

Foundation Report

by Tammy Erickson, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Thanks to your generosity, in this fiscal year, the Foundation's net income increased by over \$20,000. As we prepare to begin our end of year Annual Appeal, we thank you for your continued support.

Research Update

Ocular Melanosis

We are very pleased to report that the AKC-Canine Health Foundation's Independent Scientific Review Panel approved a proposal submitted by Dr. Simon Petersen-Jones and his colleagues to continue their research on gene mutation as a cause of ocular melanosis. It was exciting to receive external validation of this research, which the Foundation has supported for some years. The goal of the research program is to develop a DNA test to determine whether a Cairn carries the gene for this disorder. With the approval of the Board of Governors, we have paid the AKC-CHF \$56,750.92 for the grant. The CHF will continue to monitor the research as it proceeds and ensure that we receive regular reports.

The Foundation is also in contact with a research team at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This team is studying Ocular Melanosis, using a different molecular approach than that used at MSU. This group has agreed to make a presentation to the Foundation at one of our upcoming meetings.

Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease

The Foundation has agreed to support the work of a research team at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine working to determine the genetics underlying Legg-Calve-Perthes disease in small breed dogs. The team has identified a suggestive association on chromosome 6. They are looking for blood samples from both affected and unaffected (but >1 year old) Cairn Terriers to genotype and include in their genome-wide association study. If you are willing to participate, please see the announcement in this issue or our website (www.cairnterrierhealth.org) for more information.

Long-Term Canine Health

The Foundation is working with a research team the University of Washington and Texas A&M University to study of long-term dog health. Called the Dog Aging Project, this large-scale project



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provides a rare opportunity to gain insights into Cairn health that would be difficult to gather on our own. The Dog Aging Project researchers are willing to share anonymized health information gathered on Cairns, but to make the information on Cairns statistically significant they need more participants. Please join! See the announcement in this issue or our website (www.cairnterrierhealth.org) for more information.

Renal Dysplasia

Dr. Margret Casal and her team at the University of Pennsylvania continue their research into the inheritance of renal dysplasia and the degree to which genetics influence the severity of disease. Within the population of dogs involved in the study, there are 34 Cairns that have ultrasonographic changes of the kidney that are consistent with renal dysplasia; 23 of the affected animals have been directly linked to a single common ancestor.

Happily, they have observed a decrease in the number of even mildly affected Cairns over the last several years, which they attribute to breeders taking ultrasound screening seriously. Dr. Casal cautions that it is important to wait until the Cairn is at least 12 weeks old to perform this test.

To move forward in their work, they need blood samples for DNA from dogs that have had ultrasounds. It would also be helpful to have more affected dogs in the study. More information on how to contribute will be available shortly, along with a confidential website to collect data.

Health and Wellness Clinics

Sponsoring health clinics to make health tests available to Cairn owners and breeders at a significantly lower cost than is possible in private veterinary practices is an important part of our mission. The Foundation sponsored a successful clinic at the National Specialty and is working with regional clubs to arrange local clinics.

Health and Wellness Awareness

The Foundation continues work to become the Cairn Terrier community's reliable 'go-to' source of up-to-date information on Cairn health. We have launched a new initiative to update our health testing guidelines, leveraging the great work already done by our Cairn friends in Canada.

Over the past year, we provided regular articles for the CTCA's *Highlander* newsletter to give members further insight into important diseases affecting our breed. These articles are subsequently posted on the Foundation's website for on-going reference and promoted through our Facebook and Constant Contact communications. We also provide specific guidance for Cairn owners on routine health and wellness under the banner of "Ask Angus."

We hope you enjoy the article in this issue on Conservative Treatment Approaches for ACL Injuries.

Board of Trustees

The Board was delighted to welcome Rebecca White and Louise Hooper as new Trustees during this past year. Suggestions for others who might have both the time and interest to serve on the Board in the future would be welcome and should be directed to the Chair.

Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not express the views or opinions of the Cairn Terrier Club of America.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The CTCA would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members. We are happy you have joined us.

Heather Campbell

Sponsors: Lisa Dangelmaier and Frances Moniz

Craig Burns

Sponsors: Deb Rogers and Jackie Sowards

Gary Mighton

Sponsors: Arlene Grant and Joyce Adams-Taylor

Update from the Yearbook Editor

by Katrina MacGregor

Due to my *annus horribilis*: my accident, where I crushed my left leg and broke my right wrist (one month in the hospital before and after surgery), heavy gale season, including a tree landing on the side of my house, and power outages. I will probably be much later than I usually am with the yearbook.

I'm going to set a probable date of March 31 as a deadline at this point.

I sit in a wheelchair in front of the computer as much as I can to work on this and help with the newsletter. Thank you for your understanding.

I did send to Scotland for a beautiful new tartan for the cover! I have scanned the fabric and I hope you enjoy it. There's something to look forward to!