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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this article, the Westie Foundation will have elected a new slate of officers and directors for the term beginning April 1, 2010. Included in that slate are the following officers and directors:

President: Bebe Pinter
 VP – Health: Kay McGuire DVM
 Secretary: Gail Krieger
 Treasurer: Donna Harris
 Directors: Kenneth Fodill, Mary Ann Minick,

Gary Sackett, and Susie Stone will be joining Theresa Barnes, Tom Barrie, Naomi Brown, Donna Hegstrom, Tina McCain and Seymour Weiss as directors. In addition, Ann Marie Holowathy and Nancy Stolsmark will continue as representatives from the WHWTCA.

Several years ago, the Foundation Board passed a term limit proposal, with officers and directors limited to a total of eight years on the Board. Anne Sanders, our treasurer, and I have been on the Board since the Foundation's inception in 1997. Kim Smith has been a director since 2002. Dr. John Robertson has only been with us since 2007, but, unfortunately, the press of his full-time job as Director of Oncology at the Virginia/Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine has necessitated his resignation.

As treasurer of the Foundation since day one, Anne has had one of our most critical jobs, and has done it superbly. The Foundation has over \$295,000 in total assets, including over \$170,000 in our endowment fund. In addition to her excellent bookkeeping and financial reporting, Anne's input, as well as Kim Smith's and John Robertson's, on the operation and direction of the Foundation, has always been extremely thoughtful and valuable. The Foundation would definitely not be in the very positive position it is without the dedication, hard work and intelligent leadership of those three people.

The Foundation is also implementing an Advisory Council, who will advise the Board on future programs and implementation of those



Wayne Kompare

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(President continued from page 1)

ideas. This group will consist of several past officers and directors, including: Anne Sanders, Kim Smith, Nora Hackathorn, Dr. Robert McCaskill, Dr. John Robertson and myself, plus new members Phyllis Vogt, Kirsten Fox and Jim McCain.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the officers, directors and volunteers who have served the Foundation at one point or another over the past thirteen years, for their outstanding work in making the Westie Foundation one of the top breed health organizations in the country.

Finally, the Foundation owes a great debt of gratitude to all of the individuals, families and organizations who have donated to and supported our Foundation since 1997.

The Westie Foundation is being left in very capable hands, with a dedicated and outstanding group of officers and directors. I am excited and confident about the future of the Foundation, and the good that it will provide for the improved health and quality of life of Westies everywhere. I strongly encourage you to continue to support the Westie Foundation in the future.

Thanks very much for all of your generosity and support while I had the pleasure of serving as president of the Foundation.

Wayne Kompare

— REQUEST FOR SAMPLES —

Listed below are several of the current research projects supported by the WFA. If you would like more information about the studies, visit our web site at www.westiefoundation.org. If you would like to participate by contributing blood or DNA samples from your Westie, call or email the contact person listed. Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

RESEARCH PROJECT	SAMPLES NEEDED	CONTACT INFORMATION
Genetic marker for Atopic Dermatitis	Blood samples from 100 normal dogs and 100 dogs diagnosed with atopic dermatitis	Cary Salzmann North Carolina State University 919-513-7235 casalzma@ncsu.edu
Genetic role in Legg-Calvé-Perthes	Blood samples from 20 affected dogs and 20 unaffected dogs	Dr. Alison Starr Clemson University 864-656-0191 astarr@clemson.edu
Genetic susceptibility of Bladder Cancer (TCC)	Blood samples from dogs with a diagnosis of TCC	Donna Viglietti, Ostrander Lab National Human Genome Research Institute 301-451-9390 Dog_genome@mail.nih.gov
Genetic marker for Addison's Disease	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 http://cgap.ucdavis.edu/



Staffing Our Army

By Bebe Pinter, Vice President Fundraising

Time and time again one wonders how one person can make a difference to a vital cause! In this issue of the Newsletter, let's discuss the Advisory Council, joining the cause, and "two for one". The Advisory Council provides an opportunity for more than just the board of directors to work together for the Westie Foundation's cause. We are overjoyed to announce the first three elected members to the Advisory Council; (1) Kirsten Fox, a well-known English Westie artist; (2) Robert McCaskill, DVM--a retired board member having a wealth of knowledge to share; and (3) Phyllis Vogt-- a most dedicated volunteer taking the lead in development and sales of limited edition Peakdale statues. Please join us by welcoming these committed volunteers the next time you see them. We are constantly searching to staff our army with volunteers eager to share their expertise and knowledge in a variety of professions.

In this remarkable age of the Internet, FaceBook provides the medium for you to join our cause titled Westie Foundation. Not only can you engage in discussion, but you can make a donation. The site tracks how many friends you invite to join,

how many join, and status of donations. The Foundation's website provides an opportunity to designate memorial donations to remember that special person or Westie. Stay tuned for future



posts containing updates and information; on the other hand, don't forget to share your comments as a valued supporter of Westie health.

We all like the idea of "two for one". To be more specific, it is twice as good when you donate to the Foundation and your employer matches your donation to whatever limit is allowable. Check out the following website to determine if you can take advantage of a matching donation through your employer: www.dreamcenter.org/donate/matchGifts.htm. For example, the great flash drives, containing the Health E-Books chapters, that were distributed during the Foundation's health seminar last

September were made in part just this way.

Please take a moment to remember that the Foundation is hard at work for you and all Westies. It strives to work smart through your participating in the Advisory Council, joining the Westie Foundation cause via FaceBook, and discovering "two for one"—donation matches. In addition to financial donations, we desperately need your time and support. As a reminder, the Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that operates as a separate entity from the West Highland White Terrier Club of America. Both organizations work together for the betterment of the Westie breed.

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.



How Prevalent is Liver Disease?

By Kay McGuire, DVM



As Health Chair of the WHWTCA and

VP of Health of the Westie Foundation, I receive many emails and telephone calls questioning Westie liver disease and copper toxicosis. Two years ago we lost a 5 year old dog to chronic active hepatitis post gastratomy for a swallowed Nylabone. Izzy was a healthy dog until he decided his new Nylabone was definitely worth eating. He had routine surgery to remove the foreign body and then had trouble healing. He presented back to the clinic for another surgery which was performed to evaluate his discharge from his abdominal incision. The incision site in the stomach wall was closed but he had developed an intra abdominal abcess which was cleaned up and antibiotics changed.

Izzy was owned by two physicians, one an Infectious Disease Specialist and the other a Pathologist. His owners were very supportive but obviously concerned. He was transferred to Gulf Coast Animal Specialty

practice in Houston where they proceeded with expert care including parenteral nutrition. Izzy died of chronic active hepatitis. His copper level was over 3000.

At this time I was obviously not only upset to lose a very special dog but also to consider what implications this had about my breeding program. The clinicians at Gulf Coast did their best to assure me that the copper level was secondary to the hepatitis, not the cause. I of course, being the "Westie Specialist" was not so sure. I proceeded to biopsy the littermate, mother, half sister etc. I also had several other Westies in the practice that had liver biopsies. All biopsies were submitted for histopathology and a fresh chilled sample was overnighted to Colorado State Diagnostic Lab for quantitative copper levels.

My data showed copper levels from under 300 to 2500. All dogs were clinically normal. All dogs had very normal Alanine transferase, primary liver enzyme (ALT) levels. There was no correlation between ALT and copper numbers. I wish to thank fellow WHWTCA member Sandy Crawford and Dr. Larry Thornburg for their

help and sharing knowledge on their research and publications.

Dr. Thornburg, from the University of Missouri, is one of the premier experts on liver disease. The work that Sandy and Dr. Thornburg did in the 1980's included over 300 Westie liver biopsies. The copper values in this study ranged from less than 100 to 3500 parts per million (ppm) dry weight (dw) and none were sick. The highest copper value he recorded in a Westie was 6500 ppm dw.

The conclusion of Dr Thornburg's work, copper levels under 400 ppm dw is considered normal. It takes values above 2000 ppm to cause any toxicity, if it does. Dr Thornburg answered me:

"Kay, in my opinion, (and I am part of the cause), the copper issue in Westies is not near the concern that breeders generally believe. Inheritance has not been proven (although I know it is not diet--has to be inherited!!!). Limited breeding experiments that I carried out were not informative. I used a Beagle bitch bred to a Westie with 3500 ppm dw. There were 2 male pups and 1 female pup. As I recall (data have all been discarded), the copper



levels in all three pups were minimally over 400 ppm dw. When two of the pups were bred, none of their eight puppies had elevated liver copper. I could not reach any conclusions based upon these results. However, I have seen that copper levels above 400 ppm dw are kennel related and some elevated lines were traced back to specific stud dogs. I will admit that I am at a loss as to what to tell Westie breeders after looking at 500 to 600 Westies and hundreds of liver biopsy samples from other breeds. I think it will remain a confusing issue until the gene is found and the function of the protein decided, Regarding Chronic Active Hepatitis. I have found only one mother-daughter connection."

Over the last 1.5 years my conclusion based on the limited data I have collected, the Westie may have an increased incidence of immune mediated chronic active hepatitis. By the time the dogs are clinically ill, the copper values are high. By the time they have an increased ALT (Alanine transferase, primary liver enzyme), they have advanced disease. I would be willing to bet that if we start biopsying our dogs by a year of age, we would be surprised at the elevated copper numbers we would find. I think there are many dogs living very normal lives with values as high as 1500-1800 ppm dw.

The decision is now what to do. If we are running routine lab work at least annually starting with dogs at a year of age, you may notice subtle elevations of ALT and be able to biopsy to determine the degree of hepatitis and begin earlier treatment. Binding the copper and chelation therapy to reduce the copper can be started to help detoxify the dog. I have performed three biopsies on one of my bitches. The latest histopathology came back very good but the copper level was 2850 ppm dw. I will start Zinc to bind the copper.

If you are not inclined to do routine biopsies on your young dogs, please consider adding

a biopsy with a routine spay. It is really a very easy and safe procedure. A small sample of fresh liver can be sent on ice to Colorado State Diagnostic Lab for a quantitative copper level. It would be quite helpful to the Westie health to gather this information again 20 years after the initial study.

If you have questions or testimonials, please contact me at kmcscash@aol.com. All information will be held confidential if requested. Please check out the e-book on www.westiefoundation.org for the chapter "Liver Disease and Copper Toxicosis." Watch for follow-up information in future issues.

PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING A DONATION TO THE WESTIE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA THIS YEAR

Your Donations Help to Fund Research for Better Westie Health and Westie Education

Thank You!

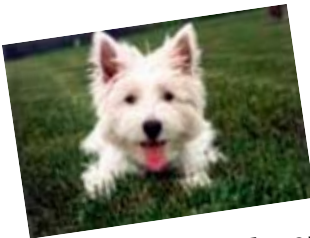
Name _____ Phone _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 I would like information on:
 Membership Program
 Legacy Alliance (Wills, Gifts & Bequests)
 Westie Foundation Endowment Fund
 I'd like someone to phone me
 I'd Like to volunteer to help _____
 I'd like to make a financial contribution now:
 \$2500 \$1500 \$600 \$250 \$100 Other _____
 I'd like to donate over a period of 5 years in equal annual payments:
 \$2500 \$1500 \$600 \$300 Other \$ _____
 From: _____

WESTIE FOUNDATION
 30306 OLYMPIC ST.
 CASTAIC, CA 91384-9983

A Letter from a Westie Pet Owner to the Foundation:

Our beloved Westie, Maxwell Smart, left us last week. He was only 7 years old. Max was afflicted with grand mal seizures since he was 6 months old. Countless visits to the Vet/Hospital, surgery and medications led to successful control of his seizures and he lived what seemed to be a normal life. His "condition" was always on our minds and our time with him precious as we knew we would have a shorter time with him. His ultimate demise was due to a rubber ball that was just too tempting not to chew up and swallow. He was an amazing friend and will be terribly missed.

The reason for my e-mail is to thank you for your website and links to websites that became very important to us in Max's care. I was a regular user of your site and found it and the links to be very helpful. I have been very thankful many times that it was there for our use. Please share our thanks with the many contributors and workers on the website. Many thanks from a family that has a spot missing from their hearts.



Maxwell Smart Eagan
Jane Eagan
Ames, Iowa

"For those wishing to make a donation in memory of Maxwell Smart, the Foundation will inform Ms. Jane Eagan of your thoughtfulness. To send a donation, please link to PayPal through our website www.westiefoundation.org or you may mail your donation to our treasurer. Please make a note on the payment that the donation is a memorial for Maxwell Smart Eagan."



Barn Doors, Judgment Calls, and Breeder Integrity

By Seymour N. Weiss

Long before a breeder holds a newborn in her hands, she has (or should have) done considerable homework to minimize risks to the project. Some risks we know can rear their ugly heads and these we can usually deal with. Others can sneak up on us, gaining the advantage when we are not able to deal with them effectively.

Most of us would not knowingly breed to a dog with obvious, serious physical flaws. If we encountered a dog that fit the standard in every way, but demonstrated aggression or shyness totally at odds with true Westie character, we would steer clear of breeding to him or buying one of his puppies. Right? Right! Knowing something about the genotype of a dog or a family helps a breeder make an educated decision about how best to carry forward a breeding program.

However, as much as we wish it were possible, we can't always pick off the gremlins before they get a foothold. Suppose you have bred a wonderful dog with tremendous potential and,

as a result, your joy and sense of fulfillment know no bounds. In due course he proves his merit in competition and at the



right time you put him to one of your best bitches. Happily, the breeding takes and you are now anticipating the birth of his first litter.

What could be better in the life of a dog breeder than watching a litter growing up? Some puppies may have features you were hoping to work into your line while others may favor a fondly remembered homebred long gone. You couldn't be any happier, Could you? And so while these puppies are

growing up you plan their futures and dream about happy days to come in the ring and the whelping box.

But wait. What happens if you hit a pothole while you chug along the fast lane to the big time? To your horror, you discover that the litter you have always dreamt of and now see before you shows evidence of genetic disease in one or more of the puppies. Worse yet, the sire of your dream litter gone sour has been active at stud and now three bitches owned by others are in whelp to him. Is this the time you wish you had a lock on the knife drawer?

As a breeder, you owe it to the owners of those three bitches to tell them about your litter and to be prepared for what may be coming for them. That sounds ridiculously simple, but all too often when a breeding is done, *disclosure* does not happen and the hapless breeder is left wondering what went wrong. So, now the barn door is swinging wide open and the horse has been stolen, perhaps never to be seen again. In the

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middle of all this it's time for some damage control.

This is where the breeder takes stock of the puppies that have been bred. Is it necessary to place *all* the puppies in pet homes, neuter the parents and start over in a different direction? Maybe or maybe not, and this is where the judgment call comes into play. You bred a litter and you have some puppies showing genetic diseases, but you have others that are perfectly normal. It seems the moral high ground is to identify those with genetic issues and take the appropriate steps toward minimizing or stopping any potential damage.

Unless a dog's condition negatively impacts on its quality of life, euthanasia is definitely overkill (pun intended). Otherwise outwardly normal puppies can effectively be neutered and placed in pet homes. In this way, puppies that could potentially hurt the gene pool are rendered harmless to future generations and allowed to live normal, happy lives as cherished pets. It's a simple solution that makes everyone with two legs or four safe and satisfied.

Now what happens to puppies whose phenotype points to a show career if that is what the owner or breeder wants?

Taking the judgment call one step further, the potential for passing along genetic diseases must be factored into the worth and potential value of a specific animal. Often one just cannot determine whether an individual from an affected parent or parents is a carrier at all. Without scrupulous scientific testing, the only way to be sure a dog carries a certain undesirable trait is to breed it. And even then, there are no hard and fast guarantees. However, there is help for those breeders who wisely choose to maximize their chances of producing dogs with the highest possible health profiles.



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
- Place your order for any item you desire on Amazon.com.

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!



The WFA and WHWTCA both strongly encourage breeders to get health clearances to qualify dogs for Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) certification. In view of all the gremlins lurking in the nooks and crannies of the Westie gene pool, it is only good sense for us to harness every bit of the scientific advice and information we can access at will that earlier Westie breeders would probably have turned to *if* it were available.

If quality stock appears from a line where undesirable traits are known to exist, it is important to be vigilant when breeding such dogs. In addition to guarding the gene pool from undesirable traits, breeders must also shoulder the responsibility of perpetuating the precious heritage of the best of West Highland inheritance. To the best of our individual ability and instinct as breeders, it is for us to make those judgment calls regarding the best we produce even if there is the risk of flies in the ointment.

And now we come to the matter of individual breeder integrity. We, the members of the West Highland White Terrier Club of America, have all signed a Code of Ethics as a condition for becoming members of this Club. Part of the personal code conduct for all of us

should include *full disclosure* when selling a puppy and especially when entering into a breeding arrangement. And this would apply to WHWTCA members and non-members alike.

Let's take a hypothetical situation. Suppose you have bred a litter and the bitch puppy you have your eye on develops CMO. Okay, you hold on to her and keep her in nurturing environment until she gets over the problem. Then you have her spayed and place her in a pet home and you tell the new owners about her history. Now, let's further suppose that there is a dog puppy in the same litter that is the living embodiment of your fondest dreams as a Westie breeder. He has all the marks of future greatness and you decide, in spite of his affected sister, that you will aim for the fast lane. You can't not.

Your integrity as a breeder kicks in here. Your new dog stirs up considerable interest and you start getting inquiries. It seems a "no-brainer" to warn those who would send you their bitches about the CMO-affected



sister.

Unfortunately, too often breedings are done without telling the trusting owners of those bitches the things they have the right to know. Often, people go ahead with a planned breeding even after being given this kind of vital information. The decision to proceed then becomes their own and you have acted responsibly; the emergence of a genetic disorder cannot be considered a surprise. But if the breeder who used your dog without having been advised in advance that something could pop up, finds such a condition, you have not been candid and worse yet, you have undermined the gene pool and your stature in the community of our breed. This kind of thing happens too often and should not happen at all.

Have you checked your barn door lately?

“One Health, One Medicine... Strengthening the Human-Animal Links”

By Ann Marie Holowathy

Mike Sampson, Agroterrorism Instructor, University of Tennessee College of Veterinary



Medicine gave a very interesting keynote presentation, “One Health, One Medicine... Strengthening the Human-Animal Links” at the 2009 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference held in St. Louis, MO. The One Health/One Medicine initiative is a worldwide strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in all aspects of health care for humans and animals. One Health/One Medicine is dedicated to improving the lives of all species—human and animal—through the integration of human medicine and veterinary medicine. This approach will accelerate biomedical research discoveries and the scientific knowledge base, enhance public health practices, and improve medical education and clinical care. It will advance health care for the 21st century and help protect and save untold millions of lives in our present and future generations.



The presentation focused on zoonotic diseases, diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans, and the potential threat to humans.

Research continues to unravel the strong links among animals and humans, noting that more

than 70 percent of the diseases that afflict humans arose in animals. Some diseases, such as anthrax have a

lengthy history. Newer diseases, such as AIDS/HIV, SARS (acute respiratory syndrome), the bird flu, and H1N1, continue to reinforce the need to consider a one health/one medicine frame of mind. Also, 57 percent of the Center for Disease Control and prevention’s category A and 100 percent of category B agents are zoonotic. Most of these diseases are considered to be potential weapons of mass destruction as well.

A Podcast of an interview with Mike Sampson can be found on the Canine Health

Foundation website at www.akcchf.org. Click on “Genome Barks Podcast” and scroll down to “One Health with Mike Sampson”. In the podcast, Mike discusses the bird flu and H1N1 virus, how they are transmitted, the public health implications, and how we can protect ourselves from contracting these viruses. Listening to the Podcast is an easy way to hear current information from an expert in the field. For more information about the One Health/One Medicine Initiative, visit www.onehealthinitiative.com.



Fanconi's Syndrome... A Problem in Westies?

By Dr. Steve Gonto

Dear Westie Owners,

I was asked by your breeds' Health Chairperson, Dr. Kay McGuire, DVM, to write a brief description of what **FANCONI SYNDROME** is, and why it is of concern to West Highland White owners, as it is a concern to owners of ANY breed of dog. I am the developer of a Fanconi Treatment Protocol, which has been in use, and improved on, for over 21 years. This Protocol, as well as my personal assistance, has been shared with the veterinary community freely for this entire time, and I stand ready to help any vet or owner who runs across this previously fatal, but now often completely controllable (if caught and treated in time) illness. To date I have helped over 2500 dogs, dozens of cats, a racehorse, a zoo hippo and dozens of human children with this affliction.



There are multiple websites (Google "Canine Fanconi Treatment", or "Fanconi Treatment Protocol") which can do far more justice to learning "in depth" about this disorder than this brief letter, but I will try to outline a simple description so if any of you ever encounter it, you will have some idea of what it is, and where to go. Above all, you will be armed and equipped to not accept a vet, out of sheer lack of current knowledge, telling you your dog has a fatal illness and there is "nothing you can do".

First off, Fanconi is a disease or disorder of the kidneys, where mammals, be they dogs, cats, horses or people, fail to reabsorb multiple substances that are needed for their bodies to function and they end up becoming deficient in these critical materials and, if these deficiencies are not addressed, can end up dying in a year or less, from onset of symptoms. Most critically, they lose bicarbonate, which is the body's natural buffer. Without bicarbonate they become ACIDOTIC and in a vicious cycle, cause more kidney damage and become worse and worse.

In some breeds, such as Basenjis, Fanconi is often a genetic issue. However, in other breeds it is genetically rare (all breeds have their own genetic issues), and if a Westie comes to my attention with Fanconi, it would likely be a case of INDUCED, rather than GENETIC, Fanconi. Induced

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Fanconi can be caused by many different “toxin” exposures, including an overdose of ZINC (such as from licking chicken wire or zinc coated cyclone fence material), ingesting certain high dose organophosphate lawn insecticides (mostly types used on golf courses), and even ingesting outdated Tetracycline antibiotic.

In the past two years there have been many hundreds of cases of Fanconi in assorted small breed dogs, including multiple Westies. The AVMA and other veterinary groups associated these outbreaks with ingestion of some Chicken Breast Treats which were imported to the USA, CANADA, AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND from China. In all fairness, the FDA has tested multiple samples of these “treats” and found “no identifiable contaminants”, so I am in no position to accuse

anyone or any product of being the cause of this sudden outbreak (which appears to be subsiding as very few new cases have appeared in the last few

months), but I will let you draw your own conclusions by directing you to several online sites.

<http://www.laciessite.org/>

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm048178.htm>

<http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/oct07/x070917a.asp>

http://www.avma.org/press/releases/081222_chicken_jerky_products.asp

In any case, if your dog should begin to show signs of INCREASED THIRST, and INCREASED URINATION, DECREASED ENERGY, LACK OF APPETITE, WEIGHT LOSS, or LETHARGY, then a URINE GLUCOSE should be conducted by your vet. This disorder often mimics the symptoms we would expect from DIABETES.

If the dog shows GLUCOSE in the urine, then please know, it SHOULD NOT BE THERE, regardless of what condition is at play. The next step is to obtain a BLOOD GLUCOSE (this would be done on the SAME VISIT). This is where many vets get confused, however. If the blood glucose is ELEVATED, then it is likely DIABETES and should be treated as such.

If, however, the BLOOD GLUCOSE is NORMAL or even LOW, many vets are unsure what to do, and often ask owners to “come back for a twelve hour fasting blood sugar”. This is INCORRECT advices as no diabetes condition would cause a LOW or NORMAL blood sugar to be seen while it is still being lost in the urine. This finding is LIKELY Fanconi, unless proven otherwise. This is where YOU can help educate your vet by pointing them to the relevant information.

If the dog has increased thirst and urination, positive urine glucose in the presence of normal or low blood glucose, then the next tests that MUST be done are # 1. A **General Blood Chemistry Panel**, including CALCIUM, POTASSIUM, PHOSPHORUS, BUN and CREATININE. This will tell us a good deal about the level of losses to that point

(Franconi's continued from page 12)

and if the dog is already in renal insufficiency or renal failure. Critical information to have.

The other test that **MUST BE DONE** (and this may involve taking the dog to a specialty hospital, human hospital working with your vet, or veterinary emergency clinic) is **#2. a VENOUS BLOOD GAS**. No other test will substitute for the **VITAL** and **CRITICAL** life saving information this test will provide. Do **NOT** accept a response such as "I don't have that machine, and I am sure we can treat this dog without those values". **YOU CANNOT**. The results of the **VENOUS BLOOD GAS** not only give us a firm and absolute diagnosis, by telling us if your dog is losing bicarbonate, but also tells us everything we need to know about the level of your dog's losses and **HOW TO TREAT IT!** Also, please do not waste blood, or money shipping blood off to other labs for "Fanconi testing". It is a waste of time as well, since that Venous Blood Gas gives us **ALL** the information, along with the general chemistry panel, to being immediate treatment, and time lost is kidney function lost. The earlier you treat the better the outcome, long term, and the easier to manage this disorder will be.

The numbers we need from the **VENOUS BLOOD GAS** will be **PVO₂, PCO₂, pH, HCO₃ and Base Excess (or B.E.)**.

At this point you can do several things. First, have your vet contact ME for a letter of introduction and additional needed information. I am at **Outdoc@aol.com**

You can also access the needed basic information at multiple sites online, but two of the best would be [http:// basenjicompanions.org/](http://basenjicompanions.org/), and [http:// www.basenji.org/](http://www.basenji.org/)

Although these are **BASENJI** sites, the information needed to treat an afflicted Westie would be the **SAME**. There is even a potential advantage in treating

a Westie who would likely be suffering from an **INDUCED** (exposure caused) case. If you remove the source of toxicity and cause no further exposure, and treat appropriately to stabilize the dogs condition (acidosis, from lack of the bodies buffer, bicarbonate), then many of the induced condition dogs actually "recover" and can be weaned off treatment over several months to a year. Not all dogs, however, are this lucky and some may require treatment for life.

What does "treatment involve"? Well, thankfully, not much. We give tablets (needed vitamins and minerals), plus over the counter Sodium Bicarbonate tablets, in an amount dictated by the Venous Blood Gas, to



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(Franconi's continued from page 13)

normalize the dogs blood chemistry. We feed a diet appropriate to maintain protein and electrolyte levels, as indicated by the blood work and renal function values in the blood chemistry panel, and that is it. We recheck blood every few months in serious cases and as far apart as annually in chronic and well controlled cases.

Therefore, treatment really involves "treat time" (hidden pills) given twice a day, and a bit more medical attention to the dogs overall condition. However, while Fanconi was once an absolute death sentence, we now know that with appropriate treatment, dogs can live a full and normal...actually very healthy, and full life span with this disorder.

That is the reason I am always willing and happy to help any vet and owner to treat Fanconi. So no dog ever need die needlessly of this ever again.

Please feel free to contact me if I may ever be of assistance or if you need additional information on this subject.

Steve Gonto, MMSc, PhD

Author, Fanconi Treatment Protocol for Veterinarians

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&source=hp&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=Fanconi+treatment+Protocol+for+Veterinarians>

Dr. Steve Gonto currently serves as a Senior Resource Coordinator for Anesthesiology at a Level 1 Regional Trauma Center and Teaching Referral Hospital in Savannah, Georgia. He earned a Master of Medical Science Critical Care Medicine and a Masters in Medicine in Anesthesiology and Advanced

Life Support Systems from Emory University School of Medicine as well as a Doctorate degree in Clinical Pulmonary Physiology. Dr. Gonto became involved with Fanconi 24 years ago, when his own Basenji developed the disease and was told that the disease was fatal. After much research and input from the finest veterinary and human medical experts in the USA and overseas, he developed the Fanconi Protocol for treatment. This Protocol has helped save over 2500 dogs, dozens of cats, a racehorse and a zoo hippo, not to mention dozens of human children as well. Dr. Gonto has given freely of his time and knowledge to all who inquire. His Protocol is now taught at multiple veterinary schools and he has spoken at many veterinary conferences and specialty meetings. The Westie Foundation thanks Dr. Gonto for the informative article he has provided for us in hopes of making westie owners and veterinarians aware of the help that is available for this disease.

Westie News

Goes Electronic!

In an effort to be conscientious about the environment while also making the most use of our limited resources, the Westie Foundation plans to send the Fall and Spring issues of the newsletters electronically. The Summer and Winter issues will continue to be mailed. All quarterly issues will also be available and archived online at the Westie Foundation website (www.westiefoundation.org).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Send us your email address so you'll receive the electronic newsletter! Go to www.westiefoundation.org and click on the "Contact Us".



One Moment in Time

By Nick Waters

This article was originally printed in the January, 2010 issue of Dog World (UK), and is reprinted with the permission of both Dog World (UK) magazine and Nick Waters”.

Recently I have shown a number of pictures that were painted to raise money for charities and this week I feature yet another.

It was painted by ‘Boz’ (a derivative of her maiden name, Boswell), Barbara Hands, whose first and enduring love is the West Highland White Terrier, her Crinan kennel name being well-known in the breed.

Through her trade stand at Crufts and other shows in the past, and her limited edition prints, she is also known as a talented artist of many breeds, and past commissions have included some very well-known dogs – the Wire Fox Terrier, Ch Cripsey Townville T’other’un, the first winner of the Pup of the Year competition and the Norwegian Elkhound, Ch/Ir Ch Boltown Boss of Opinan, to name just two.

One Moment in Time was painted and donated by Barbara to help raise funds for the Westie Foundation of America Inc. This is a non-profit corporation whose

mission is to provide financial aid and other support for medical research (including diagnosis and treatment) in order to benefit Westies, and to further develop and communicate information regarding the health, care, breeding and quality of life of Westies to Westie owners, Westie breeders and vets. The Foundation’s website is www.westiefoundation.org.

The painting shows four Westies on a quayside, having just arrived by liner in New York, with the Statue of Liberty in the background and a plane flying past. It was painted to coincide with the Centennial of the West Highland White Terrier Club of America founded in 1909 and was auctioned at the banquet following the Westie centennial specialty and sold for \$2,700. Barbara was at the banquet to see her donation sold and admits to being ‘gob smacked!’ The successful bidder was a Westie breeder from Maryland.

Barbara’s picture brings together conjecture and fact. In September 1909 the liner RMS Arcadia left Southampton bound for New York and on board were a quantity of dogs (not unusual at that time, there were many on board the Titanic

and all except three went down with it) and at sometime during the journey it was reported that a dog show was held. It is mere conjecture on Barbara’s part that some of the dogs were Westies, but during that year, in addition to the club being founded, the AKC shows the first registrations of the breed. Also in that same month Orville Wright flew his plane around the Statue of Liberty. An edition of just 50 signed and numbered prints were published to coincide with the centennial and the edition is almost sold out.

The Westie Foundation News, the official publication of the Westie Foundation of America (WFA), is mailed or emailed 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.





Westie Cartoon Caption Contest



Create the winning caption for this Westie cartoon. Please send your caption to bjpinter@msn.com before May 15, 2010. The winner and runner-up will be announced in the next newsletter with their captions.

Create a Caption for this Cartoon



Copy of original watercolour by Ruth Sutcliffe, England

Winners of Last Cartoon!



WINNING CAPTION

by Lou Pacheco

“Sully...we’re going in the Hudson!”

RUNNER-UP CAPTION

by Lisa Pacheco

“We’re earth dogs...what are we doing up here!??”

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