(imagine that!!!)**

Shoes  
Sports & outdoors  
Tools & hardware  
Toys & Games  
Video games



So, as you can see, we love when you shop our Amazon Affiliate program! The key to this continued revenue for all the ongoing health projects, is YOU! And we would love you to help us spread the word to all your FAMILY & FRIENDS!

**Just remember the extra steps needed for the Westie Foundation to realize our %!**

**Step 1:** Visit [www.WestieFoundationAmerica.org](http://www.WestieFoundationAmerica.org)

**Step 2:** Click on the Amazon icon at the top of the WFA homepage 

**Step 3:** Happens automatically!

Directs you to the Amazon website!

**Step 4:** Purchase away!

Again, thank you for your support! We could not do it without YOU!

(The West Highland White Terrier Club of America and the Westie Foundation of America encourage breeders to do health clearances on hips, eyes, and knees on their Westies and achieve a CHIC number. The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologist is now supporting their registry through the Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA).)



## THE ECR

OFA Eye Certification Registry exams are ophthalmic examinations, performed by American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) Diplomates, to assess dogs for the presence or absence of observable hereditary eye disease. Dogs with normal exam results will receive OFA eye certification numbers valid for one year. Eye Certifications are an important part of the routine health screening practiced by responsible dog breeders to produce healthy puppies. The OFA's ECR has the full support of the ACVO.

## THE EXAM

The exam is performed after drops are placed in the eyes to dilate the pupils and consists of indirect ophthalmoscopy and slit lamp biomicroscopy. If a serious ocular health problem (such as glaucoma) is suspected during the ECR exam, a more comprehensive examination may be required.

## TO REGISTER ECR EXAM RESULTS

After the examination, the ophthalmologist will complete the OFA ECR exam form and indicate any specific observable conditions found.

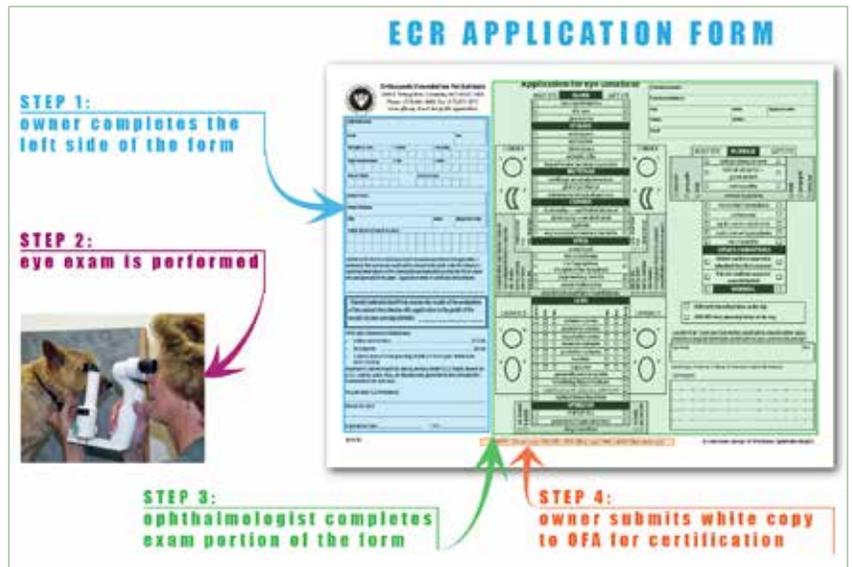
Breeding advice will be offered based on guidelines established for that particular breed by the Genetics Committee of the ACVO.

The forms are in triplicate. One copy is for the ophthalmologist's records, one is for the owner, and one is for the OFA's Clinical Database.

## BENEFITS OF THE ECR

🐾 The addition of eye exam results to the OFA's extensive databases of canine health screening results enhances the value of this important toolset for responsible breeders to make more informed breeding decisions.

*The OFA is a not-for-profit foundation with the mission to promote the health and welfare of companion animals through a reduction in the incidence of genetic disease. The OFA currently maintains the world's largest online, publicly available database of canine health screening results*  
**2300 E Nifong, Columbia MO 65201 | Phone: (573) 442-0418, Fax: (573) 875-5073 | [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)**



- 🐾 For informed puppy buyers, the database provides documentation of a breeder's health screening efforts.
- 🐾 Results of all ECR exams are collected for statistical purposes to monitor ocular disease prevalence and progression, and are used by the Genetics Committee of the ACVO to establish breeding guidelines.
- 🐾 A portion of the proceeds from all ECR registrations will be donated to the ACVO Vision for Animals Foundation to support research leading to the elimination and treatment of ocular diseases.

## FEES

Initial Submissions: \$12    Resubmissions: \$8  
 Submission of non-passing results into the open database:

**No Charge**

## Finnegan's Adventures



## Legacy Alliance Earn your wings.

### Ways to Help Build a Better Life for Westies Today and Forever

- LIFE INSURANCE
- BEQUEST THROUGH YOUR WILL
- LIVING TRUST
- RETIREMENT PLAN
- GIFT IN TRUST
- RETENTION OF LIFE INTEREST
- GIFT ARTS, ANTIQUES, AND COLLECTIBLES

WFA's Wills, Gifts and Bequests package can help you make arrangements to ensure our Westie breed's health will be cared for into perpetuity. [www.westiefoundation.org/legacy-alliance](http://www.westiefoundation.org/legacy-alliance)





## GRANT PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY

**Grant: 01609:**

*Probiotic VSL# 3  
Reduces Enteritis  
in Dogs with  
Inflammatory Bowel  
Disease*

**Principal Investigator:**

Dr. Albert E. Jergens,  
DVM, PhD

**Research Institution:**

Iowa State University

**Grant Amount:**

\$97,416.00

**Start Date:** 1/1/2012

**End Date:** 12/31/2014

**Progress Report:**

End-Year 1

**Report Due:** 12/31/2012**Report Received:**

4/4/2013

**Recommended for**

**Approval:** Approved  
*(Content of this report  
is not confidential. A  
grant sponsor's CHF  
Health Liaison may  
request the confidential  
scientific report submitted  
by the investigator by  
contacting the CHF  
office. The below Report  
to Grant Sponsors from  
Investigator can be used  
in communications with  
your club members.)*

**Original Project Description:**

Idiopathic inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a common cause of chronic gastrointestinal disease in dogs. Accumulating evidence in human IBD and animal models suggests that imbalances in composition of the intestinal microbiota contribute to the pathogenesis of chronic intestinal inflammation. Recent studies have also shown that dogs with IBD have distinctly different duodenal microbial communities compared to healthy dogs. Current treatments for IBD include the administration of nonspecific anti-inflammatory drugs which may confer serious side effects and do not address the underlying basis for disease, namely, altered microbial composition. Use of probiotics (viable, non-pathogenic bacteria that exert health benefits beyond basic nutrition) offers an attractive, physiologic, and non-toxic alternative to shift the balance to protective species and treat IBD. The aim of the proposed study is to investigate the clinical, microbiologic, and anti-inflammatory effects of probiotic VSL#3 in the treatment of canine IBD. We hypothesize that VSL#3 used as an adjunct to standard therapy (i.e., elimination diet and prednisone) will induce a beneficial alteration of enteric bacteria leading to induction and maintenance of remission in dogs with IBD. A randomized, controlled clinical trial of 8 weeks duration will assess the efficacy of standard therapy + probiotic versus standard therapy alone. There is a need for additional data to be generated to provide proof of efficacy in probiotic therapy before these agents can be applied to widespread clinical use. These studies will also provide highly relevant insight into the anti-inflammatory effects of probiotics for treatment of human and canine IBD.

**Grant Objectives:**

To determine the clinical, microbiologic, and anti-inflammatory effects of probiotic VSL #3 in the treatment of canine IBD.

**Publications:**

Otoni, R. Atilmann, M. Garcia-Sancho, et al. Serologic and fecal markers in prediction of acute disease course in canine chronic enteropathies. *J Vet Intern Med* 2012; 26:768-769.

**Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:**

Idiopathic inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a common cause of chronic gastrointestinal disease in dogs. Accumulating evidence in human IBD and animal models suggests that imbalances in composition of the intestinal microbiota contribute to the pathogenesis of chronic intestinal inflammation. Recent studies in dogs with IBD have shown that they have distinctly different duodenal microbial communities compared to healthy dogs. Current treatments for IBD include the administration of nonspecific anti-inflammatory drugs which may confer serious side effects and do not address the underlying basis for disease, namely, altered microbial composition. Use of probiotics (viable, non-pathogenic bacteria that exert health benefits beyond basic nutrition) offers an attractive, physiologic, and non-toxic alternative to shift the balance to protective species and treat IBD. The aim of the proposed study is to investigate the clinical, microbiologic, and anti-inflammatory effects of probiotic VSL#3 in the treatment of canine IBD. We hypothesize that VSL#3 used as an adjunct to standard therapy (i.e., elimination diet and prednisone) will induce a beneficial alteration of enteric bacteria leading to induction and maintenance of remission in dogs with IBD. A randomized, controlled clinical trial of 8 weeks

*(Continued on page 19)*

(Grant: 01609 continued from page 20)

duration is presently being performed to assess the efficacy of standard therapy + probiotic versus standard therapy alone.

Our data to date suggests that dogs treated with VSL#3 do respond favorably to the probiotic as evidenced by a reduction in their clinical disease severity. What remains unclear (ie, the clinicians are blinded as to whether a dog receives VSL#3 or placebo) is whether remission occurs more quickly in VSL#3-treated dogs vs placebo-medicated dogs. There is a need for additional data to be generated to provide proof of efficacy in probiotic therapy before these agents can be applied to widespread clinical use. These studies will also provide highly relevant insight into the anti-inflammatory effects of probiotics for treatment of human and canine IBD. We have produced 2 research abstracts to date with data from these studies.

We are actively seeking additional dogs for inclusion into the trial at this time, and would particularly welcome purebred dogs at increased risk for IBD including GSD, boxer, and French Bull dog breeds.

The Westie Foundation of America, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, recognized by the IRS as a 501 (C) (3) organization. The mission of the Foundation is to provide financial aid and other support for medical research in order to benefit the health and quality of life of West Highland White Terriers; and to further develop and communicate information regarding the health, care, breeding and quality of life of Westies to Westie owners, Westie breeders and veterinarians.



## FREE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

### Treating Canine Allergies in the 21st Century: *It's Getting Better!*

**Valerie A. Fadok, DVM, PhD, Diplomate, ACVD**

**Thursday, October 3, 2013, 6:30 pm**

**Comfort Suites**

**700 West Uwchlan Ave, Exton, PA 19341**

*(across from the Hampton Inn on the  
SW corner of Rte 100 and Rte 113)*

For many years, we have relied on allergy testing and immunotherapy, as well as steroids and sometimes cyclosporine, to help us manage allergies in our itchy Westies. In the last ten years work by the International Task Force on Canine Atopic Dermatitis has taught us more effective ways to manage allergies. Also, building on what has been learned about human allergies, we now recommend a five pronged multimodal approach to the treatment of allergies in dogs:

1. Avoid any allergens that you can.
2. Allergy test early and start on an allergy vaccine early!
3. Control infections with antimicrobials and lots of baths!
4. Repair the skin barrier with oral fatty acids and topical lipids.
5. Control that itch...something new on the horizon!

We will discuss all these steps and how to accomplish them to keep your allergic Westie looking and feeling good.

**Door prizes will be available and light refreshments will be served. Browse our sales table for unique Westie items.**

**Hope you can join us for this informative seminar!**

**For biographical information about our speaker visit [www.westiefoundation.org](http://www.westiefoundation.org)**

**For More Information Contact: Ann Marie Holowathy  
at [aholowathy@msn.com](mailto:aholowathy@msn.com) or phone 215-345-6333**

## Westie Cartoon Caption Contest

Create the winning caption for this Westie cartoon. The winner will receive a WFA magnet. Please send your caption to [bjpinter@msn.com](mailto:bjpinter@msn.com) before January 31, 2013. The winner will be announced in the next newsletter with his/her captions.

### Create a Caption for this Cartoon



Copy of original watercolour by Ruth Sutcliffe, England

### Winner Caption of Last Cartoon!

Mary Young

**“C’Mon! I can already feel that Olympic Gold Metal ruffling my hair! Step, er Paw it Up!”**



### OFFICERS

Bebe Pinter, President  
428 Hedgecroft Drive  
Seabrook, TX 77586  
[bjpinter@msn.com](mailto:bjpinter@msn.com)  
(281) 326-3843

Teresa Richardson Barnes,  
VP – Communications  
Patient Outreach & Advocacy  
Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis  
637 So. McLean Blvd.  
Memphis, TN 38104  
[tbarnes@coalitionforpf.org](mailto:tbarnes@coalitionforpf.org)

Tina McCain, VP – Fundraising  
720 Creekwood Lane  
Holly Springs, GA 30114  
[tina@merrymacdogtraining.com](mailto:tina@merrymacdogtraining.com)

Kay McGuire, DVM, VP – Health  
21511 Forest Vista Drive  
Humble, TX 77338  
[kmccscash@aol.com](mailto:kmccscash@aol.com)

Donna Hegstrom, Secretary  
10936 Trelain Way  
Hudson, FL 34667  
[Kiloranleawesties@gmail.com](mailto:Kiloranleawesties@gmail.com)

Gary Sackett, Treasurer  
16813 Wood Song Court  
Riverside, CA 92504  
[gsackett@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsackett@roadrunner.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Naomi Brown  
2 Ridgecrest Avenue  
Fairhaven, MA 02719  
[ashgateus@comcast.net](mailto:ashgateus@comcast.net)

Kenny Fodill  
8467 Wendellshire Way  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
[Kfodill@comfortsystemsinc.net](mailto:Kfodill@comfortsystemsinc.net)

Michael Higginbotham, MD  
6842 Hawthorne Drive  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
[wyywesties@gmail.com](mailto:wyywesties@gmail.com)

Ann Marie Holowathy  
145 Bunker Street  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
[aholowathy@msn.com](mailto:aholowathy@msn.com)

Mary Ann Minick  
18 Elizabeth Lane  
Downers Grove, IL 60516  
[MAMsWesties@aol.com](mailto:MAMsWesties@aol.com)

Nancy Stolsmark  
22421 North 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Peoria, AZ 85383  
[livlafu2000@aol.com](mailto:livlafu2000@aol.com)

Susie Stone  
1202 Fumi Circle  
Kettle Falls, WA 99141  
[susies@centurytel.net](mailto:susies@centurytel.net)

Stevann Wilson  
4010 Fountainwood Circle  
Georgetown, TX 78633  
[westie@stevann.com](mailto:westie@stevann.com)

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thomas Barrie  
Lindy Barrow  
Bonnie Brooks  
Joy Bruhl  
Valerie A. Fadok, DVM, PhD  
Suzanne Fodill  
Kirsten Fox  
Nora Hackathorn  
Donna Harris  
Marianne Jacobs  
Wayne Kompare  
Mahmoud Loghman-Adham, MD

Jim McCain  
Bob McCaskill, DVM  
Michael J. Peltier, DVM  
Allison Platt  
John L. Robertson VMC PhD  
Anne C. Sanders  
Kim Smith  
Sue Thomson  
Phyllis Vogt  
Pamela Whiting, DVM  
Katie Wyatt

## Please Share Your Westie

Photos of  
Your Favorite  
Westies  
Enhance the  
Westie Wellness  
Newsletter!



**ANY CANDID  
PHOTO IS PERFECT**

Indoor • Outdoor • Playing  
Lounging • Bath Time  
Holidays • Puppies, etc.

Do you like to draw Westies?  
Send us your drawings  
and lineart as well!

*We are unable to give photo credits.  
A minimum of 300 dpi resolution  
needed for photos and scans.*

Please send photos to [president@westiefoundation.org](mailto:president@westiefoundation.org)  
with “PHOTO” in the subject line