



THE SCOTTIE GUARDIAN

Quarterly Newsletter of the STCA's Health Trust Fund

Meet Your Trustees!

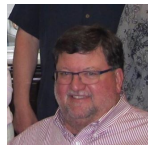


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Welcome to the fourth edition of the STCA's HTF Newsletter!

This edition of the Newsletter brings a variety of topics for your reading pleasure.



•Great news! Read about the brand new STCA-HTF DNA Bank in the included announcement, and stay tuned for more details regarding this opportunity in the near future.

•Have you ever wondered the best age to spay or neuter your Scottie? Read the "Glad You Asked" article for some interesting data and suggestions on this topic.

•The Trustees are excited to welcome our newest member to the HTF, Michele Geiger-Bronsky from Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin. Many of us are familiar with Michele and the hugely successful Door County Rally hosted by both Michele and her husband Tom each spring. Michele brings a wealth of experience, a medical background, a world of Scottie knowledge, and amazing fund-raising skills to our table. We are fortunate to have her with us! Read her bio in this issue of the *Guardian*.

•Enjoy the special additions from our editor Ragin and her assistant, Trustee Fran Sanden!

2020 is finally winding down, and 2021 is on the horizon. Let's hope for smooth sailing for the world in the coming year! But whatever comes, be well and take good care of yourself, your families and your amazing Scotties.

Marcia Dawson, Chair
hijinkscot@gmail.com

Be sure to visit the STCA webpage at www.stca.biz for more details on Health and the Health Trust Fund pages, including links to the ScottiePhile Health library and HTF donation pages.

Meet our Newest Trustee!

Wisconsin native, Michele Geiger-Bronsky joins the HTF for a 3-year term as our newest trustee. Since her first Scottish Terrier was diagnosed with transitional cell cancer in 2000, she has been an advocate for supporting health research and education. Since 2001 she has organized an annual gathering of nearly 200 Scottish Terrier aficionados from across North America. This event, known as the Door County (DC, WI) Scottie Rally has resulted in fundraising and donations of \$300,000 in its short twenty year history. The Rally's official designation as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization was obtained in 2005. What started out as a three-hour social gathering has expanded to a day and a half of activities including health screenings, education and annual abdominal screening ultrasounds. She was the driving force behind Rally attendees providing annual canine blood samples to the NIH in pursuit of TCC gene identification by Dr. Elaine Ostrander.

Following her involvement on an STCA outreach task force charged to focus on the "where all the Scottish Terriers have gone," she was instrumental in recruiting a large contingency of companion owners' survey completion. Long committed to "never" breeding a litter, she found herself wanting to step into the arena of breeding. Thus far DC Scots has produced a successful litter with seven registered puppies, two of whom just began their pre-Covid show experience which she hopes to resume soon, and she reports, there are plans for a future litter.

Michele is an active member of the Scottish Terrier Club of Chicago. To her surprise Geiger-Bronsky and the Door County Scottie Rally received The Antonella Visconti di Modrone Health Advocate Award at the Annual STCA meeting in 2018.

After spending forty-five years in health care, the past twenty-three as a Nurse Practitioner, Geiger-Bronsky has shifted her focus and time to her family of four Scottish Terriers and her spouse, Tom. In 2017 they developed the Door County Scotland Yard B & B which unsurprisingly is canine friendly!



ANNOUNCEMENT!!

The STCA Leads the Way in Genetic Preservation!

The STCA/HTF DNA Bank for Scottish Terrier genetic preservation is now a reality. Thanks to the hard work of the HTF Trustees and the approval of the STCA Board members, we now have a clear path to preserving the genetic heritage of our breed for the future!

Make no mistake: there are very few, if any, national breed clubs that have accomplished this feat or even considered it. The STCA is leading the way and is breaking new ground. This project has taken time, a lot of careful research, negotiation and more negotiation, major planning and attention to every detail. And at last, we are excited to announce to all Scottie owners and breeders that we are now rolling out a program that satisfies all of our requirements:

- The Bank will be a repository of DNA available for research and testing, as these opportunities arise and with owners' consent;
- DNA from Scotties will be processed and securely stored, long term;
- Owners will retain ownership of their dogs' DNA;
- At any time, owners can submit samples on their dog and have samples sent out for testing;
- The HTF will manage the DNA bank account and will cover the fees for DNA extraction and yearly storage, if this option is selected by the owner.
- The HTF will provide special collection tubes for blood samples;
- All health, pedigree, phenotypic, and genetic data will be confidentially secured in a separate Database (in development this time).

In the weeks to come, the HTF will be providing all the details and instructions needed for "making a deposit" in the new DNA Bank at Resero Genomics in Salt Lake City, Utah. The HTF is now considering ways to encourage participation by all Scottie owners and breeders and will provide information about the bank in print and electronic media, distribute collection kits and all necessary paperwork at the National Specialties and other large Scottie gatherings, and will support regional blood draw clinics.

Let's work together and make 2021 the year of Scottie DNA Preservation!

Marcia Dawson, Chairman
STCA HTF
hijinkscot@gmail.com





BULLETIN BOARD



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theriogenology foundation
The Future of Animal Reproduction



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Join us November 7, 2020 as we host our virtual Canine Breeder Excellence Seminar Track!

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Marty Greer, DVM - Owner of Veterinary Village, providing breeding, pediatric and reproductive services “Making C-sections maximize your breeding program”
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Erin Runcan, DVM, DACT - Associate Professor in Clinical Theriogenology and Reproductive Medicine at The Ohio State University CVM “Pearls and pitfalls of progesterone testing”
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Alyssa Helms, DVM- 2018 AKC-AKC CHF-TF Resident at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine “Canine Brucellosis: a review of what every breeder needs to know about this disease”
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Joann Randall, DVM, DACT - Practitioner at the Animal Hospital of Woodstock, specializing in all aspects of canine reproduction “How studly is your stud?”

Registration is \$59. Register here: <https://www.theriofoundation.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1426699&group=>

All times are listed in Central Standard Time. All proceeds will benefit the AKC-AKC CHF-TF Residency Program.

The Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program is a collaboration between the American Kennel Club, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and the Theriogenology Foundation to increase the number of trained practitioners in companion animal theriogenology and clinical genetics.

Theriogenology is the branch of veterinary medicine concerned with reproduction, including the physiology and pathology of male and female reproductive systems, and the clinical practice of veterinary obstetrics, gynecology, and andrology. The two-to-three-year residency program provides specialty training in all aspects of companion animal reproductive medicine and surgery, clinical genetics, as well as clinical practice related to male and female reproduction, obstetrics and neonatology. Each residency provides \$100,000 in support. Through 2020, twelve residencies have been awarded with the 13th and 14th residents to be selected in 2021.

Visit: www.akc.org; www.akcchf.org/research/therio-residency/; and www.theriofoundation.org for additional information regarding these organizations.



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AKC Canine Health Foundation Announces 2020 Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Recipients 06/15/2020

MEDIA CONTACT:

Sharon M. Albright, DVM, CCRT
 Manager of Communications & Veterinary Outreach
 AKC Canine Health Foundation
 Phone: 919-334-4019
 E-mail: sharon.albright@akcchf.org

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

RALEIGH, NC (June 15, 2020) – The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the health of all dogs, announces two theriogenology residencies awarded in 2020.

CHF has partnered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) and Theriogenology Foundation (TF) to increase the number of veterinary practitioners trained in reproductive medicine (known as theriogenology) and clinical genetics. Since CHF joined the program in 2016, the AKC/AKCCHF/TF Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program has provided funding to train seven specialists at five different US veterinary colleges. This year, new residencies have been awarded to the following veterinary professionals:

- Kelsey Martin, DVM (CHF Grant 02668-E)
 Residency Coordinator: Fiona Hollinshead, BVSc, PhD, DACT
 Colorado State University
 Grant Period: 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2023



- Dr. Martin completed her veterinary degree at Colorado State University after receiving her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. She grew up surrounded by herding dogs on a Colorado cattle ranch and helped raise and train service dogs in high school. She hopes to work on species conservation, translational medicine, and working dog health and reproduction.
- Joanna Koilpillai, BVSc & AH (CHF Grant 02666-E)
 Residency Coordinator: Marco A. Coutinho da Silva, DVM, PhD
 Ohio State University
 Grant Period: 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2023



- Dr. Koilpillai earned her veterinary degree from Madras Veterinary College in Chennai, India. She completed a small animal internship at a private hospital in Florida before starting her residency at Ohio State University. She has experience working with small animals, cattle, and horses in India and the US. Her interests are small animal medicine and mixed animal reproductive medicine.

“CHF supports advanced education for canine reproductive specialists to ensure that clinicians and researchers are available to address the health needs of current and future generations of breeding stock and all dogs,” states Dr. Charles Garvin, Chairman of the CHF Board of Directors. “This collaboration with the American Kennel Club and Theriogenology Foundation allows our mission of advancing canine health to continue for years to come.”

Funding for the AKC/AKCCHF/TF Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program has been extended through 2023. Learn more about the program and its participants at www.akcCHF.org/therio.

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About CHF

Since 1995, the AKC Canine Health Foundation has leveraged the power of science to address the health needs of all dogs. With more than \$56 million in funding to date, the Foundation provides grants for the highest quality canine health research and shares information on the discoveries that help prevent, treat and cure canine diseases. The Foundation meets and exceeds industry standards for fiscal responsibility, as demonstrated by their highest four-star Charity Navigator rating and GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency. Learn more at www.akcCHF.org.

Related Articles

- [Universities Selected for 2021 Theriogenology Residency Programs \(08/06/2020\)](#)
- [Small Animal Reproductive Medicine Thrives Thanks to Collaboration Between the American Kennel Club, AKC Canine Health Foundation, Theriogenology Foundation and Auburn University \(05/01/2020\)](#)





What is Theriogenology?

Theriogenology encompasses all aspects of veterinary reproductive medicine and surgery. This includes the basic sciences of anatomy, physiology, pathology and pharmacology, as well as all aspects of clinical practice related to male and female animal reproduction, obstetrics, and neonatology. The term Theriogenology is derived from the ancient Greek words "*Therio*" meaning beast or animal, "*gen*" as in genesis meaning creation, generation, and "*ology*" meaning study of. Theriogenology gathers mammals, both male and female, and reproduction, both physiology and pathology.

The precursor of the Society for Theriogenology (SFT) was founded in 1954 as the Rocky Mount Society for the Study of Breeding Soundness of Bulls. Veterinarians with an interest in animal reproduction worldwide may become members. The Society for Theriogenology is an organization of veterinarians dedicated to animal reproduction, whose mission is to promote standards of excellence in reproductive medicine, to provide outreach and education to veterinarians, and to foster continual improvements in Theriogenology.







GLAD YOU ASKED!!

This column will appear in each issue of the Newsletter. You ask the question and we'll attempt to answer it.

Q: *What is the best age to neuter my Scottie?*

A: Good question! There is not a simple answer, but researchers are investigating this issue.

Common practice not so long ago was to spay or neuter puppies at 6 months of age and sometimes earlier. This was recommended by veterinarians as the best way to reduce the risk of mammary, uterine or testicular cancer, to prevent pyometritis in the females and undesirable sexual behavior in the males, and to avoid the creation of unplanned, unwanted puppies. We all dutifully followed this advice for years, until recently.

In the last 15 years, researchers have begun looking at the high incidence of certain diseases and conditions in some of the most popular breeds, including the Golden Retriever, the German Shepherd Dog and Labrador Retriever, and they have studied the impact of early spay/neuter on the risk for these disorders. An increasing body of evidence now shows that early removal of gonadal hormones can have long-term health effects in some breeds, including an increased risk of certain orthopedic disorders (hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, IV-disc disease, and cranial cruciate ligament rupture), accelerated cognitive dysfunction, and certain cancers including lymphoma, mast cell tumor, hemangiosarcoma, and osteosarcoma.

However, what is interesting to note is that the risk appears to vary depending on the breed of dog, the gender of the dog, the age of the dog at the time of surgery, and the body weight. Clearly, one size does not fit all.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation recently funded a study at the University of California Davis Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Utilizing the huge hospital medical record database, researchers followed hundreds of patients representing 35 breeds, looking at age of neuter surgery and comparing the incidence of specific diseases and disorders between neutered and intact dogs. The goal was to assess risk for each of the breeds and to develop suggested guidelines for the age of spay/neuter surgery.

A summary of some of the findings follows:

- *There are breed differences and sometimes gender differences within a breed with respect to risk for certain orthopedic disorders and cancers when spay/neuter surgery is done at various ages.
- *With respect to orthopedic diseases, the risk for most of the small breeds in the study is unaffected by age at the time of neutering.
- *Many (but not all) of the larger breeds in the study are more vulnerable to orthopedic disorders when spayed or neutered before 12 months of age.
- *With respect to certain cancers, the risk for most small breeds is unaffected by age at the time of neutering.
- *Mammary Cancer is a relatively low risk cancer for intact females in all breeds.
- *Some breeds show a marked increase in risk for certain cancers when neutered before 12 months of age, notably Golden Retrievers.

Although Scotties were not one of the 35 breeds in this study, perhaps we can take a look at the results for a terrier cousin, the Westie. However, none of the specific orthopedic disorders or cancers were diagnosed at any point in either the neutered or intact Westies in this study. The conclusion was that the age at time of neuter surgery had no effect on the risk for the development of certain diseases and disorders in this relatively small (142) population. Based on this study, recommended age for spay or neuter is therefore the choice of the owner. Not much help for us here.

GLAD YOU ASKED!! (continued...)

It would have been interesting to see the data for Scotties if they had been included, especially with the incidence of bladder cancer, lymphosarcoma and hemangiosarcoma in our dogs. Does their risk for these cancers increase when spayed or neutered at 6 months or 12+ months, and how does this compare to Scotties left intact? Perhaps one day another study will come along.

In the meantime, growing evidence in many breeds suggests that for a typical Scottie, it is a good idea to let your puppy reach adulthood at 12-18 months of age, give the growth plates time to close normally, and allow the dog to have the benefit of gonadal hormones for as long as possible. Don't let your young males roam the neighborhood, and protect your females when they come in season. Once you spay/neuter your Scottie, keep her/his weight down to a healthy level, since canine obesity is a known risk factor for many health problems. There is no magic age for spaying or neutering your Scottie, but it might be wise to hold off on this surgery as long as possible for the potential health benefits in the long run.

Read the full article at this link:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2020.00388/full>

Read more about the AKCCHF's research on this topic:

<https://www.akcCHF.org/educational-resources/library/articles/what-is-the-best-age-to.html>





From Your Editor's Desk

Happy November, although here in Colorado Springs it's still summer...at least through tomorrow! We're expecting a high of 70°.

On Sunday, though, we're expecting a high of only 19° with 4-8" of snow. The high country is expecting up to two feet of snow. Boy, we sure hope that helps put out those horrific fires near Ft. Collins (Cameron Fire), Granby (East Troublesome Fire), and Boulder (Calwood Fire). The Cameron Fire and the East Troublesome fire are only six miles apart from one another with Estes Park kinda wedged in between.

They say "If you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes." Truer words were never spoken about Colorado weather.

On another note, being Scottish, I thought it might be a good idea to explain the tradition of Halloween even though many of us will not be celebrating it this year (thank you COVID-19) so the last page of this newsletter is devoted to just that!



But, this month I want to talk about a new gizmo Mom bought me. It's called "Cooler Dog" and works really well. Take a look at me in the two photos. It's a vest and collar that attach to one another. Inside each is a matrix of gel squares attached to one another. You put the two gel packs in the freezer and before your walkie, place them into the vest/collar combo. It's really comfortable but the only draw back is that it thaws fast, especially on hot days. Maybe Dad should carry a cooler with spare Cooler Dog inserts...

Happy Trails to Y'all
Ragin (aka Lamb Chop)

The Scottish Terrier Club of America's Health Trust fund is a 501c3 organization established in 1994 for the purpose of supporting research to benefit all Scotties, investigating and monitoring health issues in the breed using registries, databases and health surveys, and communicating important new health information and research findings to all Scottie owners. All donations made to the HTF are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

HALLOWEEN

There's more to Halloween than goofy costumes and trick-or-treating. In fact, Halloween is actually a precursor to two other holidays that start today: All Saints' Day and Day of the Dead.

Let's take a look at these two November holidays because we think it is admirable to honor loved ones who are no longer with us.



In the USA and Canada, we celebrate Halloween on October 31st each year. Halloween (short for All Hallows' Evening) is traced back to the Irish and Scottish ancient Celtic holiday Samhain (pronounced "sah-win"), "a celebration of the end of harvest season in Gaelic culture," according to the website halloweenhistory.org.

Halloween is a holiday that promotes fear of the dead, but All Saints' Day and Day of the Dead both celebrate the deceased. The dead (including Catholic Saints) are honored on All Saints' Day on November 1. In Mexico, the Day of the Dead is a two-day celebration honoring both deceased children and adults. Some Mexicans make it a week-long celebration, beginning October 28 and ending on November 2.

"The practice of celebrating the dead goes back thousands of years in South American cultures," according to halloweenhistory.org. "In the Aztec culture, the celebration of the dead was in August and went on for a month. During that time the people paid tribute to Catrina, the Goddess of Death, who was portrayed as a skeleton. When the Catholic faith became entrenched in South America, the festival of the dead was changed into the Day of the Dead and timed to coincide with All Saints' Day and All Souls Day."



TRICK OR TREAT

