

Committee Reports

Annual Awards – Nancy Katsarelas

I ordered the 2009 award plaques today (April 28th). I hope to pick them up May 14th, right on schedule for getting awards to banquet.

Thanks to Helen Lee for supplying me with many of the needed pictures. Also I would like to thank the various committee heads for getting the information on 2009 top achievers to me. Our jobs are made easier when our club members help so much.

Club Inventory and Medals

Futurity – Barbara O'Neill and Joyce Katona

Joyce Katona - The Futurity trophies are ready to go as are the medallions. We will need to order more organza pouches for next year.

Barbara O'Neill

The 2011 Futurity currently has 16 new Bitch nominations with 10 new Litters nominated. The 2010 Futurity ended with a total of \$3,945 and there is \$525 in the 2011 account.

Health – Ginger Jones

CONTRIBUTIONS:

CHF BORZOI DONOR ADVISED FUND:

The CHF Borzoi Donor Advised Fund has a current balance of \$26,777, committed to borzoi heart research. Our participation in the Purina Parent Club Partnership program netted us a matching contribution of \$847.45 from the Ralston Purina Company to our Donor Advised Fund. I encourage any borzoi owners who feed Purina products to sign up for this program and designate the Borzoi Club of America as your matching partner breed club. Contributions to the Donor Advised Fund can be made at any time throughout the year, in memory of a special dog or person, in conjunction with your BCOA dues payment or in celebration of a special show or field win. We would be proud to publish the honorary donation in the Borzoi Connection. This year, the board approved funding in the amount of \$2500 to be directed from our Donor Advised Fund to CHF research grant #01151 – Molecular Basis of Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia.

HEALTH COMMITTEE FUND:

Thanks to the generous contribution of our membership, the health fund balance as of 4/27/2010 is \$6346.37. Money from this fund is used to cover half of the costs for the eye CERF and OFA heart clinic and the total cost for the seminar speaker at this year's national's health committee events. In addition, we have annually contributed to at least one health research project orchestrated by the CHF.

My personal and special thank you to all our members who so generously donate money to our health fund initiatives!

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!!!

PROGRAMS:

CHIC PROGRAM:

The health committee established the CHIC program database with the OFA in the first quarter of 2003. To date there are a total of 230 borzoi included in the database – 24 more than the total from last year's report. The current required health clearances are **Eye CERF, OFA Thyroid & OFA Heart**. Optional health clearances are for Hip and Elbow Dysplasia. The purpose of the CHIC database program is to allow breed clubs to specify particular criteria for health clearance checks relevant to their specific breed, provide a centralized database of participating dogs, encourage owners to test and submit results for these specific criteria and reward and recognize the participants of the program. The BCOA health committee established an annual monetary reward in honor of Dr. Asa Mays to recognize breeders who place this health screening as a priority and are willing to share the results by honoring the Best in Futurity and Best of Opposite Sex in Futurity winners if the sires and dams have a CHIC number. In addition, a monetary reward is also offered to the Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex winner if they have a CHIC number. The Asa Mays award was started in 2005 and to date there has been no winner of any of the 4 annual awards. I find it both embarrassing and actually humiliating that the top winners for Futurity and the National specialty show in the last 5 years have never bothered to pursue CERF, heart or thyroid testing. Would you be so cavalier about your own health screenings? (Note: clinic costs: Thyroid - \$25, – CERF - \$15, heart \$20 = \$60 TOTAL!!!!) And this **INCLUDED** all of the registration fees with OFA and CERF! The CHIC awards = \$100 each. You do the math.

DNA REPOSITORY PROGRAM:

The CHIC DNA Repository, co-sponsored by the OFA and the AKC/CHF, collects and stores canine DNA samples along with corresponding genealogic and phenotypic information to facilitate future research and testing aimed at reducing the incidence of inherited disease in dogs. The objective is:

- Facilitate more rapid research progress by expediting the sample collection process
- Provide researchers with optimized family groups needed for research
- Allow breeders to take advantage of future DNA based disease tests as they become available
- Foster a team environment between breeders/owners and the research community improving the likelihood of genetic discovery

The CHIC DNA Repository has partnered with the Veterinary Genetics Lab at the University of California–Davis and the Animal Molecular Genetics Lab at the University of Missouri. UC Davis will receive and store all swab samples, and Missouri will receive and store all blood samples.

THIS IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PROGRAM YOUR DOG COULD EVER PARTICIPATE IN.

BORZOI HEALTH SURVEY:

At the beginning of 2008, the OFA extended an offer to all national breed clubs, to assist in conducting breed specific health surveys and the borzoi breed was one of the first breeds to get started with the on line survey. One of the things I really like about the program is that, while maintaining total confidentiality of the participants, it allows any participant to see the statistical results of the survey immediately. It is a very quick survey to fill out and yet contains a good breadth of information. To date, we have over 795 responses and increase of 314 dogs from last years report. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to enter their dog's information. I encourage everyone to go to the OFA website and participate in the survey if you haven't already done so. At a minimum, it's worth pulling up the results for a review of what the statistics provide.

Some points of interest from the overall statistics in the survey:

- There is slightly more bitches than dogs submitted
- Almost one half of the entries are spayed or neutered – up from one third last year
- The top 3 in order of significance in diseases submitted is as follows – the last 3 are equally tied for the third position:
 - Cancer/Tumors – slightly higher in bitches than dogs
 - Osteosarcoma, "other", Mammary and then liver and Hemangiosarcoma tied
 - Gastrointestinal disorders – equal incidence between dogs and bitches
 - Bloat/Gastric Torsion followed by "other"
 - Orthopedic disorders – equal incidence between dogs and bitches
 - Arthritis, "other" and hip displasia
 - Neurological &/or Muscular –higher incidence in dogs than bitches
 - "Other", DM and Epilepsy
 - Cardiovascular disorders – slightly higher incidence in bitches than dogs
 - Heart murmur, Congestive Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy

In addition to providing order of significance, the survey can provide breeders with other pertinent tools relative to the dogs they've submitted and the overall total of the incidence reported. It is very worthwhile printing out the statistics and spending a rainy afternoon when there's no dog show and no field trials, studying the information.

CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION RESEARCH:

The CHF primary focus as with all health research facilities for both humans and animals is centered on cancer. Their studies include bone, blood, skin and organ cancers. The use of stem cells in their research is proving to provide some of the most promising outcomes and undoubtedly some of the most exciting times in future research! One item of significant note is that the research community has established a National Canine Cancer Biospecimen Repository as a storage facility for tumors for future research. If your dog is diagnosed with a possible cancerous tumor, prior to surgery to remove it, please have a conversation with your veterinarian about the possibility of submitting the tumor to the tumor bank. There is a specific protocol that must be followed, so it is important to contact the CHF or the storage facility prior to the surgery or the tumor sample may not be usable. The storage facility is located at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland. Handouts are available about the Cancer Consortium which implemented the Biospecimen Repository as well as specific information about the protocol for sample submission.

New BCOA supported research includes the following studies:

- CHF grant #01151 – Dr. Paula S. Henthorn, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Vet Med - Molecular Basis of Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia – The goal is to identify a mutant allele of a gene or genes responsible for TVD and once found, genetic testing procedures can be developed to identify dogs at risk for developing and passing on the disease.
- CHF grant #01355 – Dr. Kimberly Weber, University of Illinois - Expression of Vascular Endothelial markers in Canine Hemangiosarcoma & their use in Diagnostic Cytology using Immunocytochemistry. The goal of this study is to find cellular markers using fine needle aspiration that can diagnose the difference between hemangiosarcoma and other forms of cancer versus the current invasive method of surgery.
- CHF grant #01227 – Dr. Stanley L. Marks, U of C Davis - Specificity and Sensitivity of the Pancreatic Lipase Immunoreactivity (SPEC Cpl) Test for the Diagnosis of Canine Pancreatitis – This purpose of this research t develop a much improved testing method that works in conjunction with SPEC cPL to diagnose pancreatitis – the current test methods are problematic.
- CHF grant #01241 – Dr. Cristina Gobello, National University of La Plata – Detection of DNA Damage in Response to Cooling Storage in Canine Spermatozoa using Single-cell Gel Electrophoresis (comet assay) - This study hopes to identify the actual storage life of cooled sperm and develop a better extender to improve the sperm life and improved conception rate.

The first of the studies listed above was paid for from our Donor Advised Fund used to support heart research. The other 3 studies were supported by funds from our health committee fund maintained in the BCOA treasury.

NATIONALS HEALTH EVENTS:

Applied for discounted fees for registering heart data and CERF data.
Mailed Dr. Riepe a package of info for her heart clinic - date, time, location, driving directions and agreement to pay her \$30 per dog. She's requested a hotel stay for the evening before her clinic as she needs to work the day before and after.
Room reservation added to Master account confirmed with Barbara O.
Seminar speaker will be donating \$200 of her speaking fee to our Donor Advised Fund. Need to be sure it's submitted to CHF from "Dr. Erica Tolar" for the BCOA.
Information flyers for schedule and fees printed for hospitality bags - I will bring those down with me on Monday late afternoon and provide to the hospitality chairman.
Additional info printed for hand outs - need some type of a small table or share table with some other group/person - Info on Degenerative Myelopathy, total list of current genetic marker tests available through opti gen and those registerable through OFA, info flyer on the canine cancer consortium and the tumor bank collection process.

HEALTH WEBSITE UPDATES:

Included in the attachments are the additional 3 grants we are supporting through CHF - RLYnne can copy the info directly from this report and paste into our website under health research section when she gets a chance. Thanks RLYnne!!

Judges Education – Patti Neale

National Specialty – Barbara O'Neill

National Show Committee and Guidelines

The National Specialty Policies and Guidelines are up to date. I have sent a set of specialty guidelines to Robin Riel for distribution to 2012 volunteers and the guidelines for National Site Location to Ron Williams for the Region 1 2013 Specialty. The 2012 proposal has been sent to all Board members by Robin Riel. This will be discussed under new business in Kentucky.

2010 National Specialty – Ft. Mitchell, KY – May 16-22, 2010

Everything seems to be moving forward. We had a difficult issue with ring equipment. We could not rent from area superintendents because there are three all breed shows within 200 miles of the Drawbridge Inn. Unfortunately, Chris Moyer, Grounds Chair, will drive to Michigan and get them from Jon Steele. I do not know what Midwest Borzoi Club will charge us for ring gate rental. It may be time that BCOA considers purchasing free-standing PVC ring gates. The show committee has been busy making hospitality plans and putting together all the facets of the specialty.

2011 National Specialty – Lawrence, KS – April 3-9, 2011

The 2011 show committee has been busy coming up with great ideas for the National. The Specialty logo has been chosen and will be presented, along with a presentation, at the annual awards in Kentucky. Cindi Gredys has a fund raising calendar project in the works and needs the BCOA general treasury to front the project. The amount is approx. \$2,500 for 250 calendars and the BCOA will be first to be repaid for the funds.

Rescue – Dee Jones

Rescue Committee Report –April 29, 2010

The in-home visit list has been updated. I will continue to request updated contact information twice a year. Each time I post this request to the lists, we gain a few additional volunteers. I only hope breeders are using this resource. On occasion, a breeder will ask for assistance in finding someone in an area not covered by our list. Each time I have been able to locate a sighthound person, if not a Borzoi person, who can help. I am always willing to provide assistance.

Carol Backers and I will be doing the Companion Parade at Nationals again this year. We are looking forward to having dogs who are not showing and their owners enjoy their event at our specialty.

BCOA Rescue will also sponsor the Costume Contest again. We have some special prizes this year, so I hope there will be great competition.

NBRF – Carol Backers Reporting

We have placed all but one of the FL 14 Borzoi
To date this year, we have placed nine other Borzoi which do not include any of the FL 14.

BR-NC – Nancy Joeckel Reporting

Dogs in Rescue: Venus, Velvet, Dusha (Referral Program)
Dogs assisted but not using BR-NC funds: Omak Borzoi, Valentin & Kiska (CA upcoming surrenders), Taxi, Henry, Fresno Crosses

ROM – Barbara Ewing

Applications have been received for the following dams, who qualify with the designations shown.

Ch Windrift On Your Mark JC - ROM
Renaissance Juno Beach - ROM-C
Rosehill GL Serigraph - ROM-P
Ch Rising Star's Liberty Belle - ROM-C
Ch Rising Star's Nofretary - ROMX-C
CH Rising Star Mariza Forvr Amber - ROM-C

Disaster response – Veni Harlan and Robin Casey

I have no news to report for the BCOA Ready Borzoi committee other than to ask members to post a direct link from their websites to Ready Borzoi; encourage folks to follow the site directions and make their own disaster plans; and to obtain locally available disaster training.

Junior Showmanship – Barbara Lord

Listed below please find the complete list of BCOA junior members and non-members exhibiting Borzoi in AKC junior showman competition throughout the United States during the 2009 calendar year. I have made note of the 5 juniors who were members of the Borzoi Club of America in 2009:

Spiers, Justine – 60
Tretter, Cheyenne –59
Stachon, Robin – Member 56
Cedeno, Cassandra – Member 48
Davis, Jordan – Member 47
Myers, Shannon – Member 46
Inez Greenhill, Mavis Mary - 14
Nouvel, Lauren – 9
Sien, Andrew - 7
Bear, Keegan – Member 6
McCamish, Bethany - 5
Miller, Natayla – 4
Vaughan, Merriwether - 3
Burkey, Lohgan – 7
Gearhart, Iris – 3
Gearhart – Eileen – 2
Wright, Brittany – 2
Sien, Hannah - 1

I am pleased to announce that our 2009 BCOA Top Junior Showman is Robin Stachon. A big congratulation goes out to Robin, along with wishes for the best of luck to her in the future.

As in years past, during the first part of 2010, I mailed out letters and membership applications on behalf of the Borzoi Club of America. This year invitations were sent to the 28 non-member children competing in AKC Junior Show competition with Borzoi. These youngsters include the 12 non-members listed above, in addition to 16 children who competed without garnering points in 2009.

(Note: If you have any comments, questions or corrections regarding these statistics OR if you know any young people who might be interested in joining as BCOA Junior members - Please contact me privately at: warwind@tds.net
Or write me at PO Box 90 Forest Junction, WI 54123)

As I recently discussed with club President Lydia Pruett, I encourage the board, when updating the Borzoi Club of America Membership Booklet, to include the names and contact information of our club's juniors, either in a special section of the booklet, or along with their parents listing in the membership booklet.

In closing, I would like to take this time to thank the BCOA membership for their vote at the 2009 National Specialty general membership meeting where the institution of the Borzoi Club of America Junior Showman Certificates of Recognition was approved. Yearly presentation of these certificates to our Top Five Juniors will take place at the BCOA Annual Awards Banquet starting in 2010. These certificates offer our club's membership a moment to recognize these fine young people and their hard work. What a wonderful way to acknowledge the fact that many of the individuals involved in our breed as juniors today will very likely play an important part in the future of our breed tomorrow.