
HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

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The year of 2008 will be one of excitement due to the progress we are making on some of our on-going health studies, for example:

- The Atopy study continues to progress under the supervision of Dr. Thierry Olivry at North Carolina State University. He reports that the linkage analysis has excluded at least 7 chromosomes. He feels they will be progressing at a rate of 2-3 chromosomes per month trying to find a gene marker for Atopy. Although progress is tediously slow, it is progress.
- The Transitional Cell Carcinoma study is in conjunction with the Scottish Terrier Club under the direction of Dr. Deb Knapp of Perdue. We need your help, as pedigrees and DNA samples are being solicited. Further information can be found on the WHWTCA website.

For the roving specialty in Oklahoma City, Rebecca Coleman, DVM, a member of the WHWCA, will present on *Holistic and Alternative Therapy*. We are anticipating

an enthusiastic attendance. Please check the WHWTCA website and *Westie Imprint* for information.

During Montgomery National week for the Thursday night health seminar, we are fortunate to have Drs. Keith Murphy and Allison Starr as presenters. Recently, Dr. Murphy was honored by the AKC Board and the Canine Health Foundation for his service as Science Officer for 2006-2007 of the Canine Health Foundation. His duties included reviewing all grant applications and formulating grant reports. Attendance is FREE and the location is more convenient. Additional information is featured in this newsletter.

In addition, Dr. Murphy is serving the WFA by working to identify the genetics of Legg-Calves Perthes. Here again, we need your help as he is requesting pedigrees of affected dogs in order to begin the study. As with many of the research topics, the canine is a model for the human disease as well. As always, information is considered highly confidential and can be mailed directly to the researchers.

The WFA website (www.westiefoundation.org) will acquire a facelift as new chapters are added to its E-Books. New chapters will include *Breeding Practices and Problems, Aggression, White Shakers Syndrome, and Juvenile Cataracts*.

We are pleased to report that the WHWTCA Board approved to support and participate in our CHIC (Canine Health Information Center) endorsement for health clearances of hip joints, patellas and eyes. This is a gigantic step in providing critical information necessary for breeders to make intelligent decisions. The Canine Health Foundation website lists the names of all dogs that participate by receiving a CHIC number. The list is regularly updated.

The Health Committee is striving to conquer the most prominent diseases affecting our Westies. These diseases were identified as the ten top problems in the recent Health Survey. If there is any topic for which you have a concern, please do not hesitate in letting us know. We are here to serve you in the betterment of the West Highland White Terrier breed.

