



ABCF MESSENGER

Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Virginia Zurflieh, Editor

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SPECIAL EDITION: Read All About It!

At the request of Dr Joyce Campbell, DVM, chair of the ABC Health & Research Committee, we're publishing this special edition of the *Messenger* to remind all Boxer fanciers of the danger that the tranquilizer Acepromazine poses to our breed. Please read this article and the citations listed on the website at the bottom of the article as though your Boxer's life depended on it. It just might...
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Boxers and Acepromazine New Warning About an Old Drug

by Jennifer Walker
ABC Health & Research Committee

Acepromazine (acepromazine maleate, acetylpromazine, ACE, ACP) is commonly used in veterinary medicine as a tranquilizer or pre-anesthetic agent. In 1996, the University of California at Davis issued a memo describing three Boxers suffering adverse reactions to acepromazine (respiratory arrest in one, and severe decreased heart rate in two), and suggesting that the drug be avoided in the Boxer breed. This memo confirmed anecdotal reports which had been circulating for years in various countries; a discussion on the Veterinary Information Network in April of 1996 included long acknowledgment of the breed's sensitivity by vets in the US, Canada, the UK, Australia, and Greece. Many veterinarians took notice of the UC-Davis memo, and veterinary textbooks and publications began to include information on the breed's sensitivity to, and cautions or recommendations for avoidance of, the drug in Boxers.

More than a decade later, however, some veterinarians still claim that they have never had a problem with

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| <p>Annual Auction Committee Bliss Bancroft, Chairperson</p> <p>Membership Committee Bobbi Compton, Chairperson</p> <p>Webmaster Judy Voran bjvoran@gmail.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor Virginia Zurflieh 4506 Sleepy Hollow Lane Plant City, FL 33565 vzboxers@aol.com</p> | <p>acepromazine in Boxers, and a few insist on using it despite their clients' requests to avoid it. While it is true that not all Boxers will experience an adverse reaction, that is of little comfort to the owner who requested the drug not be used, gave in to the vet's insistence that it was safe, and lost their Boxer as a result.</p> <p>A common argument that vets use to refute the adverse effects of acepromazine in Boxers is that affected dogs must have an underlying heart condition. While this has never been studied, and may or may not be true, it is important to point out that in a breed that is prone to a heart condition which may not be detected except by necropsy, there is simply no way for a vet to know if the dog to which he's about to administer acepromazine has an underlying heart condition. Given some estimates that 50-80% of the breed is affected with ARVC, a vet who uses this rationale is taking quite a risk when he administers acepromazine to any Boxer.</p> <p>Another justification vets give for acepromazine use in Boxers is that they give a low dose, so the risk is reduced. However, there are reports of Boxers collapsing even after very small doses of acepromazine. Some vets give an anticholinergic drug, such as atropine, in conjunction with acepromazine; this protocol may help prevent the bradycardiac effects of the drug, but there have been anecdotal reports of adverse reactions in the breed even with this addition.</p> <p>Finally, there are some vets who dismiss concerns about acepromazine and Boxers as "Internet lore." These vets should be referred to their veterinary drug handbook entry on acepromazine, as most if not all discuss the issues regarding Boxers and acepromazine. While a vet who has not experienced adverse effects with the drug in Boxers may be comfortable with its use, the owner is the primary patient advocate and their wishes should be respected. With the availability of other tranquilizers and pre-anesthetic drugs which are as effective as acepromazine, a knowledgeable Boxer owner is completely with his/her rights to insist the drug not be used on their dog,</p> |
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especially in light of the continued widespread veterinary caution against the use of the drug in the Boxer breed.*

**A list of veterinary textbooks, reference books, and veterinary organization websites which include cautions about use of the drug in the Boxer breed can be found at <http://www.newcastleboxers.com/ace.html>*

Memorial Wall Now Available Online!

Many thanks to Vickie Rounsaville-Millard for putting the ABCF Memorial Wall online at the ABCF website.

The URL is <http://www.abcfoundation.org/ABCF-Online-Wall/index.html>.

On the left-hand side of the window click on the link "Memorial Wall." This will take you the alphabetical index where you can click on the letter which will take you to the full index for the first letter of the dog's name. Then click on the name of the dog which will take you to the individual page for the dog.

Again, thanks Vickie. Now everyone can see all the memorialized Boxers online.

Judy Voran.

Annual ABCF Auction Donations

If you are planning to donate an item to the Annual ABCF Auction, but can't go to the ABC or send your item with someone else, you can mail it to Tina Truesdale at 455 Central Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771.

Photos of any items you plan to donate can be sent to Sharon Fosseen at hiview@mindspring.com. Sharon will have your photos posted to the ABCF web site.

All donations to the Auction are deeply appreciated!

DNA Collection at the '09 ABC!

The American Boxer Club and the American Boxer Charitable Foundation will offer an opportunity to have your dog's blood draw or cheek swab taken for DNA on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, May 4, 5, & 6. Microchips will be available for those owners who would like their dogs to have one for permanent identification for a CHIC number:

Cost:

DNA Storage, etc – \$20.00

Microchip – undetermined at this time but will be very reasonable.

Joyce Campbell, DVM, chair

ABC Health & Research Committee

