

# FROM THE FOUNDATION



by Tammy Erickson, Chair

*The Foundation* has been focused on three major projects over the past several months: our Annual Appeal, eliciting support required for on-going research initiatives, and an overall update of the health information available online, beginning with revision of the recommended guidelines for health testing.

Our Annual Appeal was successful, given the economic pressures that many are currently experiencing. The Appeal itself generated \$11.2 thousand in donations between October 1 and the end of February, compared with \$12.6 thousand raised during the same period last year. However, we had donations of over \$6 thousand during the period that were not a direct result of the Annual Appeal, bringing our total donations for the period to \$17.4 thousand, compared with \$17.1 in the previous year. We are deeply grateful for everyone's support.

In the fall, we launched two campaigns, asking Cairn owners to participate in two research programs: the Dog Aging Project, a large-scale project designed to gain insights into health over the lifetime of a dog; and Cornell University's work to find a genetic test for Legg-Calvé-Perthes Disease (LCPD). If you're willing to participate, please see our website for further details (<https://www.cairnterrierhealth.org/>).

In November, the Trustees met virtually with Dr. Seth Eaton to discuss the work on ocular melanosis being done by the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We concluded that asking Cairn owners to participate in this work, in addition to supporting the work being done by Dr. Simon Petersen-Jones at Michigan State University, has great merit, given the importance of finding a marker to detect a predisposition to this condition in our dogs. Again, information on ways that Cairn owners can participate in both these research initiatives is on our website.

A committee of the Foundation, chaired by Louise Hooper, with Beth Wilder and Pat Joyce, and with support from those who recently updated the health standards for the Canadian club, is working to provide better health information online. As a first step, the committee reviewed the existing CTCA document "National Breed Club Recommended Health Testing Guidelines," which was approved in 2016, and updated it. They kept the format short to make it easy to read, while providing a solid overlay of Cairn health. The newly updated standards, approved by the CTCA Board of Governors at their March meeting are on both the CTCA and Foundation websites.

*The Foundation* is enthusiastic about expanding the health information available online, including updating any health information that is out of date and creating a downloadable document with information about Cairn health that would be available at no cost to all.

## Cairn Terrier Recommended Health Testing Guidelines

Approved by the Board of Governors (03/02/2023)

The Cairn Terrier is, by definition, an "active, game, and hardy" small terrier. They are long-lived dogs, with a life span averaging 13-16 years of age. The Cairn Terrier is a healthy breed; However, purebred dogs, on average, have 3 -5 genetic faults, the Cairn is not without its health issues.

The following lists minimal health testing guidelines approved by the Board of Governors of the Cairn Terrier Club of America.

### Globoid Cell Leukodystrophy (GCL)

- *Who to test:* Any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding who has not been previously cleared by test or parentage.
- *Performed by:* Veterinarian or Breeder/Owner, with purchased DNA swab.
- *Comments:* This is a DNA based test. It can be performed as an individual test or as part of a panel of genetic tests.

### Liver Portosystemic Vascular Anomaly (PSVA) and Microvascular Dysplasia (MVD)

- *Who to test:* Puppies 12-16 weeks, and any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding.
- *Performed by:* Veterinarian
- *Comments:* A Bile Acid test is a blood test to check for hepatic insufficiency and

**Portosystemic shunts Kidney  
Ultrasound for Missing Kidney (aplasia)  
or Deformed Kidney (dysplasia)**

- *Who to test:* Puppies at 12-15 weeks and any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding who has not been cleared as normal.
- *Performed by:* Board Certified Veterinary Ultrasonographer / Radiologist.
- *Comments:* If abnormalities are detected a Veterinary specialist may need to be consulted.

**Ocular Melanosis (OM) CERF/CAER  
Eye Exam**

- *Who to test:* All Cairns 2 years of age and older to screen for any eye problems before breeding Follow up exams should be done periodically during a dog's life as OM may present as a new health problem in older dogs.
- *Performed by:* Veterinary Ophthalmologist
- *Comments:* Formal eye examination, performed with dilation, is the only test currently available for this condition

**Craniomandibular Osteopathy (CMO)**

- *Who to test:* Any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding who has not been cleared by test or parentage.
- *Performed by:* Veterinarian or Breeder / Owner, with purchased DNA swab.
- *Comments:* This is a DNA based test. It can be performed as an individual test or as part of a panel of genetic tests.

**Cardiac Exam**

- *Who to test:* Puppies 12-16 weeks, and any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding.
- *Performed by:* Veterinarian
- *Comments:* If abnormalities are detected a Veterinary Cardiologist should be consulted.

**Patella Exam**

- *Who to test:* Puppies 12-16 weeks, and any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding.
- *Performed by:* Veterinarian.
- *Comments:* If abnormalities are detected a Veterinary Orthopedist

For more information, visit the Foundation of the Cairn Terrier Club of America website at <https://www.cairnterrierhealth.org/health-topics>

but we had coffee, tea and hot chocolate at the ready. It was mostly Cairns that attended but a couple other breeds joined us in both sessions. We always have fun and the picnic area we rent at Champoeg park is covered with access to water and electricity (for tea / coffee).

Saturday, December 17 was our annual Holiday get together and fun gift exchange. It is so great to try new dishes people bring and the gift exchange is a hoot!

Friday, January 20, 2023 was our Designated Specialty at the Rose City Classic Dog show in Portland, OR at the Expo Center. The judges were: Specialty- Karen McFarlane, Sweepstakes-Sandra Carter. Both did a marvelous job. We had a great turnout and afterward we met at Three Sheets at the Harbor restaurant for a delicious dinner. The All-Breed shows were hosted by the Tualatin Kennel Club and Dog Fanciers of Oregon. These shows were held Saturday and Sunday. Thank you, Debbie Blanchard for the wonderful, handmade bowl cozies and zipper bags she made for prizes, they are wonderful! Thank you, Ilene Kaplan and the CRCTC crew for manning this new yearly event.

CRCTC's Independent specialty has a new date and location! It will be held on June 23 at the Clackamas County Event Center in Canby, OR (not far from Portland) in conjunction with the Clackamas County Kennel Club's annual dog show. The judges are: Specialty - Sidney Marx, Sweepstakes - Lisa Dangelmaier, Juniors - Sidney Marx, Obedience - Jill Jones. The Superintendent is Georjie's Dog events. This year the club is having a Hawaiian Luau theme. Meals will include a late lunch of pulled pork and yummy sides for an amazing price of \$20! We are so excited about this new location and venue; we have always loved this show so please join us - and don't forget your hula skirts and Hawaiian shirts. Check out our website for more information at [www.crctc.org](http://www.crctc.org)

We are planning other events for the year. These include Intro to Tracking, Barn Hunt practice, Scent Work "try-it", and a garage sale, among other things -we are always busy!! Stay safe and warm!



**Cairn Terrier Club of  
Greater Detroit**

*by Diane Hendee*

The Cairn Terrier Club of Greater Detroit will be holding two Specialties on one day this year. They are on Friday July 7, 2023 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. The specialties will be in conjunction with the Maize & Blue Combined Specialties.

This is followed by the Ann Arbor Kennel Club's All Breed Shows and Obedience Trials on Saturday July 8 and Sunday July 9, 2023.

Our judges for the two Specialties will be Christopher Moore from Australia and Richard Powell.

As I write this, we are underway with this year's back to back Specialties at Whitmore Lake. Reports from there with many stories to share later.