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FALL 2008
VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3

**“... TO FOSTER AND
PROMOTE THE STUDY OF
AND
RESEARCH ON THE ...
PARTICULAR PROBLEMS
OF COLLIES ...”**

**From the President, Nancy McDonald
2834 Cotton Road, Sanford, NC 27330
Phone: 919-718-9347 / Email: nancy@collieexpressions.com**

I'm so excited to be able to share lots of very exciting new developments for the Foundation! First, the announcement of the discovery of the gene that codes for PRA, and now, word from Cornell that Optigen has the test commercially available for breeders. We are working with Optigen to make the tests as affordable as possible and have volunteers already stepping up to help us with clinics. Optigen's best discount is on twenty (20) tests submitted together, so if you would like to help host a clinic in your area, let me know and we'll help you set it up. There is also a discount for the PRA test processed with the CEA test.

The Foundation now has a program where donors can auction items on e-bay and assign part or all of the sales price as a donation to our cause. Please see details on page 9. We will also be using the service to sell our promotional items. Go to <http://www.missionfish.org/> scroll down to "find a participating charity and put "Collie Health Foundation" in the search box to find current listings and listers. Thanks to Chenoa Braucher for getting this set up for us!

Every year Pati and I leave Sunnybank headed back south rejoicing that it was the best ever. "The Gathering" 2008 was no exception. Madame Gerrie Oliver and her wonderful crew work tirelessly to make it the premier Collie summer event. An event such as Sunnybank doesn't happen without months of pre-planning and hours of commitment from a hoard of volunteers. At the risk of omitting someone, thanks must go first to our perennial Madame, CHF VP Gerrie Oliver who orchestrates this event and makes it look effortless!!! Perpetual store clerks Norman Markese, Annette Miller, Tony and Jeanne Marre, Lori Montero, Chenoa Braucher, and Linda Raven kept Sunnybank and CHF merchandise and auction items flying off the tables. This year we welcomed the Breakaway Café, manned by Jim and Ann Boles. What a fine addition – custom cooked to order breakfasts and lunches – grilled to perfection!! New CHF promotions co-chairs Brenda Walker and Pat Rosenbaum's tent sale of logo merchandise just about wiped out old inventory. Wait until you see what they will have next! Elizabeth Smith, Candy Wisnieski and Suzie DeLorenzo earned their saints' medals taking entries and managing the largest match entry ever, taking entries up to the time each class was called. Special thanks to Suzie for your efforts in making the Sunday Memorial service a moving and memorable one.

(Continued on Page 2)

President's Message (*Continued from Page 1*):

Viewing the Collie-studded hillside overlooking the circus-sized tent and fire-blue lake, one would know that even in the face of four dollar gas prices, Collie lovers realize that Sunnybank is *the* place to be in August. License plates from the far west of the Midwest, the north side of New England, and from as far south as Georgia and Alabama dotted the landscape below the site of the original house. Again, we welcomed Debbie Holland's Japanese entourage who delight us in their enjoyment of our distinctly American indulgence and add their own distinctive international flavor. Wall-to-wall ex-pens laden with lovely Collie youngsters evidenced that breeders have not let the economy interfere with pursuing their passion to breed even finer Collies.

Delightfully welcome additions for the first time this year were Friday events – “Connecting With Your Dog” seminar by John Buddie and a Tuff Quest Scholarship party and fund raiser hosted at the home of Leigh and Marc Cohen. These events were very well-attended with all proceeds and then some adding to the Tuff Quest Scholarship fund. Rescue booths amongst the crowds offered crafts and an unlimited variety of items to support their causes. As a charity weekend, there are few other occasions where more people have so much fun opening their purses!

I'll let Gerrie tell you the rest about Sunnybank – the matches, the Laddicts, the Champions . . . all of it . . . it was fabulous, fabulous, fabulous.

Nancy



CHF “NEWS YOU CAN USE” ...

Planning a Seminar?

In order to bring our Collie Fanciers the latest health information, The Collie Health Foundation's Education Resource Committee is ready to accept applications for financial assistance to CHF Member Clubs seeking to host educational seminars.

Applications should be submitted to:

Carmen Leonard, Chairman
CHF Education Resource Committee
255 A.R. Oliver Road
Scottsville, KY 42164
or call (270) 622-8327 for details.

CHF Education Resource Committee members include Patt Caldwell and Brenda Shreve.

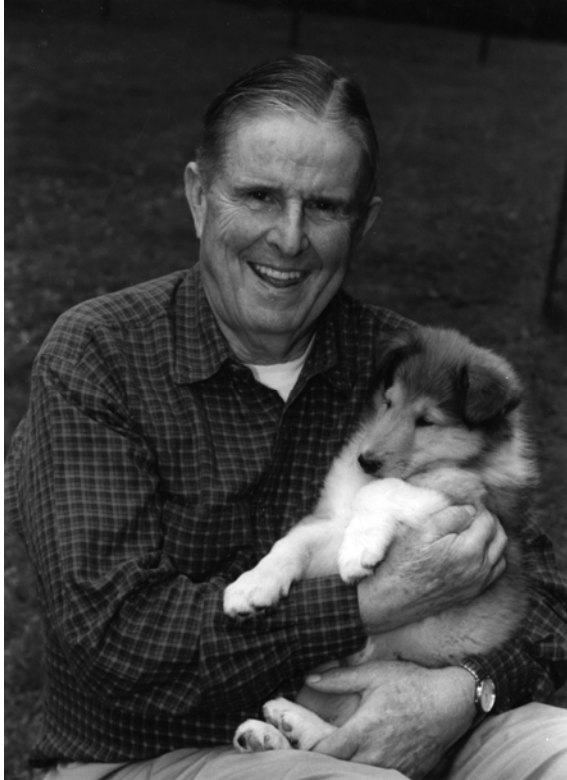
Planning a Specialty Show?

Need a trophy for Best Junior Handler?

The Collie Health Foundation is pleased to offer a Foundation membership as a trophy for Best Junior Handler to each member club, once a year, at (one of) the member club's specialty show. Interested member clubs should request an application by contacting :

Michele Brane
155 Silene
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Phone: (919) 542-3010
Email: Michele@branestorm.com

The Foundation is pleased to support our junior handlers ...
future protectors and champions of our beloved breed!



ALEXANDER S.

("Sandy")

DRAPER

It is with great sadness that I share with you the news of Sandy Draper's passing.

Sandy was the Foundation's greatest cheerleader. He was the first president in 1986 when The Collie Health Foundation was originally chartered. After the successful launch of The Collie Health Foundation, Sandy was asked by the AKC to help them charter the AKC Canine Health Foundation, which he also did with great success.

Sandy was also mastermind and host behind the original "Gathering Of The Great," which has now moved and evolved into the event we know as "Sunnybank in the Summer." Many still affectionately call it "The Gathering."

Sandy will be greatly missed — his ideas and imagination were great contributors to the Foundation being where it is now. An appropriate memorial needs to be created to honor Sandy — please share your ideas!

Remembrances may go to the family at:

**Doris Draper
24 Ramapo Rd.
Ossining, NY 10562**



Treasurer's Report—submitted by Robette Johns

Net Worth—as of September 30th, 2008

Bank of America Checking Account	\$ 18,906.81
Bank of America Money Market Account	\$ 72,921.07
PayPal Account—2.06%	\$ 6,891.36
Wachovia Money Market Account	\$ 29,249.08
Rickenbaugh—Money Market Account	\$ 12,610.87
Morgan Stanley Active Assets Money Trust—2.09%	\$ 295.11
UBS RMA Money Market Account—2.03%	\$ 162,336.66
Total—Bank Accounts, Money Market Accounts & CDs	\$303,210.96
Total—Corporate Bonds Market Value 09/30/08	\$253,442.68
US Gov't Agency Bonds Market Value 05/31/08	\$ 0.00
Equities—Market Value 09/30/08	\$ 467.84
TOTAL NET WORTH	\$557,121.48

For additional financial information, contact:
 Robette Johns, Treasurer
 Collie Health Foundation, Inc.
 6976 Coyote Trail, Oak Hills, CA 92345
 Email: robettejohns@aol.com

**AKC / Canine Health Foundation
 Review of Scientific Progress**



Date Report Received: September 18th, 2008
Grant #: 792 **Title:** Dermatomyositis in the Collie
Principal Investigator: Leigh Anne Clark, PhD
Research Institute: Texas A & M University

Performance Summary: The microsatellite genome scan which was first performed in this study did not provide any genomic area of interests. Luckily, the SNP analysis did provide three areas. One of these is of most interest and contains 16 genes of which 2 may have functional association with Dermatomyositis. However, there is a concern the SILV is also in that region and coat pattern of the samples was not recorded. If the coat phenotype was not balanced between the affected and the unaffected, this region of interest may not be associated with DM. Another concern is that enough samples were not run on the SNP arrays to provide statistically significant results for the mode of inheritance suggested in the pedigree analysis (dominant). Additional research will need to be performed to analyze the regions identified in the SNP analysis and to scan additional samples.

Objectives completed: 2 of 3. Objective #1: Collect blood or buccal swabs from DM affected Collies and relatives. 100% COMPLETE. Objective #2: Carry out a chromosome-specific scan for linkage. 100% COMPLETE. Objective #3: Fine map regions of interest and/or investigate candidate genes. 0% COMPLETE.

Significant Accomplishments: Association mapping using SNP analysis found three significant results on three chromosomes with chromosome 10 containing 4 SNP's with statistically significant differences.

Report to Grant Sponsor: Initially, the investigator performed a whole genome scan using microsatellite markers which did not provide any genomic loci of interest. Therefore, the investigator also performed a whole genome scan using a SNP array which provided a denser covered of the genome. Three chromosomes contained statistically significant differences between the affected and the unaffected samples. One of these areas is of most interest and will be the first region to be fine mapped to narrow the region and identify genetic mutations.

Pedigree analysis of the Shetland Sheepdog suggests the inheritance is dominant. To provide a thorough statistical analysis of a dominant trait using SNP analysis it is recommended to run 50 affected and 50 unaffected samples. Therefore, additional samples may need to be analyzed and combined with the results from this study.

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**AKC / Canine Health Foundation
Review of Scientific Progress**

Date Report Received: September 11th, 2008 (due August 31st, 2008)
Grant #: 1031-A **Title:** Determination of Target Antigens in Canine Primary Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia
Principal Investigator: Darren Wood, DVM, DVSc, DACVP
Research Institute: University of Georgia

Performance Summary: For the size of this grant, significant results have been made. The PAGE procedure has been optimized for canine erythrocyte membrane proteins with confirmed positive and negative controls. The final step to run the sample to run the samples through the assay still needs to be performed and will be performed as parts of the graduate students thesis.

Objectives Completed: Objective #1: Characterize canine RBC membrane proteins from a pool of healthy dogs using 1 dimension SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (ID SDS-PAGE) as well as 2 dimension gel electrophoresis (2D PAGE). 80% COMPLETE. Objective #2: Elucidate RBC membrane antigens that are targeted by the immune system in dogs diagnosed with primary IMHA, by looking at the specifications of antibodies found in patients with active disease. 80% COMPLETE.

Performance Summary: Protocols and controls have been optimized for this study. New methods have been established for the PAGE. All samples have been completed.



Date Report Received: June 30th, 2008 (due June 30th, 2008)
Grant #: 642 **Title:** Investigation of the Genetic Mutations Underlying Progressive Retinal Atrophy
Principal Investigator: Simon Petersen-Jones, DVM, PhD, DECVO
Research Institute: Michigan State University

Performance Summary: The work performed has raised more questions and confusion around PRA in various breeds. It is reported that there are multiple types of PRA in these breeds which has caused problems.

Collies: The rcd2 mutation was found by another group. All of Dr. Petersen-Jones samples need to be screened for this mutation. If there are Collie samples without this mutation, analysis will continue on these samples.

Dachshunds: Dachshunds with PRA have been identified that do not have the previously discovered RPGRIP1 mutation or have the mutation with different PRA diagnosis. The PI explains this by Dachshunds having multiple associated mutated genes with modifying effects of the disease.

Italian Greyhounds: In previous reports, it was thought that a SNP was found as a marker. This was based on only 6 samples. When more samples were run, this SNP was no longer significant. A SNP microarray identify potential areas of interest but sequencing of candidate genes within those regions did not provide positive results. The Italian Greyhound effort has been extensive but there are no answers from this work.

Old English Sheepdogs, Papillons, Tibetan Terriers, Belgian Tervuren, Chinese Crested: Only 36/60 candidate genes have been screened in these breeds because resources were focused on the above breeds. There have be no positive results so far.

Objectives completed: 0 of 4. Objective #1: To continue to collect DNA samples from PRA-affected dogs and their relatives from several different breeds so that we can screen candidate gene loci in each of the breeds. 80% COMPLETE. Objective #2: To identify polymorphic markers in 60 additional candidate genes for PRA. 40% COMPLETE. Objective #3: To use the markers to investigate whether any of our chosen candidate gene loci are linked to PRA in any of the breeds from which we have received samples. 40% COMPLETE. Objective #4: To continue investigation of linked loci to identify causal gene mutations. 10% COMPLETE.

Significant Accomplishments: None



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**AKC / Canine Health Foundation
Review of Scientific Progress**

Date Report Received: June 27th, 2008 (due June 30th, 2008)
Grant #: 779 **Title:** Characterization of the Canine Y Chromosome: Identifying Genes that Cause Male Infertility
Principal Investigator: William J. Murphy, PhD
Research Institute: Texas A & M University

Performance Summary: The project is being managed very well. It is on schedule based on the original timeline presented in the grant application. There are no obstacles reported and the techniques are operating as planned and proven in analysis of the human Y chromosome.

Objectives completed: 0 of 3. Objective #1: Isolation of the majority of dog Y chromosome transcripts. 80% COMPLETE. Objective #2: Construction of a physical map of the dog Y chromosome. 50% COMPLETE. Objective #3: Assess the expression profile of all canine Y chromosome loci, and its relationship to copy number. 0% COMPLETE.

Significant Accomplishments: Isolated seven novel transcripts from the canine Y chromosome that have not been found in other mammals.



Date Report Received: June 18th, 2008 (due June 30th, 2008)
Grant #: 759 **Title:** Investigation of Antigenic Causes of Vaccine-Associated Allergic Reactions in Dogs
Principal Investigator: Greg Moore, DVM
Research Institute: Purdue University

Performance Summary: There has been minimal progress made since the last progress report. 11 additional samples were collected totaling 120 serum samples (350 needed). There is still a strong plea for samples. Most of the samples are not from the high risk breeds listed in Objective 1. The investigator has sent letters electronically and physically to the breed clubs and has generated a website to help spread the word. In the past six months, the PI sent another solicitation to veterinarians through VIN and to the major hospitals (VCA and Banfield). CHF distributed a press release for a request for samples on January 8th, 2008. Also, Dr. Richard Ford from NCSU is including a slide about the study in his vaccine presentation which is presented at numerous conferences. If the investigator cannot get samples, none of the work can be performed for this grant. A no-cost extension is anticipated because of the difficulties obtaining samples.

Objectives completed: Objective #1: Obtain, from each of 7 breeds [Dachshunds, Pug, Boston Terrier, Miniature Pinscher, Chihuahua, Australian Terrier, and Kerry Blue Terrier], serum samples from at least 25 dogs experiencing immediate-type hypersensitivity vaccine reactions and 25 dogs of the same breed that did not have reactions after vaccination. Objective #2: Measure sera for antigen-specific IgE concentrations against 10 heterologous vaccine components, and compare the concentrations in affected versus non-affected dogs of the same breed and of different breeds.

Significant Accomplishments: None



Date Report Received: May 28th, 2008 (due June 30th, 2008)
Grant #: 768 **Title:** A Collaborative Study by Veterinary Oncologists, Pathologists and Diagnostic Laboratories to Enhance the Detection, Diagnosis and Treatment of Canine Lymphoma
Principal Investigator: Ted Valli, DVM
Research Institute: University of Illinois

Performance Summary: The project has met its initial goals and is now exceeding them. The following additional tasks will be performed in the next 6 months:

- * Analyze the survival of the 1,000 dogs with lymphoma based upon diagnosis, treatment, survival time, breed tendencies, lymphoma sub-type, and response to therapy.
- * Generate a very detailed, illustrated publication for pathologist to apply the criteria defined for the lymphoma sub-types.
- * Continue to provide tissue samples to Dr. Breen for his lymphoma study.

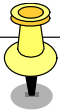
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**AKC / Canine Health Foundation
Review of Scientific Progress**

The third aim is ambiguous in its original definition. A quantitative goal was not specified. Dr. Valli has provided the samples to Dr. Breen to use in a lymphoma study but no other projects are listed.

Objectives completed: 2 out of 3. Objective #1: To provide veterinary oncologists with specific disease designation that permits much more accurate prognosis and therapy tailored to the behavioral characteristics of each lymphoid neoplasm. 100% COMPLETE. Objective #2: To initiate universal use of an upgraded system of lymphoma recognition and classification based on definition of canine lymphoma as a series of specific diseases each with characteristic rates of progression and responses to therapy. 80% COMPLETE. Objective #3: To permit a rational basis for genetic research on canine lymphoma by providing tissues to molecular biologists defined by specific disease, and on which unique genetic alterations that lead to cancer may be identified. 100% COMPLETE.

Significant Accomplishments: * Canine Lymphoma can accurately be defined using the classification system designed for humans and based on disease sub-types. * Canine Lymphoma not only resembles human sub-types in terms of pathology but also in terms of biology with marked variation in rates of progression and in response to therapy. * The results of this study provide additional argument for reversing the standard animal model for human disease. Specific genetic alteration in canine genome can be associated with one sub-type of lymphoma which can then be analyzed in human disease. * Communication of the results as noted under publications.



HELP US ...
**We're updating our membership data-
base
and want to include email addresses.**

**Email us at:
Membership@colliehealth.org**

(Remember to include your name in the body of the email.)

The Gathering 2008 – The Champions of Sunnybank

DEFINITION OF A CHAMPION: 1: **WARRIOR, FIGHTER** 2: a militant advocate or defender <a *champion* of civil rights>3: one that does battle for another's rights or honor <God will raise me up a *champion* — Sir Walter Scott>4: a winner of first prize or first place in competition; *also* : one who shows marked superiority <a *champion* at selling>

Merriam-Webster defines “Champion” as not only “one who shows marked superiority” and a “winner of first place in competition” but also as a “militant advocate or defender”. This year’s Gathering honored both—the incredible champion dogs who returned to Sunnybank once more to be recognized for their superiority but also the amazing people who faithfully fought to protect our beloved Sunnybank and those that continue to serve as advocates.

The serenity of the pretty little place by the lake was disrupted early on Saturday morning as folks returned from discovering the hidden treasures of Sunnybank on the guided walking tour and everyone took their seats under the tent to listen to the champion stories.

Claire Leishman, the First Lady of Sunnybank, fought to preserve the park back in the early 1960’s and 1970’s and has faithfully fought to preserve the park and its history for over forty years. One of the greatest champions of all, Claire talked about the people she knew back then whom she considered champions of the cause to save Sunnybank. Among the many names she mentioned were Evelyn Struble (friend and neighbor to the Terhunes), Charles Kelly (Director of Wayne Parks Department in the ‘60’s-70’s), Ed Feddema (influential Wayne Councilman), Howard Ball (local Pompton Lakes clergy and newspaperman), Claudia Schroder, and Marilyn Horowitz, with Mrs. Ethel Vreeland being the one standout in her mind, as the first champion of Sunnybank. Ethel and Dr. Vreeland (the Terhune’s physician) lived in a big house on a hill on nearby Hamburg Turnpike. Mrs. Vreeland was a personal friend of Anice Terhune and frequently lunched there. It was Mrs. Vreeland who stepped in to save most of the Terhune’s personal belongings after they were gone and called together the most influential people she could one Saturday morning in February, 1967, in order to devise a plan to save Sunnybank. Mrs. Leishman was selected as the local collie representative. Claire started the original Terhune Sunnybank Memorial (TSM) Foundation to preserve the park and its history and has insured its continuation by placing it in the capable hands of Judy Leathers and the new TSM Team.

Another longtime Sunnybank champion, Barbara Backer, joined us again this year. Barb is the local guardian of the park and the eyes and ears of Sunnybank; determined to keep everyone informed of its survival following a bad storm or announce the beauty of the wisteria in the Spring, or the majesty and peace of new fallen snow in Winter.

Judy Leathers, Terhune fan since childhood, has been visiting The Place since 1960. Judy loves Sunnybank so much that she has become an expert in her own right and is now the head of the Terhune Sunnybank Memorial group. Judy spoke to us of past champions--Irv Litvag and Dale Hooper who are no longer here to tell us their stories and also mentioned the wonderful memories shared by Bill Mastbrook and Howard Ball who were unable to join us this year. Judy also unveiled the newest TSM project. To pay tribute to Claire and fulfill one of her lifelong dreams, Judy (along with a little help from me) announced that TSM is designing and installing a new stone bench depicting Sunnybank House covered in wisteria, with an etching of the Terhune’s and their collies, inscribed with a quote from The Master himself.

Marilyn Horowitz, life-long Terhune fan, calendar creator, and self-proclaimed “Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Terhune Sunnybank Memorial” had joined Claire throughout the past forty years in many adventures in acquiring Terhune treasures. This year, Marilyn came to speak about the new treasures to be shared at Sunnybank—the children. Marilyn told everyone about Keinith Bunish, a kindergarten teacher in Peoria, Arizona and herself a Terhune fan. Marilyn thrilled the class by sending a box full of Terhune

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books from her personal collection for children to read and had many charming handwritten and crayon enhanced thank-you notes to prove it! Keinith's entire class has become the newest generation of Terhune fans and, thanks to these two ladies, the stories continue.

Kathy George, official Terhune Archivist, and Gathering theme artist talked about the very beginnings of Sunnybank when Albert Payson Terhune's father, Edward, stopped the destruction of Sunnybank's great oaks and bought the land originally. Kathy also spoke of the dogs of Sunnybank who, although not all true conformation champions, were champions in our hearts because of their stories: Sandy, Gray Dawn, Bobby, Jean, Wolf, Blind Fair Ellen and Lad.

Kristina Marshall, noted Terhune Historian, author, and annual trading card creator, paid tribute to her mentor, Claudia Schroder. Krissy also identified all the official conformation champions of Sunnybank: Treve, Explorer, Sigurdson, Thane, Chaeroplane, and Beth, with an assortment of trivia questions for the audience to answer. Lucky winners received special edition Sunnybank Trading Cards.

Past Collie Health Foundation President and recent CCA President, Pati Merrill wrapped up the morning's program with comments about the early beginnings of The Gathering and how it came to be held at Sunnybank. Pati, one of my personal champions, has never missed a single Gathering and is the perfect person to document the Gathering history. Pati laid out a notebook of chronological happenings beginning with the first Gathering at Sandy Draper's home in Cossackie, NY 18 years ago, how it came to be held at Sunnybank, and encouraged everyone to add their Gathering memories to complete the story.

The early afternoon brought back the very popular Puppy Selection Program with Nancy McDonald of Barksdale interviewing each breeder who brought out some of the Sunnybank's future champions:

- Cookie Jones, Limerick Collies, with one litter by Countryview Rased Replica out of Limerick's Celebrity and a second litter by Ch. Limerick Tartanside Patriot out of Limerick's Liberation.
- Krista Hansen, Camloch Collies brought a pen full of puppies by Ch. Camloch Ladeda Alliance out of Ch. Camloch Pink Ribbon and Ch. Camloch's Night to Remember out of Ch. Camloch Long Acres Iridescent.
- Pat Ortiz, Breezy Acres, rounded out the group with a litter by Ch. Tartanside Birthright out of Ch. Breezy Acre's Lasting Impression and some real "keepers"!

A little later on we hosted the Gathering's first Parade of Champions. In a tribute to Ch. Bethany's Preacher Man, ROM, in Collie Expressions' December 2007 issue, Lilah Williamson made the remark that she knew "Dane", Ch. Hollyoak's Son of a Preacherman, ROM, was destined for greatness because he was Best Puppy at "The Gathering at Sunnybank"! Thus began my dream of bringing these wonderful puppy winners back to Sunnybank to be recognized, not only for the Champions they were, but also as the Champions they'd become. Each dog was decorated with a specially designed Gathering Medallion as they gaited around the ring. It was an honor to have these famous dogs back at Sunnybank. Thanks to everyone who participated.

As part of our champions' celebration, I had the fun of surprising newly-elected CHF President, Nancy McDonald, with another new title--#1 Sunnybank Champion". Back in 1997, it was Nancy who decided the Gathering MUST be held at Sunnybank and it has become an annual tradition ever since. I was delighted to present Nancy with her very own Champion Medallion and one-of-a-kind Sunnybank Champion t-shirt emblazoned with "**Sunnybank or Bust, 1997**"!

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Throughout the weekend everyone had fun shopping for the Gathering premium items and taking advantage of CHF's Inventory Reduction Red Hot Sale for great bargains. By the way, watch for brand new merchandise appearing on our order form soon. New Promotions Chairs—Brenda Walker and Pat Rosenbaum have some great things planned.

The Gathering at Sunnybank was also pleased to welcome back some of our hard-working collie rescue groups—Beth Nimoff from Tri County Rescue in Michigan, Cindy Lombardo and Tom Hoadley from North East Ohio Collie Rescue (and their entourage) and CCNNJ's own Karen Cassel. I appreciate their faithful support of The Gathering weekend each August.

Speaking of CCNNJ's own, a huge 'thank you' goes out to all the hard-working Northern New Jersey Collie Club volunteers who put in tremendous effort to make this weekend such a success. I was especially delighted to welcome newest crew-members, Ann and Jim Boles, who handled our hungry crowds for both days by grilling up great burgers and dogs.



Rear: Linda Raven, Norman Markese, Janice Marcinak, Jean deGruchy, Gerrie Oliver, Roy DeLorenzo, Sue DeLorenzo, Ron Cassel, Karen Cassel, Joe Koehler, Jim Boles, Ann Boles
 Front: Joani Berg, Joanne Koehler, Sami Berg, Candy Wisnieski, Leigh Cohen

CCNNJ's Sue DeLorenzo did an extraordinary job in organizing and emceeding the Collie Memorial at Champion Rock on Sunday morning. The bagpiper stood high up on the hillside and the pipes played as each name was called and each card, adorned with a tartan ribbon, was placed on the hillside. Thanks to all in attendance and thanks to all our "planters". This event has become one of The Gathering's most cherished events.

Once more, The Gathering at Sunnybank Virtues Match was moderated by Les Canavan of Royal Rock. This year we were especially lucky to have Guest Judges from around the country—Barb Cleek of Lochlaren (Oregon), Rayleen Hendrix of Apple Valley (Tennessee) and Shelley Roos of Wickmere (Virginia). Led by Les' poignant questions, and guided by celebrity Stewards John Buddie and Janet Leek, they were presented with the finest dogs and puppies and had a hard time selecting the following virtues' winners:

Side Gait "Noel" Countryview Seabreeze Sensation X Ashgrove's All About Eve, Joe Clement

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Best Profile “Jillian” Barksdale Burning Daylight, Ch. Barksdale Beneficiary, ROM X Ch. Marnus Living Daylight, Catherine McDonald

Best Expression “Sandy” By Countryview Rased Replica X Limericks Celebrity – Cookie Jones

Best Muzzle “Holly” Ch. Alaric Bound by the Heart X Fantasy’s Garden Party, Debbie Holland

Best Outline “Noel” Countryview Seabreeze Sensation X Ashgrove’s All About Eve, Joe Clement

Best Skull “Alexy Just As Sweet” – Ch. Provenhills’ Dance with the Devil X Ch. Alexy Even Sweeter, Martha & Katie Skilton

Best Front “Kadin” – Ch. Tartanside Birthright X Ch. Breezy Acres Lasting Impression – Pat Ortiz

Best Rear “Tess” Betty Peplin – Ch. Kirkhaven Treasured Secret X Ch. Kirkhaven Accent First Kiss

The 2nd Annual Juniors Match brought some stiff competition. It was a difficult decision for Judge Joan Kirkland and our winners were:

Best Open & Best Junior – Ryan Yaeger, w/Dusty
Best Novice - Carolyn Pirro w/Ch. Special Black Tie Required

This year we were honored to have renowned judges Maret Halinen (Napier) and Joan Kirkland (Kirkhaven) preside over the prestigious Lad Memorial Match. This year’s winners:

Best in Match/Best Puppy Bitch: “Sandy”
By Countryview Rased Replica X Limericks Celebrity – Cookie Jones

Best Puppy Dog: “Tanner”
By Ch. Fantasy’s Rising Dragon X Ch. Fantasy’s Absolute Gold – Debbie Holland

Best Veteran Dog: “Dane” Ch. Hollyoak’s Son of a Preacherman
By Ch. Bethany’s Preacherman X Hollyoak’s Touchstone Blu Ice – Lilah Williamson

Also included in this busy afternoon program was a “Champagne Celebration” wherein CHF President McDonald formally announced that, “following an investment of nearly twenty years and almost \$200,000, Dr. Gregory M. Acland, Professor of Medical Genetics, Cornell University advised CHF that at last his laboratory had identified the gene and mutation causing PRA in Collies and now had a DNA test to distinguish affecteds, carriers, and genetically clear dogs.” This amazing breakthrough is a result of the dedication and commitment of collie breeders and the many members and supporters of the Collie Health Foundation. Certainly a cause for celebration and thanks! Champions all! Watch for more information on www.colliehealth.org soon.

Come, discover the Champions of 2009 for yourself—The Gathering at Sunnybank, August 15-16, 2009. See you then!

Gerrie Oliver
aka “The Madam”

**The COLLIE HEALTH FOUNDATION
OFFERS FOR SALE**

an Emergency Bloat Kit!

The Collie Health Foundation is proud to offer a "Bloat Kit" to help you protect your Collie from avoidable distress while you make arrangements to get him professional help! Designed and outfitted by Veterinarian Dr. Cindi Bossart, knowing how to use this kit while you wait for emergency help, can save the lives of your Collies!

\$25 (includes S/H) - checks payable to CHF

All Profits from the sale of this kit go toward funding CHF projects to eliminate genetic defects in Collies!

Order From:

Judy Porter

303 Chalfonte Drive

Catonsville, MD 21228

410-788-2173 / FidelisCol@aol.com



BLOAT KIT CONTENTS:

1. Foal tube
2. K-Y jelly
3. 4" Vet wrap
4. 14g x 1-1/2 needle
5. Simethicone Liquid (Gas-X)**
(**not included--please purchase at your local pharmacy)

Please Note: complete instructions are included, including photos

2009 MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION FORM

Individual Membership	\$25
Family Membership	\$40
Sustaining Membership	\$100
Patron	\$500
Benefactor	\$1,000

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Nancy Van Note—CHF Membership
827 Bowman Road * Jackson, NJ * 08527-3553
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