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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I guess everyone has heard the phrase "Spring has sprung." We think of spring as being a time of birth and growth in the cycle of life. For the Foundation, spring is also time for renewing the dedication to our mission. It is a serious time as the board reviews and approves research grants for 2011 funding. Research projects approved for 2011 include the following:



*Bebe Pinter*

1. Genetics of Atopic Dermatitis (additional grant of \$2,500)
2. Finding the Mutations that Increase Susceptibility to Transitional Cell Carcinoma in the Scottish Terrier, West Highland Terrier, and Shetland Sheepdog (additional grant of \$3,000)
3. Development of Anti-IgE Peptide for treatment of Canine Allergy (grant of \$5,000)
4. Genomic Resources for the Control of Canine Pyoderma (grant of \$5,000)
5. Canine Cancer Campaign (grant of \$5,000)

Cancer continues to be a deadly disease to both man and our canine companions. In particular, Transitional Cell Carcinoma (TCC), widely known as bladder cancer, threatens not only humans but Westies as well. The Canine Health Foundation graciously shared the article "Transitional Cell Carcinoma: Once considered incurable, now highly treatable" by Lynne Bettinger. Times are changing and thanks to research affected dogs can now have life-saving treatment. Next up is a report penned on the current status of the Foundation's funded TCC research with the National Institute of Health which is entitled "An Update on Transitional Cell Carcinoma of the Urinary Bladder Research in the West Highland White Terrier." Thank you, owners and breeders. You have provided vital samples for this study. We are making progress!

We continue to provide education on the worthiness of health clearances as demonstrated by the article entitled "The Importance of CHIC". If you have any questions, additional information, or concerns, please contact us so we can be of assistance.

*Bebe Pinter*



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## Health Update

By Kay McGuire, DVM, MS, VP of Health



**T**he Westie Foundation of America, Inc. (WFA) is pushing forward to continue supporting research of diseases that most commonly affect our beloved companions. This Spring issue of *Westie Wellness* will highlight the research being conducted on Transitional Cell Carcinoma (TCC). TCC is a common cancer found in the bladder wall of Scottish Terriers, Westies, and Shetland Sheepdogs. The Canine Health Foundation (CHF), the Westie Foundation, and the Scottish Terrier Health Trust have worked together in funding research in Dr. Anita Oberbauer's laboratory at the National Institute of Health. Dr. Deborah Knapp from Purdue University has also been involved for several years on treatment protocols. Not only have they succeeded in altering treatment therapies, but recommend early diagnostics to include a bladder ultrasound in all geriatric West Highlands.

WFA has made a second shipment of blood samples for DNA testing of Craniomandibular Osteopathy

(CMO) affected animals and their relatives to the University of Berne, Switzerland. Dr. Cord Droegemueller indicated that a genetic test for the disease and carrier state may be on the near horizon. The WFA examines grant proposals of the Canine Health Foundation and Morris Animal Health Foundation yearly. We are forever looking to support studies that affect our breed. Although the determination of genetic markers is a long and frustrating process, we also choose projects to improve conditions with treatment modalities.

For the folks that were fortunate enough to attend Dr. Thierry Olivry's lecture on the "2010 Treatment Protocols of Atopic Dermatitis" at our Montgomery Health Seminar, we want you to know that although that work is currently on hold due to funding issues, Dr. Olivry and Dr. Olby are **STILL** requesting blood samples of Atopic Dermatitis Westies. Just a few people can make big things happen as Karin Parish recently demonstrated. Karen is President of the West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound and Westie Rescue coordinator of Idaho/ Washington/ and Oregon. She organized her rescue dogs and they collected and shipped blood samples from 42 dogs to NC State. What a huge undertaking! I hope all of us will congratulate Karin for her hard work. A portion of Karin's email is as follows:

"I am Grateful to the Bothell Pet Hospital for graciously agreeing to

participate and to do this for free! They handle all my miserably sick rescue dogs. The girls in the back are so compassionate and caring. This blood draw was a lot of extra work for them. It included: storing blood in vials, using their resources, availability of techs to draw the blood, coordinating with the front desk, paperwork and arranging packets of blood along with questionnaires, double checking appointments, and so forth. There is a lot of behind the scenes going on.

I also want to thank Shawnie Zahnizer for helping guide me by bouncing ideas off of her. She works in a research department at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, so she was more attuned to what would be rejected in a study. She also understood the process and helped correct me along the way to fine tune the details.

Finally - we couldn't have done it without your participation. I am still doing my happy dance".

The WFA applauds this effort and we hope that others will follow Karin's lead. Projects such as this can make huge impacts.

Finally, Westie owners still write in concerning the health issues they are facing with their Westies. Skin issues still are the primary problem, but cases of inflammatory bowel disease are becoming more and more common. If you have a Westie with IBD and have had severe problems, please email the WFA website to let us know.

# Transitional Cell Carcinoma: Once considered incurable, now highly treatable

by Lynne Bettinger

Reprinted with permission from the AKC CHF and edited for content

In many respects, Frankie was a lucky dog. Just a few years ago Frankie's diagnosis of transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) would have been a death sentence. Dogs with this most common type of urinary bladder cancer had a zero chance of survival. Often they were euthanized as soon as they were diagnosed because there was no known treatment for the disease.

TCC develops from the cells that line the bladder. As the cancer grows, it moves into the bladder wall and muscles. In some cases, the tumor obstructs the flow of urine. In others, the cancer eventually spreads to other organs and the lymph nodes. Either way, the prognosis was bleak. That is, until recently.

Fortunately for Frankie and other dogs, times are changing. Thanks to ongoing research supported by grants from the Canine Health Foundation, the past decade has seen great progress in managing TCC. "It's definitely a treatable cancer," says Dr. Deborah Knapp, Director, Purdue Comparative Oncology Program, at Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine.

Currently, there are two fairly standard treatments for TCC

according to Knapp. One is the use of an intravenous chemotherapy drug, mitoxantrone, along with an oral nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), piroxicam. The other is the use of piroxicam alone, particularly in cases where the dog's owner wants to avoid chemotherapy because of cost or



other reasons. (The anti-cancer properties of piroxicam were discovered when it was given to dogs with other types of cancer to control their pain, and the cancer went into remission in some cases.) Other chemotherapy drugs, such as carboplatin and cisplatin have also been used successfully in combination with piroxicam. However, they tend to cause more side effects so are used less often.

In Knapp's clinical trials, dogs often try several different drugs. When one drug is no longer effective, another drug is given. With several different treatments now available, Knapp says "there is approximately a 75% chance that we can control or cause regression of the cancer." In other words, the cancer remains stable or shrinks.

Frankie was one of the dogs who benefited from the clinical trials at Purdue. In 2007, Laurie Hoffman of Schererville, Indiana noticed her nine-year-old Scottish Terrier, Frankie, was experiencing frequent and strained urination. While this, along with blood in the urine, can be a symptom of several common problems such as bladder stones, bladder inflammation, or a bladder infection, it also can be a sign of TCC. Says

Hoffman, "We immediately had a red flag go off in our heads, because we knew Scottish Terriers have a high incidence of bladder cancer." An ultrasound indicated a large mass in Frankie's bladder, and a biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of TCC.

During the biopsy at Purdue, a substantial portion of the tumor was removed. As with most cases

(Continued on page 4)



(TCC continued from page 3)

of TCC, however, the location of the tumor made complete excision impossible. Hoffman's next step was to enroll Frankie in a clinical trial at Purdue where Frankie received mitomycin C, an investigational drug, administered directly into his bladder through a catheter. The drug stayed in the bladder for an hour and was then removed through the catheter.

This intravesical method delivered a concentrated amount of the mitomycin C directly to the tumor and also reduced the risk of side effects such as those that often accompany intravenous chemotherapy. Indeed, Frankie had absolutely no side effects according to Hoffman. "He would sleep in the car on our [hour and a half] ride home and would then be hungry for a big meal!!!"

That's not to say this treatment has no risks. While Frankie and many other dogs in the research study did well on the intravesical therapy, with roughly half the dogs having remission of their cancer and few side effects, a couple of dogs weren't so lucky. In those cases the drug didn't remain in the bladder. Instead, it traveled throughout the dogs' bodies causing side effects similar to the severe toxic reactions that can result from intravenous chemotherapy. According to Knapp, researchers don't know which dogs will be affected this way. Consequently, intravesical mitomycin C therapy remains under study, but may be used in dogs who don't respond to standard treatments.

Frankie participated in the Purdue study for 10 months. During that time, he had good quality of life.



According to Hoffman, "Frankie was doing absolutely great; the tumor was not growing, everything was stable, and he felt perfect." Then things began to change. Frankie developed intermittent pain in his foot. X-rays revealed nothing, but the problem got worse until Frankie reached a point where he couldn't move his back legs. An MRI found the cancer had spread to Frankie's spine. At that point, Hoffman made the decision to let her beloved Scottie go.

Ten months might not seem like a long time, but compared to a survival rate of zero days, it's easy to see why Hoffman was "very glad we participated and would definitely do it again." Knapp's research has led to significant strides in treating TCC.

And drug therapy isn't the only area seeing progress. With support from the Canine Health Foundation, Knapp and the Purdue researchers have been studying both genetic and environmental factors to determine their roles in TCC. Both are important.

Researchers suspect there are genetic factors at work in TCC because certain breeds, such as Scottish Terriers, West Highland White Terriers, Shetland Sheepdogs, Beagles and Wire Hair Fox Terriers

are much more likely than others to develop the disease. Knapp says they are making progress in this area and "are much closer to finding the actual gene" associated with TCC. With this information, they expect to develop strategies for detecting the disease earlier when it may be more responsive to treatment.

Environmental factors play a role, too. According to Knapp, dogs at greatest risk of developing TCC are those that are both genetically predisposed to the cancer and exposed to harmful environmental factors such as lawn chemicals and insecticides. At the other end of the spectrum, studies have identified helpful environmental factors, too. One such study of Scottish Terriers showed dogs who ate vegetables at least three times a week had a 70% decrease in the risk of developing TCC.

Knapp sums up the progress very well: "We have reached a point where we consider TCC very treatable and where we expect most dogs to have several months to over a year of very good life. We expect a small percentage to live multiple years, and a few lucky dogs to be cured." And the future looks even brighter. With the potential discoveries in Purdue's current research on TCC, we can expect to see even more improvements in diagnosis and treatment.

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.





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



## An Update on Transitional Cell Carcinoma of the Urinary Bladder Research in the West Highland White Terrier

**T**he Ostrander Laboratory at the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH in collaboration with the Purdue Comparative Oncology Program at Purdue University and the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at Michigan State University have been working since 2004 to discover the genetic causes of transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) of the urinary bladder in dogs. TCC is a devastating disease and West Highland White Terriers are five times more likely to be diagnosed with TCC than most other dogs. Our ultimate goal is to identify the genetic variants responsible for this much increased susceptibility to the disease.

We are excited to be able to report the completion of our first SNP based genome-wide analysis in 80 of our best Westie cases and controls. The most informative cases have a diagnosis of TCC confirmed by biopsy with histopathology. The best controls have passed the age of ten with no diagnosis of cancer of any kind.

Our researchers looked for locations in the genome that differ between affected and unaffected dogs, and have found genomic region(s) that appear to be important in TCC. We believe that further testing can lead to identification of causative mutations responsible for development and progression of TCC of the urinary bladder in West Highland White Terriers, as well as in other dog breeds that are at high risk of developing the disease.

Our thanks go out to the West Highland White Terrier Club, the Westie Foundation of America and all Westie owners for their great response to our request for blood samples for our TCC research. Because of your support we have received samples from 59 Westies with TCC and 173 healthy, control Westies. In order to complete our goals we are in need of more samples, especially those from healthy, aged controls. In addition, we ask that you please keep us updated as to the health of

your participating dogs so that we can keep them in the correct study group. If your dog just celebrated his/her eight birthday in good health, let us know. If your dog has received a diagnosis of cancer since he/she submitted a sample, please fax or mail the veterinarian's report to us at the address below. Updates can be sent to us either by phone, email, or through our online survey at [http://research.nhgri.nih.gov/dog\\_genome/](http://research.nhgri.nih.gov/dog_genome/), which can be accessed with the password: Missy07.

If your dog would like to participate in the TCC study and you need information or a sampling kit, please contact:

Gretchen Carpintero Ostrander Lab Samples Manager Phone: 301-451-9390 Fax: 301-594-0023 Email: <a href="mailto:dog_genome@mail.nih.gov">dog_genome@mail.nih.gov</a>	National Institutes of Health / NHGRI 50 South Drive, Bldg. 50, Room 5347 Bethesda, MD 20892-8000
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As always, your participation in the study and any information you provide us will remain confidential. This has been an exciting year for TCC research and we feel very optimistic about the direction that the research is taking. None of this would have been possible without your dedication to this wonderful breed and its health. We hope our work will determine the genetic cause of TCC so that steps can be taken toward the prevention of this terrible disease. With your continued participation and enthusiasm, we are making great strides in that direction.

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Samples Manager/Ostrander Lab  
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## Fundraising Made Easy!

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By Jim McCain, WFA Advisory Council

I've found a cool and easy way to raise money, every time I shop online or search the web and I think you should check it out: <http://www.iGive.com> & <http://www.iSearchiGive.com>

I'm using [iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) to raise money for Westie Foundation of America, Inc. every time I shop online at any of their 829 participating stores. And when I search the web through [iSearchiGive.com](http://www.iSearchiGive.com) (a search engine powered by [iGive!](http://www.iGive.com)), I'm raising a penny or more for The Westie Foundation of America.

If you do happen to make a purchase through [iGive](http://www.iGive.com) within 45 days of joining, they'll donate an EXTRA \$5 to the Foundation! With 829 stores in the [iGive Mall](http://www.iGive.com) and the new [iSearchiGive.com](http://www.iSearchiGive.com) search engine, it's easy to find the things you need AND raise money for our cause.

### How it Works:

1. Join [iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) to support Westie Foundation of America, Inc.. It's free, safe, and easy to join. Use this link: <http://www.iGive.com/welcome/warmwelcome.cfm?c=8772&m=750891>

Don't feel like registering? Take [iSearchiGive.com](http://www.iSearchiGive.com) out for a spin and raise a penny (or more!) per search. Just visit <http://www.iSearchiGive.com> and type "Westie Foundation of America, Inc." in the "Select Your Cause" area.

2. Shop through [iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com)'s online mall

~ OR ~

Raise a penny search at [iSearchiGive.com](http://www.iSearchiGive.com)

The [iGive Mall](http://www.iGive.com) features over 700 trusted online retailers like Staples, Nordstrom, JCPenney, eBay, [Expedia.com](http://www.Expedia.com), Barnes & Noble, QVC, & PETSMAART to name just a few! You'll NEVER pay more when you reach these stores through [iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com). And if you take advantage of the coupons and free shipping deals posted at [iGive](http://www.iGive.com), you might even save a few bucks! And with [iSearchiGive.com](http://www.iSearchiGive.com), each qualified search earns a penny (or more!) for your cause.

3. Watch the \$\$ roll in for Westie Foundation of America, Inc.!

Up to 26% of EACH purchase through [iGive](http://www.iGive.com) benefits your cause, along with a penny (or more!) per qualified search at [iSearchiGive.com](http://www.iSearchiGive.com). Make that first purchase within 45 days and get a bonus \$5 donation, too!

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## When's Your Birthday?

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By Tina McCain, WFA Fundraising VP

We all have one, whether we like it or not. So why not do some fundraising for the WFA for your birthday. Create a Birthday wish at [Causes.com](http://www.causes.com) and see how simple it is to ask your friends and family to donate to the WFA for your birthday. Any amount they wish to donate goes directly to us! How simple is that!?

If everyone made a "Birthday Causes Wish" for their birthday and each donor donated just \$10, think how many dollars we would be able to raise.

Here's how to set up your Birthday wish at [www.causes.com](http://www.causes.com):

Go to [www.causes.com](http://www.causes.com) and click "Get Started". Log into your Facebook account. Causes uses Facebook Connect to help you share your Wish with friends and family. If you do not have a Facebook account, you can sign up for Facebook from the login screen.

Once logged in it's just four easy steps to create your wish. You'll need to input your Birthday, select

a cause (search and select Westie Foundation), select a donation amount you want to ask your friends and family for and the total goal amount you would like to raise from your Birthday donations, and then complete the message that you want Causes to send to your friends and family by filling in a few blanks.

That's all there is to it.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Westie Foundation. Most of all, all our Westies thank you as well!

# Fundraising Report

Another year has come and gone, but 2011 brings the Westie Foundation an abundance of new fundraising opportunities.

We are already planning our 2011 Raffle for Montgomery County and it will include two prizes this year. As you can see below,



one prize will be a beautiful Amish quilt and the second prize will be an Apple iPad. You will be able to purchase raffle tickets through regional club liaisons, board members, advisory council members, as well as by cutting out and mailing in the raffle ticket below. All raffle tickets should be sent to Kim Smith, 30306 Olympic Street, Castaic, CA 91384. The ticket price remains the same at \$10, per chance. Thanks to everyone who make the raffle such a huge fundraising success every year!



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



## 2011 Raffle Drawing

Your chance to win 1 of 2 prizes

1. Amish Quilt
2. Apple iPad

**\$10 per chance**

Drawing to be at Montgomery 2011  
Winner need not be present to win  
Board, Advisory members and their spouses not eligible to win.

## “Spread the Word!”

If you are not aware, the WFA has numerous Affiliate programs on our website which gives us unlimited potential to generate revenue for all our Westie health grants and research.

An “Affiliate” program is a partnership between the WFA and a specific company in which for every sale that is made through that specific company, the WFA earns a percentage of that sale when certain procedures are followed.

### Here is how you can help!

1. As a shopper, the purchase has to be made online.
2. *The shopper has to go to the WFA website*, click on the link for that specific retailer. Once you click on the link for the

retailer, it will automatically take you to the retailer website. By doing this the WFA will earn a percentage of the same and will be automatically tracked to ensure the monies are received by the WFA.

3. Watch the foundation’s fundraising \$\$ grow!

You don’t have to spend one cent more than you were already planning on spending at a retailer site and the WFA will benefit.

Right now the WFA has seven Affiliates in which your shopping power can help raise money.

While we do plan on expanding our Affiliate Programs in the coming year, we need your help to “**Spread the Word.**” Help by telling every person you know who shops online

to go to the WFA website: [www.westiefoundation.org](http://www.westiefoundation.org) before making a purchase.

**Amazon.com**

**Café Press**

**Best Buy**

**Hunting Horn – Designer Jewelry for Dog Lovers**

**iGive.com**

**The Woofgang**

**Terrier Toys**

**Peakdale Sculptures**

In 2010, the Westie Foundation Amazon Affiliate Program raised close to \$600 just by those people who shopped from the WFA website first.

It is that simple. So please help us “**Spread The Word!**”

## Welcome Fellow Westie Fancier!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Westie Foundation of America, Inc. and Advisory Council members, thank you for your interest in the Foundation and our website. Important changes have been made to the Foundation website.

For our readers’ convenience, just “a click of the mouse” on the diseases in the Specific Health Concern box of this home page will magically transport the user to a

separate webpage of information for that topic. Information on each such webpage is organized in the following order: Health eBooks info, newsletter articles, seminar information, funded research projects, veterinary specialists, and other such useful links to that disease or health concern. Additional revisions are still underway.

If a first time visitor, you are in for a rewarding experience. This website is maintained to serve as your



(Continued on page 9)

(Welcome continued from page 8)

reliable resource for vital Westie health and disease information. In order to accomplish this task, the content is kept current and in some areas ever changing to assure up to date research, health, and disease information. Please take time to tour the site using the drop down headers on the red banner of the home page. Of particular interest is the Westie Health section, which has current research projects, educational seminars and health resources. Be sure to check the Newsletter header for the current Foundation issues.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the How to Help header. In order to make a difference by conquering disease and health problems in all our Westies, it is urgent that each of us decide how to actively support his/her cause of choice. Please review and choose which of the numerous ways that you can make a difference. Each of the following ways is described under the How to Help header. The Donations, Wills, Bequests, Deferred Gifts, Shopping; and New Ways to Donate sections provide information to help you make a difference now and in the future for all Westies. Volunteerism is another important way to give. We value your support for together we can make a significant difference for Westies, their owners, breeders, fanciers, and veterinarians.

Communication and feedback are very important to us. Please feel free to contact us for any reason. It is our pleasure to serve you through our mission.

Best regards,  
Bebe Pinter, President  
Westie Foundation of America, Inc.



## FREE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

**Thursday, October 6, 2011**

**6:30 pm**

**Hoss's Steak & Seafood House  
10 N Pottstown Pike, Exton, PA 19341  
(corner of Rt 100 and Rt 113)**

### **Inherited Eye Disease in Westies**

**András M. Komáromy, DrMedVet, PhD**

The presentation will cover eye diseases/abnormalities that are known or suspected to be inherited in the West Highland White Terrier. Strategies will be discussed to address inherited eye diseases in dogs including eye certification (CERF exams) and DNA testing. There will be sufficient time to answer questions from the audience and to talk about some of the basics of dog vision.

For more information contact Ann Marie Holowathy  
[aholowathy@msn.com](mailto:aholowathy@msn.com) 215-345-6333

#### **Biographical information about our speaker:**

Dr. András Komáromy received his veterinary degree in 1993 from the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zurich, Switzerland, followed by a doctorate in veterinary sciences in 1995. In 1996, he completed an internship in medicine and surgery at the Michigan State University. While at the University of Florida, he completed his PhD thesis in 2002 and a residency in 2003, both in comparative ophthalmology. In 2003, after a post-doctoral fellowship in retinal disease studies, Dr. Komáromy became an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. He is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences and has authored many scientific articles and book chapters. His primary research and clinical interests are studies of inherited retinal diseases in the dog, determining the molecular causes of these diseases and developing treatment approaches. Dr. Komáromy is a Diplomate of both the American (ACVO) and the European (ECVO) Colleges of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. He has been a member and chair of the ACVO Genetics Committee from 2004 until 2009.



# GETTING TO KNOW THE FOUNDATION BOARD



## Tom Barrie

Tom Barrie became a director of the Westie Foundation of America in 2005. He and his wife, Barbara have bred Westies using the O' Peter Pan affix for over 45 years, competing in conformation, obedience and Earthdog.

Tom has been active in the West Highland White Terrier Club of America, having served on the Board of Directors, as Vice-President and as President. He is currently the Club's Delegate to the American Kennel Club. He has been member and officer of several regional Westie Clubs.

After serving ten years as an Air Force officer, Tom spent his professional career as an aerospace engineer, working on programs such as Minuteman ICBM, Apollo Space program and B-2 Stealth bomber development. After retirement, he and Barbara built and operated a boarding kennel near Dallas, Texas for several years.

He is licensed by AKC to judge eight terrier breeds. He is also licensed as an Earthdog judge.



## Teresa Barnes (Tosi)

Teresa Barnes is Vice President of Patient Outreach & Advocacy for the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis (CPF), an organization she helped found in 2001. She served as the Secretary of the CPF's Board of Directors until accepting the VP position. Barnes leads patient support and education services for the CPF as well as the organization's media relations and advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.

Barnes serves as Chair of the American Thoracic Society's (ATS) Public Advisory Roundtable (the patient voice of the physician organization), the ATS Board of Directors and serves on the ATS Board of Trustees. Prior to her work with the CPF, Barnes served on the board of directors for the University of Colorado Pulmonary & Critical Care Division.

Previously, Barnes was Director of Corporate Communications, Business Development and Clinical Programs for Microlife USA and iCare Health Monitoring, both medical device companies. Barnes was a founding member of a medical device company, HealthTech, from April 2000 until May 2003 and led all public relations and media relations efforts for the company. She participated in the company's road show for its IPO in 2002. PR Newswire, the world's largest news distribution company, hired Barnes in 1997 to open its Tennessee/Kentucky bureau and to manage multiple public and investor relations accounts including Fortune 500 accounts such as HCA Corporation and Humana. An experienced TV and print reporter, Barnes holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and mass communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Westie Wellness, the official publication of the Westie Foundation of America (WFA) is mailed or emailed quarterly to all contributors. Westie Wellness 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 Westie Wellness may be printed without the written permission of the editor.



# The Importance of CHIC

**D**r. Jerold Bell's relationship with pure-bred dogs began with his family's black standard Poodle "Peppy", who taught him to walk. Dr. Bell received his undergraduate and graduate training in population genetics before attending veterinary school. At the Cornell veterinary college, a frequent question he asked was, "Why do we repeatedly see the same disorders in the same breeds, and what can we do about it?"

With his wife Candice, Dr. Bell breeds and raises Gordon Setters. "All of our Gordons have their genetic health tests and CHIC certification. Being a hunting breed, they all have hunting titles to show that they maintain the instincts of the breed. Some of our dogs are overachievers, such as our Master Hunters; Smith, and his niece Thule. Thule (co-owned with Anita Lustenburger and Laura Bedford) can be seen hunting with Harrison Ford this Fall in the movie *Morning Glory*. Our stud dog Jones, is only available to

bitches that have competed their health tests and CHIC certification."

Dr. Bell is a Clinical Associate Professor of Genetics at the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. He is on the Board of Directors of the not-for-profit Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, the President's Counsel of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and is a member of the AKC Health and Welfare Advisory Committee. However, his full-time job is small animal veterinarian at Freshwater Veterinary Hospital in Enfield, CT. "As a general practitioner, I treat my patients for their entire lives. What bothers me the most is diagnosing preventable genetic disease in my patients, and knowing that they, their owners, and I will be dealing with the pain, expense, surgery or medications for that disease for the rest of their lives."

As a veterinarian and clinical geneticist, Dr. Bell works to improve the health of

dogs through genetic counseling. This involves the education of breeders, dog owners, veterinarians, and the general public on their roles and the importance of health testing. "Health testing is health quality control. All genetic disease is not preventable, even with health testing. However, now that we have the knowledge and means to reduce the incidence of genetic disease, breeding dogs without health quality control is not acceptable. It is the obligation of anyone breeding a dog to complete the (CHIC) breed-recommended health tests prior to breeding. Most genetic tests are once in a lifetime tests for a breeding dog. If results of health tests are not available (official records or on the OFA and CERF websites) on the parents of puppies you are looking to purchase, then you are not dealing with a health-conscious breeder. There can be no expectation of genetic health in the puppy."

## 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 website at [www.westiefoundation.org](http://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
<b>Genetic marker for Atopic Dermatitis</b>	Blood samples from 100 normal dogs and 100 dogs diagnosed with atopic dermatitis	Tonya Harris North Carolina State University 919-513-7235, <a href="mailto:tonya_harris@ncsu.edu">tonya_harris@ncsu.edu</a>
<b>Genetic role in Legg-Calvé-Perthes</b>	Blood samples from 20 affected dogs and 20 unaffected dogs	Dr. Alison Starr Clemson University 864-656-0191, <a href="mailto:astarr@clmson.edu">astarr@clmson.edu</a>
<b>Genetic susceptibility of Bladder Cancer (TCC)</b>	Blood samples from dogs with a diagnosis of 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, <a href="mailto:Dog_genome@mail.nih.gov">Dog_genome@mail.nih.gov</a>
<b>Genetic marker for 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>
<b>Genetic marker for CMO</b>	Blood samples from affected dogs and their unaffected family members	Dr. Kay McGuire 281-821-3247, <a href="mailto:kmcscash@aol.com">kmcscash@aol.com</a>

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



## Westie Cartoon Caption Contest

Create the winning caption for this Westie cartoon. Please send your caption to [bjpinter@msn.com](mailto:bjpinter@msn.com) before April 30, 2011. 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 Paula Autin

#### “Westie Wonderland!

**Bright Colored Packages tied up with Strings  
These are a few of my Favorite things.”**

#### RUNNER-UP CAPTION

by Doris Slaboda.

**“Are you sure you heard rats instead of hat? I don’t find them anywhere?”**

**Westie WELLNESS**

## 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](http://www.westiefoundation.org)).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Send us your email address so you’ll receive the electronic newsletter! Go to [www.westiefoundation.org](http://www.westiefoundation.org) and click on the “Contact Us”.



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