

## **Standing Committee Reports**

### **January 2016**

#### **Annual Versatility Award (Kay Novotny)**

For 2015, BCOA had two submissions for the Annual Versatility Award:

Congratulations go out to the following dogs and owners:

In first place, with 84.63 points, is DC Mielikki Dir Shepard at SilkenSwift, SC, SGRCIV, LCM, BN, RA, VFCH, owned by Renee McCartin and Bonnie Dalzel. REG# HP35179107

In second place, with 66.65 points, is GCH Aruzia Bright Moon Over Tahoe, CD, BN, RA, SC, owned by Steven and Kay Carol Artley. REG # HP38370806.

Congratulations also go out to Renee McCartin and Bonnie Dalzel for a lifetime achievement award for DC Mielikki Dir Shepard at SilkenSwift, SC, SGRCIV, LCM, BN, RA, VFCH

#### **Breed Welfare (Dee Jones)**

I want to remind everyone that Breed Welfare will once again sponsor the Costume Contest and the Companion Class at the National Specialty. These events will be held on Friday, directly prior to the Art Auction. There are no entry fees for these events.

There is one MAJOR CHANGE for the COSTUME CONTEST; entry forms are available on-line and must be submitted with the One-Stop Shopping form. Late entries will not be accepted at the specialty. No Entry Forms for the Costume Contest will be available at the Specialty.

Registration for the Companion Class will be the same as in previous years. Registration forms are available on-line. They will also be available at the registration table during the Specialty. Any dog not entered in the show is eligible for Companion Class.

We are still waiting for a progress report from Lynn Shell on the Placement Assistance Program. We will announce its availability on the lists and on Facebook, as soon as Lynn is able to upload the information to the BCOA website.

The best news from both our Rescue Organizations is that they have had a quiet year, with fewer Borzoi than usual coming into Rescue.

#### **BR-NC(Nancy Joeckel)**

Annual Summary: Dogs in Rescue: 2 Dogs in Referral Program: 3

Fourth Quarter Dogs in Rescue: No Borzoi were in Rescue this quarter.

Fourth Quarter Dogs in BR-NC's Referral Program: No Borzoi were in our Referral Program this quarter.

#### **2015 News and Activity**

Both our Rescue and Referral Programs had a remarkably quiet 2015. We are grateful for the rest, after several years of very high numbers. Throughout the year, however, nearly two dozen dogs needed to be rehomed by their owners — but without coming into our programs. We were able to provided home checks, veterinary referrals, transportation help, and coaching of both old and new owners without using our funds for these situations. Our role in cases like these is to help insure each dog's lifetime success in its new home.

We were grateful to receive a \$5610 contribution from the Beverly Taylor Trust Fund early this year.

In addition, in December we were delighted to receive a \$1000 grant from the Pedigree Foundation. This funding, along with our private donors throughout the year, has allowed us to restore our treasury after the very high costs of caring for BR-NC dogs in 2013 and 2014.

We thank all our donors and supporters for their help over the course of this year. You are the ones who make it possible for BR-NC to help Borzoi in need.

### **NBRF- Liz Duncan-Burge Reporting**

Reminder that NBRF has a new toll-free number, 1-844-NBRF-ZOI (844-627-3964) with access to Director Carol Backers, Vice-Director Barb Lord, or myself from this number.

#### **Fourth Quarter (August 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>):**

In the fourth quarter of 2015 we had 10 borzoi come into rescue and have successfully placed 9 of the 10. Our veterinary expenditures were \$3,482.79.

We received \$64 from Benefit Wines and have new labels out on our wine selections at [http://www.benefitwines.com/National-Borzoi-Rescue-Foundation\\_c\\_634.html](http://www.benefitwines.com/National-Borzoi-Rescue-Foundation_c_634.html). We received \$153.91 from Amazon Smile and encourage all BCOA members to please use AmazonSmile when shopping Amazon and choosing the National Borzoi Rescue Foundation as your charity designation, <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3238425> this costs you absolutely nothing, and I have found the selection and prices to be identical to that of regular Amazon, however with Smile, NBRF benefits from every purchase made.

We shared approximately 300 posts on our Facebook page on health, welfare and items of interest on Borzoi.

NBRF's 4th Quarter Income Statement is attached.

#### **2015 Annual Year End Summary:**

In 2015 we had 35 dogs come into rescue. Two of those dogs remain as permanent fosters and another girl will be ready soon for her forever home. This is a relatively small number of rescues when compared to the past 5 years which have **averaged** 58 dogs per year.

We held several fundraisers throughout the year, raising \$2,239.79. We continue to be thankful to the Beverly Taylor Trust and its Committee, and the \$16,828.00 that we received this year. We are also thankful to our past adopters and the pet and borzoi community as we received a little over \$8,000 in donations this year.

We spent \$11,285.97 in veterinary expenses, and had various other expenses to include but not limited to shelter fees, postage, insurance, toll free number, website, rescue supplies, fuel and transport reimbursement that totaled approximately \$7,000.00.

Our 2015 Year End Income Statement will be posted on our website, [www.nbrf.org](http://www.nbrf.org), by the end of January, 2016.

### **Championship Medals (Chris Danker)**

Thru November 2015, there have been a total of 142 Borzoi Champions. Of these, 92 are owned by BCOA members first listed as owners and are eligible for a Championship medal.

**BTRC (Shen Smith)** Please contact Shen Smith for a full report.

### **Health (Nancy Hopkins)**

This year's National Specialty health clinics will include OFA Cardiac and Eye screenings. Laura Hatton, DVM, MS, DACVIM-Cardiology will perform auscultations for \$30 and echocardiograms for \$175. Amy Rankin, DVM, MS, DACVO will provide eye exams for \$20. Both cardiac and eye clinics will include OFA registration. Also, thanks to Teresa Burks, DVM both chiropractic and acupuncture services will be provided for a cost of \$40 per service per hound, with discounts for 3 or more dogs with the same owner. These services will be performed in individual hotel rooms. The Health Seminar will be presented by the

Director of the Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases, Roman Reddy Ganta, M.Sc., Ph.D. on the topic of "Tick-Borne Diseases Impacting Dogs and Humans."

The 4th quarterly report from OFA shows 7 dogs whose screening tests have been updated and 15 new dogs have achieved the CHIC designation. Commendations to the owners/breeders of these dogs for their dedication to breed health. The report is attached.

As of January 5, 2016, the BCOA Health Fund has received a total of \$1,804.10. More funds are expected. Yet again the Health Fund Calendar is stunning, filled with images of beautiful borzoi. This fund raiser takes an enormous amount of work. Commendations to Renee and everyone else involved in this calendar. It has become a valuable asset to BCOA Health.

### Health Committee Proposals

January 2016

1. It has become evident that the membership would benefit from greater subsidy of the health clinic prices at the National Specialty. To do so requires funds. Renee McCartin, with the help of several BCOA members and utilizing the products available through the company who produces the BCOA Health Calendar, has developed products such as T-shirts, tote bags, and mugs. These products are designed to enhance the fundraising impact of the calendar. They have a photo paired with text that emphasizes support for Borzoi Health. Because these are BCOA Health specific and not generic borzoi items, I do not think it will interfere with other BCOA fund raising efforts.

<https://www.createphotocalendars.com/Store/borzoihealth>

This effort of Renee's, like the calendar, has the potential to add some additional funds for BCOA Health use. Further, I have spoken with Renee and she is excited about using any funds raised to help subsidize health clinics at our National Specialties. Because of this, I propose that we put a link to the store webpage on the BCOA Health website.

2. This year (2016), I would like to utilize the monies obtained from the BCOA Health Calendar fundraiser to purchase one Holter monitor, leads, consumables, and at least one Holter monitor vest (to accommodate different sizes of borzoi) for club member use. If approved, this Holter apparatus will be available for rent by BCOA club members for use on their dogs or dogs they have bred. Specific use of the Holter apparatus may be for the screening of breeding animals or the diagnosis, management, and maintenance of cardiac disease in dogs under the care of a veterinary cardiologist. The base cost for renting this monitor will be \$70 with a \$10 discount for each additional dog in the same household if tested in succession (one mail out). BCOA members who elect to provide a copy of the results of the Holter test to BCOA Health along with pedigree information on the dog tested (and cardiac health information throughout the dog's life) will be able to rent the Holter apparatus for half price (\$35 for one dog with a \$5 discount for each dog tested in succession in the same household). Monies raised from these rentals will be used to pay for mailing the Holter apparatus, purchase of consumables, replacement of damaged leads, repair of the monitor, and future replacement of vest/monitor. Excess monies will be applied to the general BCOA Health fund for health clinic subsidies.

Rational: Heart disease is a major health concern for Borzoi. Current screening modalities are useful but have drawbacks that make them problematic for breeders wishing to screen for certain cardiac diseases prior to breeding. An example of this from personal experience: I had a bitch who had an OFA cardiac screening utilizing a Doppler echocardiogram in March a few years ago. She passed this screening. In August of that same year, she suddenly became ill and was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy. This was 5 MONTHS after she had passed her OFA screening. When I discussed this with the veterinary cardiologist I was told that there have been Dobermanns who have passed screenings

only to be diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy 2 MONTHS later. While these OFA cardiac screenings are useful, my experience suggests that they may have limited predictive value for the future health of breeding animals where dilated cardiomyopathy is a concern. In breeds with well documented and researched dilated cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias precede clinical manifestations of the disease. These arrhythmias can occur years ahead of other symptoms. For this reason, Holter testing may well permit breeders, concerned with dilated cardiomyopathy, earlier identification of dogs who have the potential for developing dilated cardiomyopathy in the future. Also, there is a possibility that we have some manner of cardiac disease in borzois that produces life threatening cardiac arrhythmias unrelated to classic dilated cardiomyopathy. Such diseases are symptomless until the dog drops dead, or unless the dog has a fainting episode. Arrhythmogenic cardiac diseases will cause lineages of dogs where there are occasional instances of sudden death. Arrhythmias, whether due to dilated cardiomyopathy or other genetic arrhythmogenic cardiac diseases are very difficult to diagnose without the use of a Holter test. Inexpensive rental of a Holter apparatus will allow breeders the option of another tool for the evaluation of breeding stock.

We currently do not have a good understanding of the way in which some of the cardiac diseases manifest in our dogs, what problems are genetic as opposed to environmentally caused, or the number/types of arrhythmias that should be considered to be normal or benign. While it is definitely important to remove any borzoi who has a known inheritable heart condition from breeding, it is equally important for the long-term health of our breed to NOT remove dogs who do not have an inheritable heart condition from breeding consideration. Certain levels / types of arrhythmias have been found to be non-pathologic in some breeds where extensive research has been conducted. It is important that as breeders utilize Holter testing we realize that we will find arrhythmias that may seem at first glance to be an indication a dog should not be bred, yet in hindsight we may discover the dog could have been bred with no detrimental impact to future generations. I believe it is important to gather Holter test results and follow dogs over their life time to identify those criteria that will help breeders make appropriate breeding choices.

*All information voluntarily shared to BCOA Health will not be provided with identifiers to anyone. Any information that is shared will be in general numerical form or in the form of general recommendations for breeders as a whole. This promise of confidentiality will not change without approval of the BCOA board and individual participants.*

## **HEALTH RESEARCH REPORT (Ginger Jones)**

An inquiry was sent via email to Dr. Kate Meurs to see if she is willing and has the time to revamp her initial CHF grant proposal to narrow the research focus and resubmit it to the CHF for review. She is unable to support this request at this time due to her current commitments. Nancy and I discussed pursuing other research candidates in the cardiology field and I'll proceed with sending out inquiries for their consideration.

At the end of the year 2015, I received a list of grants from the CHF with an inquiry for our support. There were a total of 25 grants. Of these grants, 3 held interest for our breed and were discussed with Nancy Hopkins, Health Committee Chairman and with the committee members. They are as follows:

**02175-A: Development of a Brucellosis Vaccine for Dogs** Principal Investigator: Dr. Angela M Arenas, DVM, PhD; Texas A&M AgriLife Research Total Grant Amount: \$12,952.00; Grant Period: 10/1/2015 - 9/30/2016 Project Abstract: Brucella infections constitute a serious problem for dog breeders, pet owners, and kennels, leading not only to economic costs associated with reproductive loss, but also a public health concern because of the zoonotic potential. The disease, once established, is difficult to control due to the lack of a protective vaccine for canine use. Historically, brucellosis control efforts have demonstrated that the spread of the disease is preventable or significantly reduced in association with vaccination. Unfortunately, efforts to develop a brucellosis vaccine that is safe and effective for dogs have been unsuccessful to date. The goal of this research is to develop a safe and

efficacious Brucella canis vaccine using a genetic mutant that has been shown to be safe and efficacious for controlling infection against other Brucella species. The development of a safe and highly protective brucellosis vaccine for dogs will significantly impact canine and human health by limiting the spread of disease.

**02215: A Cancer Vaccine for Canine Osteosarcoma** Principal Investigator: Dr. Rowan J Milner, BVSc; University of Florida Total Grant Amount: \$80,974.00; Grant Period: 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2016  
Project Abstract: Osteosarcoma is a malignant cancer that carries a very poor prognosis in most large breeds of dogs. The standard of care treatment for osteosarcoma is surgery followed by chemotherapy. Unfortunately, a large number of these osteosarcomas undergo early metastasis (spread) even with early surgical intervention and chemotherapy. Infections of the surgery site, especially when limb-sparing surgery is used, have been known to stimulate the immune system post-operatively in dogs, resulting in improved survival. Since overall survival is bleak in patients with osteosarcoma, developing an osteosarcoma cancer vaccine holds promise as an adjunct treatment to surgery and chemotherapy. In a previous study of 400 dogs with melanoma we showed that a vaccine containing the ganglioside (GD3) causes a measurable immune response in normal dogs and dogs with melanoma, and prolonged survival. In this study, 40 dogs with osteosarcoma presenting to the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital will be randomly assigned to two treatment groups. Twenty dogs will be vaccinated using a ganglioside-based cancer vaccine following standard of care treatment. The outcome of the dogs receiving the vaccine plus standard of care will be compared to 20 dogs who receive standard of care without vaccination. Vaccines will be administered monthly for 4 treatments and the dogs monitored every 3-6 months for life or until lost to follow-up. The outcome of this study will help us understand the immune process associated with cancer vaccines for osteosarcoma and with an ultimate goal to improve survival for dogs with this aggressive form of cancer.

**02233-A: Evaluation of a Novel Technique for Gastric Decompression in Dogs with Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus** Principal Investigator: Dr. J. Brad Case, DVM, MS; University of Florida Total Grant Amount: \$12,960.00; Grant Period: 11/1/2015 - 4/30/2017 Project Abstract: Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) is a common medical and surgical emergency that involves severe gas distention and mal-position of the stomach in dogs. GDV results in profound distension of the stomach, which compresses vital blood vessels and organs within the abdomen, thus reducing oxygen delivery to these organs. The ultimate result is tissue death and toxins in the blood stream. Surgery is necessary to correct the condition, and overall mortality rates range from 10-50% depending on severity and duration of gastric dilatation. For this reason, rapid and effective decompression of the stomach is critical for successful treatment of dogs with GDV. Currently, approaches to decompression have a temporary effect and gas can re-inflate the stomach within minutes. Oftentimes affected dogs are not near a facility with surgical capabilities when they develop signs of GDV. Owners may then need to drive hours to a facility in which emergency stabilization and surgery can be performed. A new, minimally-invasive technique, similar to that used in human medicine, will be tested for its ability to immediately and continuously alleviate the gas distention in the stomach of GDV patients using a specialized catheter, thus allowing the patient to be stabilized and/or transported for surgery. This relatively inexpensive and rapid procedure could have far-reaching impact for dogs with this devastating condition.

*At this time, we would like to request the board's approval for the expenditure of \$5000 from the general health fund to support the following two research grants in the amount of \$2500 each:*

**02233-A: Evaluation of a Novel Technique for Gastric Decompression in Dogs with Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus**

**02215: A Cancer Vaccine for Canine Osteosarcoma**

Once we have an opportunity to review the balance of the grants from CHF and MAF approved for this year's grant cycle, we will evaluate if there are additional grants that hold merit for our financial support.

## **KIT Committee(Edna Ogata)**

Activities:

October 18, 2015 - Birthday card to W. Brumlow  
November 7, 2015 - Birthday card to G. Pinette  
December 3, 2015 - Birthday card to E. Thompson  
December 20, 2015 – Christmas greetings to all

## **Meet the Breeds/NYC (Ron Williams)**

The 2016 AKC Meet the Breeds event in New York City will take place once again on the Pier. The date is Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

The NYC MTB Team consist of Linda Deutsch, Elisabeth and Jim Szymanski, Lorene Connolly, Guy Tarsitano, Joy Windle, Malory Ferguson and Melissa Kucmierczyk. Malory, I believe is a pet owner who lives in Manhattan and will bring her puppy. Melissa is someone who moved up from Florida (helped Patti with her MTB) and doesn't have a dog currently. However, wanting to get involved in all things Borzoi. Aside from Malory's puppy, Lorene, Elisabeth and Guy will bring dogs.

After having some discussion with my team, I agreed to take a break from the theme we used in the past and utilize the Borzoi Backdrop used by Patti Neale during the Eukanuba MTB event in Florida. She will be shipping the backdrop and the BCOA Banners up to me. Melissa and Guy will meet me in NYC to assemble the backdrop on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>.

I plan on including the coloring pages and crayons we dispersed last year.

At this time I don't suspect the need for the board to approve any funds for this year's event.

## **Registry of Merit (Barb Ewing)**

Ch Phaedra Esperanza ROM-C

## **Specialty-Related (Barbara O'Neill)**

### Futurity

The 2017 opened on October 13 and will end November 16, 2016. Currently, there is \$3,685 in the 2016 account and \$330 for 2017.

### National Specialty Guidelines

Guidelines are currently up-to-date. Region 5, with Carol Enz, as Show Chairman, will be up next for 2018 with a bid/proposal due April 2016.

### 2016 National Specialty – Lawrence, Kansas

Kay Cassella, Facility/Specialty Coordinator, and Caryl Dumaine, Hospitality, continue with event plans. The premium list packet is at the printers with all forms on the specialty website. Thank you, R. Lynn, and Javier Ocasio for the fillable forms.

### 2017 National Specialty – Hunt Valley, Maryland

Roy Silguero & Curtis Judd, Facility Coordinators are in the process of firming up show committee and plans. They are planning on a presentation at the annual awards banquet in Kansas

### Club Inventory & Medals

The sending of TSE medallions is up-to-date.

The 2015 beginning and ending balances of Futurity and National Seattle accounts was sent to Rita for the IRS.