

Working for Westie health through research and communication

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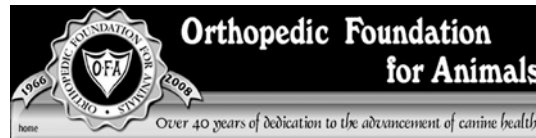
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The Westie Foundation of America, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, recognized by the IRS as a 501 (C) (3) organization. The mission of the Foundation is to provide financial aid and other support for medical research in order to benefit the health 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.

Darlene Reilly, Editor
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Westie Foundation strongly supports the decision of the Board of the WHWTCA to join the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC), jointly sponsored by the AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF) and the Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA). CHIC is a database of consolidated health screening results that can be of very valuable benefit to breeders to produce healthier dogs, and thereby safeguard the future



of our breed. We encourage Westie breeders and owners to participate in the screening tests for their Westies and register them in the CHIC database.



Our Westie Health eBook (www.westiefoundation.org/westiehealth/healthbook.htm), currently consisting of twelve chapters on health concerns affecting our breed, will contain four more chapters by this fall:

1. Complementary and alternative medicine.
2. Chronic hepatitis and copper toxicosis (CT).
3. Diabetes mellitus.
4. Dry eye (keratoconjunctivitis sicca, or KCS).

There is a tremendous amount of useful information in the Health eBook, so please take advantage of it as needed.

Our quarterly newsletters are currently available on our website (www.westiefoundation.org/newsletter/pdfnewsletters.htm) in

(Continued on page 2)



(President continued from page 1)

PDF format (requires Adobe Acrobat to read. Acrobat is available for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader>.

In this issue, we also list those generous donors who have contributed to the Westie Foundation in 2008. Many thanks to all of our terrific donors.

Finally, just a reminder that if you plan to purchase anything at Amazon.com, you can help the Westie Foundation by going to our website first, and then click on the Amazon.com banner at the top of our homepage. That will take you

directly to the Amazon.com website where you can purchase anything (not just pet supplies) there, and Amazon will give our Foundation 4% or more of the value of your purchases. It doesn't cost you a cent to financially help Westie health.


Some people with low resolution on their computer monitor couldn't see the Amazon.com banner on our website. That has now been fixed.

Thanks again for your generosity and support.

Wayne Kompare

2009 Westie Foundation of America Raffle

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Phone _____

 2009 WFA Raffle

Westminster KC Dog Show - New York, NY
February 2010

\$600 towards Airfare or Expenses + 3 Nights Hotel Accommodations

OR - TOTAL CASH PRIZE of \$1400

\$10 per chance to win

(Drawing will be at the 2009 WHWTCA Centennial Dinner • WFA Board Members & Spouses not eligible.)



If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket please mail your check and the stub of the ticket prior to August 30, 2009

Kim Smith
30306 Olympic Street
Castaic, CA 91384



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WESTIE HEALTH?

By Kay McGuire, DVM, MS

Many of us are long time dog owners, and most of us have more than one Westie. Everyone familiar with our breed is aware that skin problems and inhalant dermatitis are a huge problem. Are you aware of some of the clinical signs of other diseases that affect Westies? This quiz incorporates the diseases and symptoms of the most common maladies affecting our breed. See how well you do and if you need help be sure to reference the Health e-books on www.westiefoundation.org.

PLEASE CHOOSE ALL CHOICES THAT MAY APPLY

Symptoms

1. Uncontrollable tremors
2. Black Pigment on Eye
3. Drinking Excessive Water
4. Skips Occasionally on the Rear Leg
5. Eyes Appear White Inside Pupils
6. Dog is Licking Feet
7. Dog is Scooting on the Carpet
8. Occasional Vomiting, "Loud Stomach"
9. Diarrhea
10. Dog has Blackened Skin and Hair Loss
11. Coughs Dry Hacking Cough
12. Recurrent Ear Infections
13. "Pot Belied" Look and Thin Hair Coat
14. Puppy Having Trouble Opening Mouth
15. Sudden Rear Limb Lameness in Puppy
16. Crusty Round Skin Lesion That Itch
17. Blood In Urine
18. Dog Has Multiple Swollen Lymph Nodes

Answers May Be Used More Than Once

- a. Tapeworms
- b. Staph Bacterial Skin Lesions
- c. Atopy
- d. Legg Calvé Perthes Disease
- f. Luxating Patella (Kneecap)
- g. Anal Gland Impaction/Abcess
- h. Craniomandibular Osteopathy
- i. White Dog Shakers Syndrome
- j. Cataract
- k. Kidney Disease
- l. Diabetes
- m. Bladder Infection (Cystitis)
- n. Transitional Cell Carcinoma
- o. Lymphoma
- p. Kennel Cough
- r. Heart Disease
- s. Epilepsy
- t. Dry Eye (KCS)
- u. Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- v. Intestinal Parasites
- w. Gastritis/Enteritis
- x. Hypothyroid
- y. Cushings Disease

With several choices possible for some of these symptoms, it is therefore imperative that owners keep very good records of eating and elimination habits of their animal to present to their veterinarian. It also indicates that some illnesses that may be simple and easily treatable may indeed have a more sinister alternative. It is better to ere to the age of caution and see your veterinarian early when problems arise.

(See page 11 for answers)



USING RADIATION THERAPY FOR TREATING CANCER IN DOGS

John Robertson VMD PhD

When your dog is diagnosed with cancer, most people experience a sense of dread and fear. This is pretty natural. We feel the same way if we, or someone close to us, is diagnosed with cancer. However, there are many types of therapy for cancer in animals and people and many tumors are cured or controlled. The three primary ways cancer is treated are surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. It is common for these types of treatment to be used in combination, to achieve a better level of control of tumor growth. All types of treatment have a single goal – killing cancer cells. Surgery removes cancer cells from the body and deprives them of blood and nutrients. Chemotherapy poisons cancer cells or interferes with the way they process nutrients or divide to make more cancer cells.

Radiation therapy applies intense radiation to cancer

cells, in order to disrupt their structure, primarily by generating free radicals and breaking down cancer cell function. There are a number of different types of radiation therapy, including treatment with radioisotopes (this is



used for cats that have benign thyroid tumors) or the use of a high energy beam from a linear accelerator, cobalt-60 therapy unit, or from therapeutic x-ray machines. The most common radiotherapy units now used to treat cancer in dogs are linear accelerators. These machines generate energetic particles and radiation that penetrate tissues in the body to reach the site of the tumor.

There is very sophisticated computer software used to plan treatment of tumors, essentially allowing the radiation oncologist to focus the radiotherapy energy on the tumor, while minimizing the amount of radiation that hits surrounding normal tissue. Not all tumors can be treated with radiation – some are not sensitive to the killing effects. Not all sites of tumor growth can be treated; there may be vital structures too close to the tumor that would be damaged by primary or backscattered radiation.

If your dog has cancer and your veterinarian suggests radiation therapy as part of the treatment, there are some basic facts you will need to know when deciding if this is right for you or your pet.

First, radiation therapy is only available at specialized centers, where the machinery and radiation oncologists are present. There are approximately 65 therapy

centers in the US currently. In most cases, your veterinarian will need to refer you to a veterinary oncologist at a center to arrange further evaluation and treatment. You and your dog should be prepared to travel to a center for evaluation.

Second, it is very important that the folks at the radiation therapy center have a complete medical record of your dog's health problems, vaccinations and husbandry. This record should include a history of the tumor, including when it was first seen, how it has grown, and any treatments. It is absolutely essential that a tumor biopsy is done and that the report from the pathologist is sent to the radiation oncologist BEFORE your dog is seen. This will help them to determine if radiation therapy will help your dog.

Third, most treatments are now delivered as "fractions" of a total radiation dose. I think of this as a divided dose prescription – just like taking antibiotics for an infection. Smaller doses of radiation, given frequently (over a few weeks), will kill tumor cells and this treatment plan tends to spare normal tissue from excessive radiation damage. You have to be prepared to have your dog in treatment for one or more weeks and this may require you and

your dog to stay near the radiotherapy center between treatments. Many centers have arrangements with local motels to accommodate owners and patients during therapy.

Fourth, your dog will very likely have to be heavily sedated or anesthetized every time it is treated. This helps maintain the position of the dog in the therapy machine, so most of the radiation hits the tumor. There is some risk associated with anesthetizing your dog, and this will be discussed with you by the therapy team.

Fifth, you may not see dramatic results from the therapy for a long time. Don't expect the tumor to disappear overnight. You will have to anticipate some side effects of treatment, depending on the site of the tumor and the amount of normal tissue in the treatment field. Common acute radiation side effects can include redness of overlying skin, development of ulcers in the mouth (if radiation is applied on the head), dry eyes and mouth, diarrhea (if the abdomen is irradiated), or skin ulcers and changes in pigmentation. Most of these side effects can be managed to minimize discomfort.

Finally, radiation therapy may cost several thousand dollars and there can be no guarantee that the tumor in your dog will

be eliminated or controlled. However, radiation oncologists have a lot of experience and they will be able to give you a good idea of rates of success and problems to expect.

In summary, radiation therapy is an effective means of treating some types of cancer. It has the advantages of treating deep tumors and minimizing disfigurement. Disadvantages include accessibility to treatment, the need for multiple anesthesia procedures for delivery of fractionated therapy, and cost of treatment.

The Westie Foundation News, the official publication of the Westie Foundation of America (WFA), is mailed quarterly to all contributors. The WFA newsletter is printed by Art Communication Systems in Harrisburg, PA. The opinions expressed in the articles herein are those of the authors and not necessarily of the editor or the Officers or Directors of the Westie Foundation. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. The editor welcomes comments, suggestions, and expressions of opinions from the readership. No portion of the WFA newsletter may be printed without the written permission of the editor.



DECISION FOR GIVING

Bebe Pinter

Once agreed that the future of the West Highland White Terrier's health and wellbeing were solely in our hands, the hands of breeders, pet owners, exhibitors, rescuers, handlers, and lovers, it initiated a time for action. Hence, the Westie Foundation of America, Inc. (WFA) was created more than 10 years ago with the challenging task to accomplish its mission.

This brings to mind how best to choose a non-profit entity to support out of the many hundreds of organizations in operation and how to determine if it is trustworthy in handling your investment. You, as a donor to the WFA, could even equate yourself to that of an investor, a stockholder, and hence an owner of a for-profit corporation. Consequently, you must be comfortable in how your money (investment) is managed by a foundation.

According to the American Institute of Philanthropy when making a giving decision, a donor should consider supporting an entity that addresses his most core passion. It recommends specific, critical guidelines which are listed and compared to the WFA's credentials in the table below.



Guidelines	WFA
• Attains eligibility to receive tax-deductible contributions	✓
• Conducts audits of financial statements	✓
• Submits Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990 with Schedule A where applicable	✓
• Spends 75% or more on programs to be considered a highly efficient charity	✓

Relative to the last guideline listed in the table above, the WFA actually spent 87% on programs in 2007 as detailed in its IRS Form 990 available for review at www.westiefoundation.org. For 2008, required Form 990 is due to the IRS in mid-May of this year.

Once the decision is made for giving, please consider the self fulfillment of regular giving. Some sources state that it takes 21 days to form a habit; therefore, we can assist you in developing the habit of giving by providing donation reminders throughout the year and streamlining financial transactions. Some examples include letters of information with mail back envelopes, newsletter articles, and arrangements through PayPal for memorials, honorariums, and frequent donations. Please remember, we truly value your donation of funds, whether \$10 or \$10,000, or your time and skills--for only together can we successfully realize our mission for the future health and wellbeing of our beloved West Highland White Terriers.



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Chesapeake Bay WHWTC
WHWTC of Greater New York

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(Continued on page 8)



(Member Donors continued from page 7)

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America
San Francisco Bay WHWTC

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WHWTC of Puget Sound
WHWTC of Southeast Michigan
WHWTC of Western Pennsylvania
William Penn WHWTC



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In Memory of Angela Kompare
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Naomi Brown
Donna Hegstrom
Anne Marie Holowathy
Wayne F. Kompare
Gail Krieger
Jim & Tina McCain
Bebe Pinter
Sil & Anne Sanders
Allan & Kim Smith
Nancy G. Stolsmark

In Memory of Thomas Napady
Ruth & James Clark
Norma Cooper
Michele Czarnecki
Lake Shore Kennel Club
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Carolyn Miller
Eduardo Rodriguez
Stanley & Milarie Rude
Steel City Kennel Club
Norbert & Barbara Turek
Rose Marie Waldron
Patricia Walton
Rose Washko
Donna Young

Anonymous, In Memory of
"McDuff", "Scooter", "Molly" &
"Becky"
Gary & Penny Childe, In Memory
of "McKenna", owned by The
Huynh Family
Thomas & Kathleen Eyles, In
Memory of "Joy"
Thomas & Kathleen Eyles, In
Memory of "Sno", owned by
Wayne Kompare
Jefferey Farrington, In Memory of
Barbara Schwarz.
Jacki Forkel, In Memory of "Terra",
owned by Sherry Swickard
Vicki Gattuso, In Memory of
"Osho", beloved Pekingese
Belle Gelman, In Memory of
"Murphy", owned by
Denise Rossi
Shelley Gourley, In Memory of
"Katie", owned by Carmita &
Chuck Baker
Group IV Terrier Club of Utah, In
Memory of Bernice Hite
Debra Keushgenian, In Memory of
Judy Swingle

Wayne F. Kompare, In Memory
of "Val", owned by Micki & Brad
Camp
Wayne F. Kompare, In Memory of
Barbara Hand's mother
Wayne F. Kompare, In Memory of
Helen Gardiner
Wayne F. Kompare, In Memory of
Judy Swingle
Wayne F. Kompare, In Memory of
"Zoe"
Gail Krieger, In Memory of
"Angus", Owned by Kim &
Allen Smith
Gail Krieger, In Memory of "Ruff"
Callaway
Gail Krieger, In Memory of Dorinda
Krivohlavek
Gail Krieger, In Memory of Nora
Smith
Kay McGuire, In Memory of
Ch. Mac-Ken-Car's Pride O'
Lin-Chris, owned by Jaimi Glodek
Kay McGuire, In Memory of
Helen Gardiner
Nancy McMahan, In Memory of
"Duffy"



(Westie See continued from page 4)

Julia D Mickey, In Memory of
"Nicholas"
Mary Ann Neal, In Memory of
Rose's Cairn, "Corky"
Bebe Pinter, In Memory of
Ch. Mac-Ken-Car's Pride O' Lin-
Chris, owned by Jaimi Glodek
Adam Polansky, In Memory of a
beloved Westie
Olivia L. Reddick, In Memory of
Elizabeth Rose Reddick
Geof & Cynthia Reynolds, In
Memory of Daphne Gentry
Marian E. Rhein, In Memory of
"Clancy"
Naomi Rottman, In Memory of
"Bandit" Owned by Patti &
John Antonelli
Barbara Salmons, In Memory of
"Penny" & "Hayley"
Teresa Showatter, In Memory of
Clovis, Chloe & Hope
Phyllis Vogt, In Memory of
"CT" owned by Dr. & Mrs. Tom
Anderson
David Weinberg, In Memory of
"Lucky", owned by the Pion
Family
Dorothy Westermeier, In Memory
of "Mr. MacGregor"
Westie Rescue Inc. (VA), In Memory
of Daphne Gentry
WHWTC of California In Memory
of Kathy Heiser

- Honorariums -

Gail P. Canning, In Honor of
"Zoe"
William Edmiston, In Honor of
Westies
Frances Nicholson, In Honor of
Hamish
Roy & Catherine Rentz, In Honor
of Archie & Janet Zlatoff Mirsky

Westie Gifts



The **2009 Conformation Westie** is the second in the "Performance Series" from Peakdale, Ltd of England. They cost \$60.00*. There are only fifty being made, and they are signed by the sculptor and numbered.

We still have 11 of the original 50 **2008 Agility Westies**. They cost \$70.00*.



The **Westie Vet Scene** was \$100.00 and is now discounted to \$75.00*.

The **Westie Vet Frame** was \$75.00 and is now discounted to \$65.00*.

**All prices include shipping.*

These pictures can be viewed at www.westiefoundation.org/westiegifts.



IF ONE NEEDS, WE ALL NEED

Seymour N. Weiss

One of the normal consequences of any contentious issue is the tendency to place blame on opposing parties to the discussion. It comes into the realm of self-preservation to establish one's blamelessness and to affix the scarlet letter to another's bosom – any other's bosom.

This situation is commonly encountered in the dog fancy. With specific emphasis on the existence of genetic diseases, their transmission and their treatment, there are many initiatives to deal with these worrisome matters. To our credit as a community, the Westie fancy has addressed the matter of genetic diseases and continues to do so on a far-reaching spectrum. The Westie Foundation was brought into being to help Westies and their people and to work for an enhanced level of genetic health for all our dogs.

We are all well aware that the West Highland White Terrier is the *unofficial poster child* for dermatological woes, and that's only one issue. Just ask any veterinarian in small animal practice. CMO, Legg Calvé Perthes Disease and all

the other woes Westie flesh is heir to have been candidly addressed verbally and in print for some time. And yet there is still finger pointing and efforts to conceal hereditary skeletons for us as Westie fanciers to move toward getting a handle on our breed's health issues to



secure a healthier future for the entire breed. The truth is that there are genetic disorders in every breed; even mixed breed dogs share in this unwanted bounty of Nature.

We should all be mature enough to admit that endemic disorders definitely exist within the

breed. None of us is well served pretending otherwise or by making accusations of others knowingly breeding dogs with genetic problems. You may know of someone who has produced CMO or atopy, but can you say, with certainty, that they knew about it before they did the mating? The genetic diseases that continue to bedevil the Westie breed today were doing so long before many who are today accused of perpetuating these problems ever heard of or, for that matter, saw a living Highlander.

There was once a well-motivated newbie with the best of intentions who experienced a case of bilateral Legg Calvé Perthes in one puppy in a litter she had bred. With the purest of possible motives she confronted both the demon and the challenge of the affliction the genes had dealt her. She spoke to people to make others aware of her experience and tried to learn what measure might be taken against. In her quest for help one of the most highly respected, successful breeders of the day advised, "Oh, honey just keep your mouth because they'll be glad to crucify you."

That advice might have helped that breeder snuggle into her comfort zone, but it would have done nothing for the future of the breeder's efforts or the health of her dogs.

None of us has the right to smugly declare our dogs free of genetic defect. We all have, however, the obligation to be informed, candid and to make every effort to make or keep our Westies as clean as possible. If we know that any of our dogs carry certain genetic disorders, it is our duty to tell anyone who might breed to our affected stud what the outcome could be. We

must fully advise anyone who may wish to purchase a puppy from us what may exist in that puppy's genotype.

When appropriate we should seek to do test breedings to identify carriers and if we can have health clearances done on our dogs that makes for a healthier gene pool. If we know the genetic profile our dogs present, we can approach breeding them intelligently (or not) with greater certainty for the good of the breed today and for the future.

West Highland Whites are encumbered with a list of

diseases we all wish we didn't have to deal with. That's a given, but those diseases are not confined to any one breeder, bloodline or, *yes*, puppy mill. Eradicating these diseases totally is a lovely dream that will probably never happen. But we do have the Westie Foundation and the concerned, generous friends of the breed who are trying to build a new day in which we can do more for the dogs that most need our help to raise the health level of the dogs that have changed our lives and brought us all together. Everyone can play a part.

Buy from 

AMAZON.COM FOR WESTIES

Do you ever shop online at Amazon.com, the world's largest online retailer, offering everything from books, music, movies, computers and televisions to groceries, health & beauty, sports and pet supplies? If you do or want to try something new, carefully follow the directions below:

- Go to the Westie Foundation website first (www.westiefoundation.org),
- Click on the Amazon.com banner at the top of the page (or the banner can also be found at the top of the "How to Help", "Affiliates" and "Westie Gifts" pages),
- Wait for the link to take you to the Amazon.com website, and
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The Westie Foundation will automatically receive at least 4% of your purchase price from Amazon.com. It doesn't cost you a penny more; on the other hand you help pay for research and education to benefit the health and quality of life of Westies everywhere.

By the way, if you pay for your Amazon purchase with a Westie Foundation of America, Inc. MasterCard, the Foundation will receive money from both Amazon and Bank of America—two for one!

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | |
|------------|------|---------------|-------------|-------|----------|
| 1. i, s | 4. f | 7. a, g | 10. c, x, y | 13. y | 16. b |
| 2. t | 5. j | 8. u, w | 11. p, r | 14. h | 17. m, n |
| 3. k, l, m | 6. c | 9. v, u, w, k | 12. c | 15. d | 18. o |





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MISC-04-07-0028



2009 WFA MONTGOMERY EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

Our featured speakers for our 2009 Centennial Educational Seminar are Alison Starr and Keith Murphy. Alison Starr received a B.S. from Clemson University in Animal and Veterinary Sciences in 2003. She completed her doctoral research work in 2007 in the Canine Genetics Laboratory at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Starr studies a developmental disease in the Havanese dog breed, atherosclerosis in a mixed-breed dog, and Legg Calvé Perthes Disease in toy and miniature dog breeds. She has presented her work at the 3rd International Symposium on the Genetics of Animal Health held in Ames, IA (2005), the 3rd International Conference on Advances in Canine & Feline Genomics held in Davis, CA (2006), and presented at the 4th International Conference on Advances in Canine & Feline Genomics held in St. Malo, France in May of 2008. She has also been an invited speaker at the 1st Annual Continental Kennel Club Breeder*s Symposium (2006), AKC and CHF Breeder*s Symposium (2007), 11th International



Alison Starr, PhD



Keith Murphy, PhD

Congress of Medicine Husbandry in Dogs, Cats and Other Pets (April 2008), in addition to yearly presentations at the Havanese National Specialties. Her most recent research was featured on the cover of the Journal of Heredity. She has been funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, Havanese Club of America, Westie Foundation of America, Inc, and Miniature Pinscher Club of America.

Dr. Keith E. Murphy is chair of the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry at Clemson University. Previously he was professor of Veterinary Pathobiology, Genetics and Biotechnology at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of Texas A&M University. He received the B.S. from Indiana University, the M.S. from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and

the Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He carried out postdoctoral work at Northwestern University Medical School and for The United States Department of Agriculture. He held faculty positions at The Citadel and The University of Memphis prior to moving to Texas. His work is directed towards understanding the genetic bases of various canine hereditary diseases. Recent work from his lab includes development of identification of the mutation that causes the merle phenotype, identification of the mutation causative for hereditary nephropathy (HN) (a fatal renal disease that affects several breeds) in the English Cocker Spaniel and generation of gene expression profiles for dogs suffering from one of the following diseases: hereditary nephropathy, pancreatic acinar atrophy and dermatomyositis. Current work in the lab concerns gene therapy for HN, the genetics of dermatomyositis, the genetics of degenerative myelopathy, genetics of cardiomyopathy, genetics of Legg Calvé Perthes disease and genetics of harlequin patterning.





EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

Thursday, September, 10, 2009
2:00 – 4:30 pm
Lancaster Host Hotel

Dr. Keith Murphy, PhD

Genetics of the Dog:

Where we have been and where we are going

Dr. Alison Starr, PhD

The causes and identification of rear leg lameness: A genetic perspective

Our two part presentation will feature Dr. Keith Murphy who will focus his presentation on canine hereditary diseases and Dr. Alison Starr who will address rear leg lameness from a genetic perspective, with an emphasis on Legg Calvé Perthes.

Keith Murphy is chair of the department of Genetics and Biochemistry at Clemson University, and Alison Starr completed her doctoral research in the Canine Genetics Laboratory at Texas A & M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Visit www.westiefoundation.org for biographical information about our speakers.

Please join us for this informative seminar which is free of charge. Since dinner is not included as part of the seminar no reservations are required. For the specific room location for the seminar, check at the main desk of the Lancaster Host Hotel.

We will have Westie items available to tempt your pocketbook!

For More Information Contact:

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