Johanna Lance
CHF Membership
1631 Holmden Ave
Cleveland, OH 44109
USA

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2024 Seminar Dinner Auction

The National in Peoria was great fun. A great location and loads of beautiful Collies. On Thursday night, we held our annual Presentation, Dinner and Live Auction. The evening started with a wonderful presentation by Dr. Gustavo Aguirre, VMD, Professor of Medial Genetics and Ophthalmology, University of Pennsylvania, who is the head of the Coloboma Study.

He was followed by Robette Johns, our retiring president, who was presented with a certifi cate of appreciation and bouquet of flowers for her years of service to the Collie Health Foundation. We had a great turnout for Thursday night with a total of 185 reservations for our buffet dinner. It was well received by all and was topped off with a fantastic "Thanks for the Memories" cake provided by Robette Johns.

Following dinner, we moved on to the always highly anticipated live auction. With Bob Meyers, auctioneer, and Steve Johns assisting, it started with a bang and moved quickly.

We had fabulous items including beautiful jewelry, artwork, rare books, antiques and unique hand-crafted items. With the items on the auction block, our "Vannas" went right to work and what fun it was to watch them work the crowd for bids. Celebrating their anniversary, Dave Hanson bid on and won a beautiful blue merle Collie for his wife, Krista. Congratulations to them. By the end, all items had new homes, the winners had big smiles and everyone had a fantastic time.

We closed the night's activities with memories and plans to att end next year. Overall, our CHF activities including the day auctions, the blood draw table, promotion items and our Thursday night gala were well supported. Our great success could not have been accomplished without the support and hard work from the following volunteers and CHF board members. Steve John s, Laura LaBounty, Kathryn Leenhouts, Jan Baynton, Kim and John Strassner, Dawn Thomas Katie Irwin, Jane Tompkins, Barbara Waga, Nancy Smalley, Johanna Lance, Nan Marks, Tammie Jacobs, Lydia Filzen, Carolyn Bassingthwaighte, Suzanne Gaugh, Eileen Oswald, Yvonne Evans, John Olsakovsky, Brenda Hanssen, Marianne Sullivan, Emily Bowman Martin, DVM, with Nancy Kelso, DVM who ran the Blood Draw Collections. And Sandra Wrenn and her dear friend who ran the name table at Dinner.

CHF OFFICIAL WEBSITE
www.colliehealth.org

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Robette Johns
President (Acting until 08/24)
Chandra Flaim
Vice-President
Kathy Conroy
Vice-President
Patt Caldwell
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Nancy McDonald
Isabel Ososki
Dr. John Strassner
Cheryl Sulewski
Ginny White

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Newsletter Editor
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Summer 2024
Volume 37
Issue 2

COLLIE HEALTH FOUNDATION

From the President
Robette Johns
1606 Lake Holiday Dr.
Sandwich, IL 60548

"…To foster and
Promote the study of
And research on the…
Particular problems
Of Collies…"

Saying Goodbye as President

After eight years of being President of the Collie Health Foundation, it was time to go. The hardest part of saying goodbye is how to thank all the people that have helped bring the Foundation into a place we can all be proud of. There is never enough time and too many people to thank. What you see below is my attempt to thank the workers after I awarded the President's Award Trophy. I may have missed a couple of people, but hope they forgive me. You are all appreciated. Here's how it went at the dinner:

Thank You!

There were two special people I thanked for their long-term dedication to the Foundation. The first person is synonymous with the Foundation, holding several offices including the presidency. Pati Merrill's dedication has always unquestionably been about the "well-being of the Collie" and anyway the Foundation could help that goal. I would have needed all night to relate all she has done to help the Foundation develop into the organization it is today. On behalf of the Board and myself, I thanked Pati for her service, devotion, and dedication to the Foundation.

The second person I honored asked me not to publicly thank her. I could never have completed many of the goals I set as president without her by my side. My anonymous honoree is a "by the book" person and made us all better because of that. She stepped forward to serve the Foundation before I became president, serving as both a director and as an officer.

I gave a special personal gift to both of these ladies. My good friend and artist, Michele Brane, painted Terhune's Grey Dawn with his elephant toy on each of these purses. Both of these exceptional honorees will always have a piece of the "Gathering at Sunnybank" and Albert Payson Terhune with them. Both also received thank you certificates.

I also thanked the people who helped bring my goals for the Foundation to fruition, and more importantly, helped bring the Foundation into compliance with New York State law. I have worked alongside some of these dedicated individuals throughout my eight-year tenure. For some others it has been less, but I couldn't have done this job without all of them. Each received a certif-

Cont'd on Page 1

Cont'd from Page 1

icate and a briefcase from me with the CHF logo. I asked that each of these honorees stand as I called their name: Karen Anderson • Ginny White • Dr. Nancy Kelso • Chandra Flaim • Jean Framke • Isabel Ososki

Finally, I gave a personal thank you to other dedicated individuals who made my job and the Foundation's tasks on hand move along more efficiently, please stand:

Patt Caldwell	Roxane Jourdain	Laura LaBounty	Johanna Lance
Pat Jung	Gerrie Oliver	Nancy McDonald	Gayle Kaye
Gayle Stepanik	Tammy Russell Rice	Dr. Bill Brokken	Mary Hunter

These volunteers all received a certificate of appreciation from me after the auction.

As with all organizations, there will always be many more individuals to thank. Time did not allow for this. Know that the work you have done for the betterment of the Collie through your work with or for the foundation has been fruitful. Please know I'm grateful.

President's Trophy Award Winner for 2023 - Susan Hernquist

The CHF President's Award is given annually to a member who has delivered outstanding service to the Collie through a commitment to the Health Foundation. The names on the plaques are a who's who of Foundation contributors and the award can only be won once in a lifetime.

Every year it is the President's privilege to recognize the dedication of one Collie Health Foundation volunteer with the President's Trophy. This is not an easy task as many individuals give so much to the Foundation. This year's trophy winner has gone above and beyond by giving so much extra time to the Foundation on an on-going basis. Because of her dedication to the goals of the Foundation, I feel she is as deserving of this award as those who have received it before her.

In 2003 I remember wondering, "Who is that woman sitting behind the silent auction table helping?" I was always thrilled to see new volunteers. During this time period, our volunteer had owned Collies from Edenrock and Merrytime Collies. She had formerly owned other breeds in the past, but in the late 1990s, our President's award recipient decided the Collie was her one and only breed.

Starting in 2013 our volunteer became a regular at the CHF's CCA National's silent auction tables. I noted what a diligent worker she was, and I kept her in mind for other committee jobs that might come up. You could tell she deeply cared about the Foundation because she worked tirelessly. She did have a relative that worked alongside her, but that had nothing to do with her engagement.

A few years ago, I asked this volunteer to chair the CHF's national dinner and auction committee. She took it on with a smile and went to work as she had done with every task before. This year's recipient is a self-directed person; never needing micromanagement of any task to which she became involved. At our night auction, she helps collect money at the end of the evening and is always one of the last volunteer workers to leave.

My recipient also helps with Promos and the Silent Auction at the Sunnybank Gathering. She is a dedicated and tireless supporter of the Foundation. Originally voted into a vacant Board of Directors position, she then won her position at the following election.

Please congratulate this year's award recipient, Susan Hernquist.



Partnerships

University of Pennsylvania Coloboma Study

The Coloboma study continues and is open to members and non-members. Collie owners can get the genetic eye test needed to enroll a dog into the study at this link, https://www.colliehealth.org/coloboma-study-enrollment/. CHF will reimburse the costs incurred to enter this study, so keep all receipts (all receipts must be sent together for reimbursement).

If you know someone who wishes to utilize CHF sponsored testing, encourage them to become CHF members or renew their membership. This is just one of the important benefits of membership! Join or renew at: https://www.colliehealth.org/product/membership/

Collie Health Foundation Testing Discounts and Subsidies are for Current CHF Members and the Pure-Bred Rough and Smooth Collies that they breed and own.

Direct any questions on health testing to Isabel Ososki, CHF Testing Coordinator at testing@colliehealth.org

OFA CHIC

We encourage members to submit Collie DNA test results to the OFA CHIC databank. Information regarding OFA can be found on the CHF website - www.colliehealth.org/dna-banking/ and the submission form can be found here:

www.colliehealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CHIC-DNA-App-and-Questionaires2020.pdf. If you use the form on the CHF website the submission cost is paid by the CHF.

CHIC Certification

CHF is subsidizing submission costs for CHIC Certification. See information at

https://www.colliehealth.org/ofa-chic/chic-certification/

New CHIC Collies

- Alaric Hugs And Kisses
- Bonayr's Chattanooga Choo Choo
- Bonayr's Doth A Treasure Hold
- Bonayr's Eclipse Of The Heart
- Bonayr's Heart Of Gold
- Bonayr's True To My Heart
- Bonayr's Young At Heart
- Cardross Coming Down
- Ceilidh's Monterey Dreamscape
- Cynclair Enchanted O' Bonayr
- Encore's Incider Thread
- Feoras Forget Me Not
- Halcyon Days Iuvo Talk Birdy To Me
- Karachristo Tiger Lily O' Bonayr
- Kavod's Sounds Like A Song
- Kid Valley Darling Commander
- Magnolia Sir Chesterfield Of Bleu Springs
- Milas Sly Stranger
- Mountainside Mistletoe From Aryggeth
- Mountainside Takin' The Love Train
- Stoneypoint Sunkissed Diva
- Tamiami's Looking For Romeo
- Winterberry's Neverending Story

CHF Research/Testing

NEW University of California - Davis - Veterinary Genetics Laboratory

In June 2024 CHF began offering subsidies for the newly created VGL Collie Health Panel at UC-Davis (see article "Dream In The Making…" earlier in this newsletter). Members have embraced this new offering with code requests for over 100 panels and individual tests in June alone. To receive the needed code for the $100.00 CHF subsidy on the Collie Panel test use the link here: https://www.colliehealth.org/test-your-collie/uc-davis-collie-health-panel/

Tests found on the panel may also be ordered individually with a $25.00 subsidy or a multi-test discount provided by UC-Davis.

For those members who need the DMS genetic test with the full a, b, and c loci to complete the CHIC/OFA Certification please note that VGL offers the DMS as one of those stand-alone tests. Fill out the form here to receive the needed code for any of the individual tests: https://www.colliehealth.org/test-your-collie/uc-davis-individual-tests/

Wisdom Health Optimal Selection Panel

Take advantage of the ability to submit the test results directly to CHIC/OFA for Certification (see below).

Wisdom Health continues to provide CHF members with a 20% discount. Members may request the special code needed for this discount at www.colliehealth.org/request-test-codes-os/

Health Testing Report

2024 Year-to-Date Testing Request Summary

Test Code Requests:	
UC-Davis Collie Health Panel (started in June)	95
UC-Davis Individual Tests (started in June)	5
DMS - 1	
PRA-rcd2 - 4	
Wisdom Health Optimal Selection Panel	32
Total all tests requested for this period:	132



President Robette Johns Granted Lifetime Membership

Article VI, Section 2 describes the honor of lifetime membership.

The Board of Directors may designate Life Members and may grant all privileges of membership in the Foundation for life to any person who, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, has rendered extraordinary services in the furtherance of the Foundation's purposes or has contributed significantly to the success of the Foundation. Life Members shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

At this past year's national CHF annual dinner and auction, members of the board honored Robette Johns with flowers and a certificate for her dedication and service to the Collie Health Foundation. The Board also unanimously voted to further honor Robette with a lifetime membership to the Foundation. During her involvement with the organization spans 29 years, her contributions have been immense. Below are just some of her passionate contributions to bring better health to our beloved Collies.



- Involved with the Foundation in some form since 1995
- Invited to become a corporator in 1999
- 1997-2009 Treasurer
- Membership Chair
- Has worked as a liaison with many of our grant research recipients
- 2002 - She and her husband, Steve, are co-recipients of President's trophy
- 1997-2008/2010–Present Board of Directors
- 1997–2023 Corporator
- 2007 & 2014 – judged Lad of Sunnybank match
- 2014-2016 - Vice President
- 2016–2024 - President
- Instrumental in setting up investment funds to safeguard the Foundation's assets and we are worked to help create our investment strategy
- Assisted endlessly with the National night auctions
- Helped usher in revision of by-laws to bring us compliant with New York state laws
- An attendee to the AKC Health Foundation conference enabling the CHF to expand our engagement with research resources

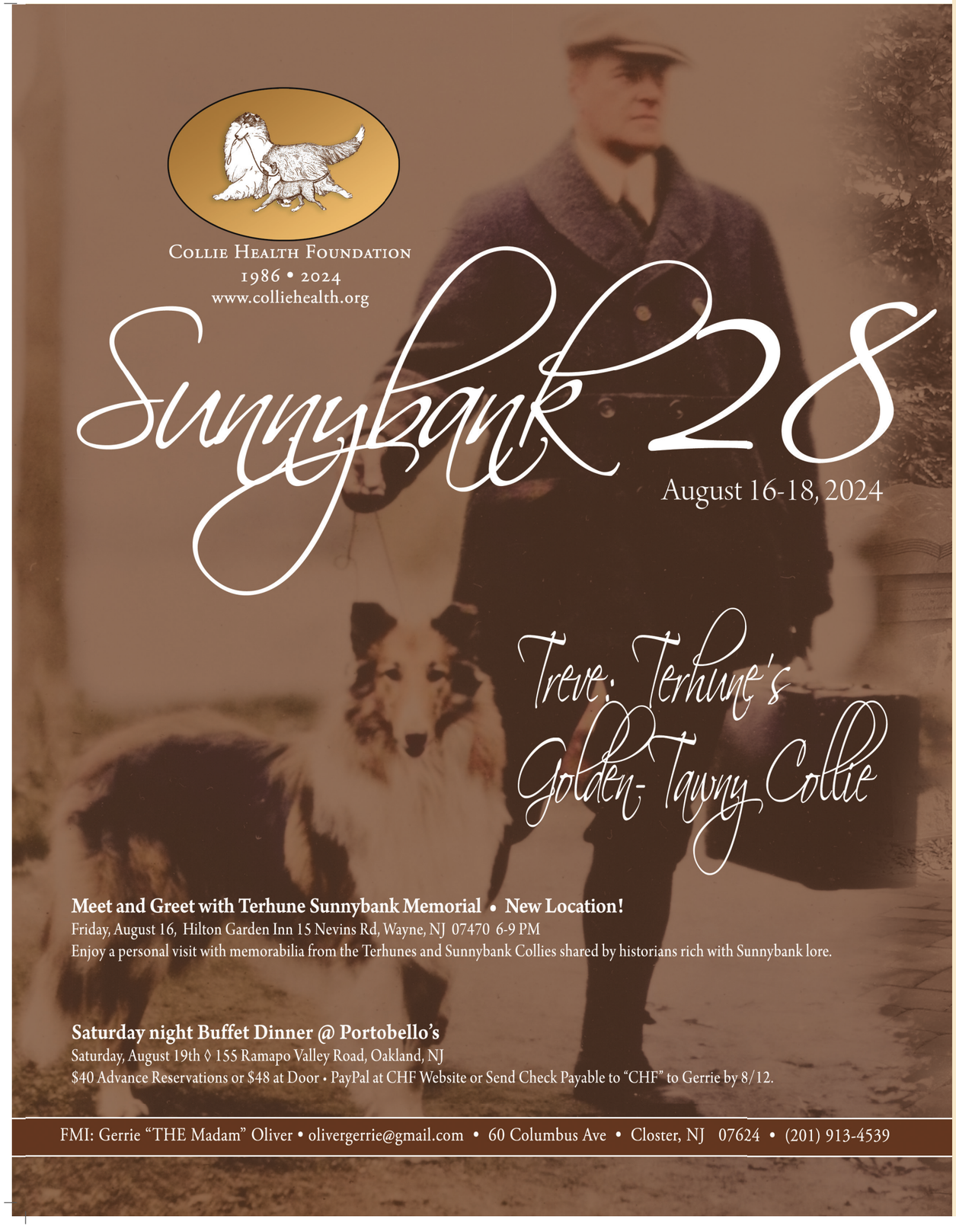
"Contributed significantly to the success of the Foundation," the honor, is well deserved. On behalf of our Collies, thank you, Robette.

CHF RECEIVES GENEROUS BEQUEST FROM SHERRY DAVIS TRUST

The board and membership of the Collie Health Foundaiton would like to thank the Sherry Davis Trust and trustees Linda Boyle and Patricia Stockman for the very generous bequest granted to the Collie Health Foundation. Sherry was a very talented trainer and a life-long lover of dogs.



President Johns had a wonderful conversation with Linda Boyles as to how the Collie Health Foundation came to receive the funds. The local vet that the performance people use and our trustees use, told Linda about all the wonderful things CHF does and the trustees should look into the Collie Health Foundation as a place for the balance of the funds. Linda and President Johns had a great conversation going over current projects and future work the Foundation would be doing. CHF cannot thank the trustees enough for their trust in our organization.



The Collie Health Foundation Welcomes the Following New Members

Carolyn Bassingthwaighte
St. Johns, FL

Donald Buckley
Schenectady, NY

Elizabeth Hogenson
Wildall, MT

Kevin Kilgore
Goochland, VA

Lindsey Newton
Knoxville, TN

Jeffrey Roecker
Troutdale, OR

Annika Berentsen
Tallahassee, FL

John David Clarke & Marie H. Klimek
British Columbia, Canada

Susan Houser
St. Louis, MO

Brenda Knight
Hermiston, OR

Anna Rehder
Troy, NY

Heidi Scott
Thomasville, NC

Cheryl Brooks
Williamsburg, MA

Janna Herchenroder
Glenville, NY

Jackilyn Keiter
Etna, WY

Elana Lashmet
Villa Park, IL

Cindy Robinson
Wilton, CA

The Collie Health Foundation Welcomes the Following Returning Members

Stephanie Barber
Monongahela, PA

Babbi Dilbeck, DVM
Caryville, TN

Judy Gilland
Watertown, CO

Michelle Inman
Spanaway, WA

Tamara Kuntz
Bend, OR

Ellen A. McCombs
Creston, CA

Mary Lee Oliphant
Bush, LA

JoAnne Pringle
Ontario, Canada

Linda Vena
Boston, MA

Hannah Cain
Moreno Valley, CA

Jeanie Driscoll
Versailles, MO

Brenna & Tyler Godlevsky
Colorado Springs, CO

Susan Kaelin
Taylorsville, KY

Erica Lipari DVM
Escondido, CA

Midwest Collie Club
Allendale, MI

Wanda Pride
Red Oak, TX

Susan Rioux
Hampton NB, Canada

Gail Diedrichsen
Naperville, IL

Katherine Evangelo
Washougal, WA

Amy Hauser
Coupeville, WA

Janice McGivney Keiser
Port St. Lucie, FL

Keegan Matuszek
Raleigh, NC

Sherry O'Brien-Stevens
Biblehill, NS

Robert J. Primiano
Somerset, NJ

Dr. Peter & Lisa Schmidt
Harrisburg, NC

Donations and Memorials (March thru June, 2024, CONT

Maureen Watts	In Memory of Duncan - GCH CH Sylvan Argent Creston's The Highlander BN RE PT FDC NAP NJP BCAT SWD SWME SHDME THDX OSD CGCA CGCU TKA ATT CCA Versatility Excellent CCA 2018 Shining Star Co-Ambassador 2015 NOHS Owner Handler Best of Breed
Maureen Watts	In Honor of MaryAnn & Fred Campbell
Joan M. Young	In Memory of Pearl Friedman
Diane Zimmerman	In Memory of::"Trixie" – Shalimar's Double "L" And Away We Go

Donations and Memorials (March through June, 2024)

Diane Brennan	In Memory of: CH MACH PACH Entais Exhilaration TD HSAs MXS MJG MXPB MJP2 T2B XF "Thrill" Owned by Sue Larson
Donald Buckley	General Donation
Mary Ann Campbell	In Memory of Duncan - GCH CH UKC-CH SNITCH Sylvan Argent Creston's The Highlander BN RE PT FDC NAP NJP BCAT SWD SWME SHDME THDX OSD CGCA CGCU TKA ATT CSS-LCHET CCSS-LEX CSWE CCSS-L5 ATD OSD 2018 Collie Club of America Shining Star Co-Ambassador CCA Versatility Excellent 2015 National Owner Handler Series Best of Breed
Erin Matthews	General Fund
CC of Kentucky, Inc.	In Memory of Butch Hightower
Sherry Cox	General Fund
Pat Crist	In Memory of Peter Campbell
Deb Gates	General Fund
Bibi & Richard Hand	General Fund
Diana Hiiesalu	In Honor of Ch. Entais Chardonnay TD ~ "Sage"
Susan Hopkins	In Memory of Clover Porcelain Doll
Susan Hopkins	in Honor of Kathye Walker.
Mary Hunter	In Memory of Peter Campbell, beloved son of CHF Board member Susan Hernquist an nephew of CHF Treasurer Karen Anderson
Patricia Jung	In Memory of Susan Hernquist's son Peter Campbell
Linda Kalet	In Memory of Grayson McCloud
Gayle & Don Kaye	In memory of Ch Chelsea Twilight Time, VCD1 CD TDX AX AXJ MXPB MJP T2BP CGC TKN
Penelope Larson	In Memory of: "Thrill" CH MACH PACH Entais Exhilaration TD HSAs MXS MJG MXP13 MJP2 T2B XF
Susan Larson	In Memory of CH MACH PACH Entais Exhilaration, TD HSAs MXS MJG MXPB MJP2 T2B XF
Becky LaSpina	In Memory of::Barbara Ann Burns aka Bobbie. Member of California Collie Fanciers, Inc. and Sumerset Collies with Carol Erends
Nancy Litzenberger	In Memory of Can GCH Glendamars Calm Befor Th Storm – "Ribbon" & Can GCH Clasique Live Every Moment – "Bo"
Kate Long & Kathy Conroy	In Memory of Finnegan Hopkins. In Honor of Susan Hopkins
Colette Lozins	"Sam" My Dear Senior Collie Rescue "Klaus" My Dear Cat Collie Wannabe of 17 years
Heidi Marcinko	In Memory of Peter Campbell
Kathryn & Gretchen Morrison	In Memory of "Jewel" GCHB Miholiday Crown Jewel of Party Paws CGCU,TKA, HIC In Memory of "Peachy" Miholiday's Peachy Keen Summer Beach Party Queen RN, CGC, TKN
Chuck & Susan Ostrander	In Memory of Peter Campbell
Caryl & Eric Pomales	In loving memory of our smooth collie boy Bleu
Dianne Quarg	In Memory of Tru
Jim & Jay Reynolds	In Memory of Peter Campbell
Coleen Rhuberg	In Memory of Laura Sherr
South Jersey Collie Club	Donation
Kelly Spires	In Memory of Peter R. Campbell
Linda Tefelski	In Memory of Ch MACH PACH Entais Exhilaration, TD HSAs MXS MJG MXPB MJP2 T2B XF
Cathy Telarico	In Memory of Jerry Davis
Amy Valimont	In Memory of Peter Campbell
Joyce Valimont	In Memory of Peter Campbell
Gail Walker	Donation

cont'd on next page

Saturday Events

SUNNYBANK WALKING TOUR

SUNNYBANK TALKS BY TERHUNE SUNNYBANK MEMORIAL
Kathryn George • Kristina Marshall • Judy Leathers
• More TBA!

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST
$20 CGC Dogs must be 6 months
Joni Primas, Evaluator

BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL THERAPY DOG CERTIFICATION $30
Therapy dogs must be 1 year
CGC 6 months
Pre-Registration Only $30
Kira Wright, Jeffrey Ball, Evaluators
Entries Limited • Pre-registration only
Contact Sue Chandler (973) 723-1997

Sunday Events

TEN! Count 'Em TEN! Matches
Carrie Lenhart, Host
JUDGES ...
Marcy Fine • Overland
Mary Lee Shingle • Pleasant Acre
Dr. Jerry Sulewski • Jereco
Mara Flood • SugarNSpice

Eight Virtues • Junior Showmanship • Lad Memorial Match



Collie Memorial

New day and time • Saturday 2 PM
Order memorial cards on the CHF Shop
For more information, contact Susan DeLorenzo
201-906-1912 or susiezo@aol.com

Auctions/Swag/Great weekend of fun and education! All proceeds benefit Collie Health research and education!

WAYNE MUSEUM OPEN
Friday, August 16, and Saturday, August 17 10 AM - 5 PM, Sunday August 18 9 AM-4PM
Extra display of Terhune memorabilia for your enjoyment!

HOTELS

RESIDENCE INN by Marriott, 30 Nevins Road, Wayne NJ 07470 • (973) 872-7100

HILTON GARDEN INN, 15 Nevins Road, Wayne NJ 07470 Call 973-878-1007

Updates on our website www.colliehealth.org • find us on facebook!

CHF Board Elects Five New Members

My name is John Strassner, and I am excited to be a part of the CHF Board of Directors. I was a Director for the CCA for the last two years. I have a Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence and am a tenured professor in AI and Computer Science. I am one of three AKC Field Representatives for AKC Scent Work, and am an AKC Scent Work Expert Judge. I lobbied for and convinced the CCA BoD to hold their inaugural Scent Work trial at the Nationals in 2024 in Peoria. Hopefully this will continue in the 2025 Nationals in Syracuse! My wife and I have bred Shelties (all of whom were tested) and we hope to start our Collie breeding (having three wonderful mentors) with our new addition to the family (Juell's Lady Amber of Camelot), pictured to the right when I took her home. I am a past President of the Santa Clara Dog Training Club, a past Vice President of the Monterey Bay Area Scent Work Club, and the Scent Work Chair of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern California.



Dr. John Strassner

When not judging or trialing in dog sports, I am the Chief Technical Officer of a large R&D company. My passion is generative AI with a computational linguistics emphasis, and I believe that I can use these skills to generate new research on better understanding Collie genomics and health.



Kathy Conroy

Kathy Conroy is a partner with Kate Long and Maureen Watts in Tamiami Collies (Miami, FL). The mission of Tamiami Collies is to breed healthy and well socialized puppies and I am passionate about preserving the collie breed as well as sustaining and improving the health of the breed. Tamiami dogs are bred for health, character, ability, structure, temperament and personality. Health testing and genetics are central to the mission of the kennel and my role in the kennel is to ensure that these protocols are executed. Prior to any breeding at the kennel, the dog and bitch are fully health tested---hips, elbows, and eyes, and have gone through Optimal Selection. Prior to being sold, all puppies are eye certified by a board-certified ophthalmologist and obtain certificates of health from veterinarians. The new owners are also provided all of the health testing of the parents.

Given that a high percentage of collies are mutant /mutant relative to MDR-1 and are thus affected by a resistance to certain drugs, another major focus of my work within Tamiami Collies is on our latest breeding program that will produce a line of collies who are normal/normal relative to the MDR-1 gene. Both myself and my kennel partners are excited to be at the forefront of this effort in the Collie world.



Cont'd from Page 10

opment of life-threatening pyometra. In addition to this experiment, we will also investigate the potential efficacy of a novel therapeutic derived from stem cells in our stimulated canine endometrial organoid model to see if we can reduce or even prevent canine endometrial inflammation. Our goal is to improve the fertility of older bitches that are affected by age-related degenerative changes to their uterus that predispose them to developing endometritis and pyometra.

Collie Memorial Celebration of Sunnybank

Provide name for memorial celebration. Include any additional information you would like. Keep to 8-10 words only please.

Your name, address, phone, email.

Send $5.00 per card by August 10, 2024, check payable to CHF.
Mail to: Suzy DeLorenzo, 22 W Park Ave, Park Ridge, NJ 07656
FMI: 201-906-1912 or suziezo@aol.com.
Or https://www.colliehealth.org.shop/all0thyings-sunnybank/2024-collie-memorial-at-sunnybank-memorial-cards/

If you wish to have your card(s) mailed after the Memorial, enclose a No. 10 SASE for every 2 cards ordered, or a SAS priority mailer if you are ordering a large quantity.



Name(s) for Memorial/Celebration (include titles, date of birth, etc.). 8-10 words per card please.

Address:

Email & Phone Number:

Please submit all memorial cards by August 10, 2024

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Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:

Three-dimensional (3D) organoid cell cultures present new opportunities to improve understanding of common reproductive pathologies in the bitch in a laboratory setting rather than using live animals for research. This is an improvement on using research dogs by: i) addressing important welfare and ethical concerns, ii) allowing more controlled study of cellular responses under hormonal influence and infectious agents, and iii) permitting high-throughput evaluation of treatments performed in tandem.

This 3D reproductive organoid cell culture technology has not been attempted in canines prior to these studies. Thus far, we have demonstrated that organoids can be generated from canine endometrial tissue, which is the inner layer of the uterus where infection can cause endometritis or life-threatening pus to be produced. This condition is called pyometra. The tissues in these experiments were collected from discarded reproductive tracts after a neutering surgery was performed at a local spay/neuter clinic. The organoids were grown for a total of 26 days in culture. This long culture time is not possible using other cell culture models while maintaining normal function and structure. For the final 6 days inculture, organoids were exposed to hormonal treatments (i.e., estrogen and progesterone) to mimic what occurs during the reproductive cycle in the bitch. We found that the canine endometrial organoids are structurally similar to endometrial organoids that have been developed in humans and horses. However, uniquely, canine endometrial organoids demonstrated color, morphology, and gene changes in response to each hormone treatment. Remarkably, these changes mirror the normal physiological processes that occur during the reproductive cycle in bitches. A manuscript is currently being prepared for publication in the Biology of Reproduction Journal. Afterwards, an additional experiment will be performed that will involve inflammatory stimulation of both healthy and diseased endometrial organoids to mimic endometritis in the bitch, which causes infertility and can lead to the devel-

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Hi! My name is Cheryl Sulewski, a new director in the Collie Health Foundation. I purchased my first collie in 2001 and dabbled in obedience. I joined the Northern Wisconsin Collie Club in 2002 and got hooked on conformation. I am very active in the NWCC, holding many offices. Currently I am the treasurer and raffle chairperson and trophy chairperson. I joined the CCA in 2002 and have been active at the nationals being the reserved seating chair for 3 nationals. I was also on the audit committee. I breed collies under the Jereco Kennel name. I look forward to the new opportunities the CHF offers.



Cheryl Sulewski



Johanna Lance

My name is Johanna Lance of Skye Blue Collies in Northeast Ohio. While I have been Membership Chair for the last two and a half years, I am new to the Board of Directors. I retired from a huge Child Welfare Agency, where I was the Data Manager. I have been breeding and showing Collies for over 30 years. I am a member of Collie Club of America, Cleveland Collie Club, Columbus Collie Club and Northeast Ohio Collie Rescue. I am a huge advocate of testing and research for our Collies, especially since I have become involved in the research for DMS.

One of my passions is Sunnybank. I love everything about being at the Place and look forward to the Gathering every year. So, if you are attending this year's Gathering at Sunnybank, please find me and stop to say Hi.

Hi, I am Yvonne Evans, a new Director and Chair of the Corporator Committee and Sunnybank Silent Auction. As many of you know, collies have been a part of my life for the last 27 years as companions, and breed and performance teammates. I purchased my first collie in 1997 and joined the Collie Club of Georgia that year. I've been a member of CCA since 1998 and the CHF since 2000. Over the years, I have served and volunteered in many capacities. To name a few: CHF Corporator from 2014-2022 , CCA District Director for GA – 2010-2017, CCA Working Collie Committee and Herding Subcommittee member 2012 -2017, Collie Club of Georgia – currently Secretary, but have held all officer positions multiple times since joining in 1997, and Chairperson for the Eastern Regional Herding Trial in 2013 and 2016.



Yvonne Evans

Since joining CHF in 2000, I began testing my collies as tests became available and will continue to educate others about joining CHF and the benefits of testing theirs. I have also participated in the CHIC DNA banking project with my collies. It's so important for future research. I hope to be able to encourage other collie owners and breeders to test their collies and participate in research studies for the betterment of our collie breed.

CHF Funded Grants Update

Grant 02921-MOU: Transcriptome Profiling of Canine Familial Dermatomyositis Skin Lesions and Treatment with a JAK Inhibitor to Identify Novel Pathways Involved in Pathogenesis

Principal Investigator: Frane Banovic, DVM, PhD Research Institution: University of Georgia

Grant Amount: $50,554.25 (note: the CHF sponsored $48,245 of this study)

Start Date: 4/1/2021 End Date: 9/30/2023 Progress Report Status: FINAL
Report Due: 9/30/2023 Report Received: 1/23/2024

Original Project Description: Dermatomyositis (DMS) is a chronic inflammatory and autoimmune disorder affecting primarily skin and muscle in both humans and dogs. Familial canine DMS is mainly described in predisposed breeds, such as Collies and Shetland Sheepdogs, and is characterized by severe inflammatory lesions leading to skin scarring with disfiguration, increased morbidity and decreased quality of life. Full clinical remission of DMS skin lesions can be difficult to achieve, reflecting a poor understanding of the pathogenesis of skin lesions in this disease. The transcriptome (gene expression analysis) investigation of human DMS tissues has revolutionized the understanding of the molecular fingerprint of DMS, further defining pathogenic immune pathways and identifying disease-specific biomarkers. Recently, a novel mechanism-based treatment using Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors has led to a significant clinical and molecular improvement in refractory cutaneous DMS in humans. Oclacitinib is a safe and well tolerated JAK inhibitor that has been used for the treatment of allergic dermatitis in dogs; however, the therapeutic effect of oclacitinib on canine immune-mediated diseases, such as DMS, has not been investigated. The main objective of this study is to perform a large-scale molecular signature analysis of canine familial DMS. Investigators hypothesize that integrating deep sequencing-based transcriptome profiling with systems biology analysis will identify novel pathogenic pathways and inflammatory biomarkers as canine DMS disease drivers, with potential for the development of novel targeted therapeutics. Furthermore, they will evaluate the effect of oclacitinib, a novel veterinary JAK inhibitor, on the modulation of the cutaneous DMS clinical signs in dogs. These results may suggest that JAK inhibition has the potential to reverse canine DMS pathomechanisms, opening the door to a new era of targeted treatment for this debilitating inflammatory skin disease.

Funding for the research is provided through the collaborative efforts and generosity of the Collie Health Foundation and American Shetland Sheepdog Association. The AKC Canine Health Foundation supports the funding of this effort and will oversee grant administration and scientific progress.

Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:

Cutaneous dermatomyositis (DMS) is a chronic immune-mediated disease that exhibits severe inflammatory lesions leading to skin scarring with disfiguration. The inflammatory skin process in human DMS is characterized by an upregulated interferon signature and activation of Janus kinase (JAK) pathway; the JAK inhibitors represent a novel treatment modality for human cutaneous DMS.

Presently, little is known about the pathogenesis of canine familial DMS-associated skin lesions in Collies and Shetland sheepdogs and the current treatment is rarely successful.

To better understand the pathophysiology of canine familial DMS, we conducted the first transcriptomic study of DMS in 19 dogs with deeply sequenced RNA-sequencing samples using paired end reads. Similar to recent human DMS molecular findings, canine familial DMS skin lesions exhibit heterogeneous complex activation of proinflammatory markers as well as involvement of multipolar T cell axis of Th1 with some Th17 and Th2 contribution. Activation of the type I interferon signaling pathway is a predominant feature in lesional skin of canine familial DMS and is implicated in endothelial injury and vasculopathy in human DMS. All interferons signal through the JAK-STAT pathway and the pathway analysis of molecular change skin lesions of DMS dogs revealed the JAK-STAT as a top upregulated pathway. These findings provide novel insights into the pathogenesis of canine familial DMS and highlight previously understudied pathways in this disease.

In veterinary dermatology, oral oclacitinib (Apoquel, Zoetis, USA), a JAK-STAT inhibitor, has successfully reduced clinical and pruritus scores in dogs affected with atopic dermatitis with an excellent safety profile. Based on the hypothesis that JAK-STAT is one of the key drivers of canine familial DMS skin lesions, we evaluated whether blocking the JAK-STAT pathway with oral oclacitinib reverses the cutaneous DMS lesions. Our findings are consistent with the clinical efficacy of JAK-STAT inhibitors in human DMS. All dogs in the study demonstrated some response to oclacitinib therapy. Additional studies would need to be conducted to evaluate the long-term use of twice-daily oclacitinib in dogs with familial canine DMS.

Grant 02998: Whole-Exome and Transcriptome Sequencing of Canine Small Cell B Cell Lymphoma and Comparative Analysis to Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma

Principal Investigator: Anne Avery, DVM, PhD Research Institution: Colorado State University
Grant Amount: $62,786.88 (CHF participation $3,000)

Start Date: 3/1/2022 End Date: 2/28/2025 Progress Report Status: End-Year 2

Report Due: 4/30/2024 Report Received: 4/11/2024

Original Project Description: Lymphoma is a common canine tumor. Diffuse large B cell lymphoma is the most common type of B cell lymphoma in dogs, but there are less common B cell lymphoma types that have aggressive behavior and little is known about the mechanisms driving these tumors. The goal of this study is to genetically characterize these less common forms and compare these findings to diffuse large B cell lymphoma. This will inform whether targeted therapies for diffuse large B cell lymphoma, including ones developed for human patients, are useful for other B cell lymphoma types. Investigators will also study patient outcome in these cases to identify prognostic factors and work to develop tests that more accurately diagnose clinically important subtypes of B cell lymphoma. This work will improve our understanding of canine B cell lymphoma to advance diagnosis and prognosis and develop better therapies to improve outcomes.

Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:

The most common form of lymphoma in dogs and people is called diffuse large B cell lymphoma. There is a great deal of literature on how best to treat dogs with this disease, and most dogs will respond well to chemotherapy, going into complete remission, and live for about a year with a good quality of life.

There are several less common forms of B cell lymphomas, and studies from our laboratory have shown that these dogs have a poorer prognosis. Anecdotal reports from veterinary oncologists indicate that often these dogs do not respond to the common forms of chemotherapy and do not go into remission. The goal of this study is to identify cancer causing genes and pathways in these less common types of B cell lymphoma, to try and understand if different types of therapy may be useful.

The data collected may also help us to indirectly identify potential causes of these diseases. At the time of this progress report, we have identified 70 cases where owners have agreed to enroll in the study and be contacted for information on their dog's response to therapy. Since we have met our enrollment target of 50 dogs, we are currently preparing to sequence these samples. The next year will involve analysis of the sequencing data, and comparison of the sequencing data with the most common form of B cell lymphoma, as well as human B cell lymphomas.

The Principal Investigator requested and was awarded a no-cost extension with a new project end date of February 28, 2025.

Grant 03055: Evaluating Reproductive Diseases in vitro with a 3D Canine Endometrial Organoid Model

Principal Investigator: Fiona Hollinshead, BVSc, PhD Research Institution: Colorado State University
Grant Amount: $51,349.68 (CHF participation $3,000)

Start Date: 10/1/2022 End Date: 9/30/2024 Progress Report Status: Mid-Year 2

Report Due: 3/31/2024 Report Received: 5/9/2024

Original Project Description: Pyometra is a life-threatening disease that affects over 66% of intact older bitches. Bitches are pre-disposed to this disease due to a number of unique features of their reproductive cycle. Endometritis is an underdiagnosed condition in bitches that results in reduced fertility and can lead to the development of pyometra. These diseases have mostly been studied in live dogs resulting in welfare concerns and limitations in our understanding of the disease onset and progression and importantly, prevention of these conditions. Organoids are miniature organs in a culture dish that can be grown long-term while maintaining the characteristics and function of the original organ. This unique three-dimensional (3D) structure facilitates the study of disease processes such as endometritis and pyometra in canines, potential treatments, and assessment of preventative therapeutics such as novel vaccines. Optimization of canine uterine organoids has the potential to: a) improve the health and welfare of intact middle-aged and older female dogs; b) enhance fertility, genetic gain and health in working dog programs; and c) allow the study of female reproductive diseases without the use of research dogs.