



ABCF MESSENGER

Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation

August 2014

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Dr. William Truesdale

ABCF President's Report – May 7, 2014

Welcome to the ABCF 2014 Annual Trustees Meeting

The American Boxer Charitable Foundation Inc. is grateful to all the volunteers, Donors and friends, who over the past years have consistently supported the cause of this Foundation. We are a charitable foundation that supports medical research in many fields; consequently we garner an outstanding reputation as a solid foundation, contributor to Boxer Health, and Dogs in general. As a charitable giving foundation, we continue to hold the number 1 position with the AKC/CHF. To date the ABCF has sponsored 60 grants totaling \$803,599. As of Dec. 31, 2013, we have \$317,579 in the AKC/CHF Donor Advisor Fund.

There are 13 studies that CHF is actively sponsoring, that are due to reach completion 2014-2015, many of which relate to boxer health.

I have been in contact with many of our researchers, and have compiled their progress as follows:

Dr. Kate Meurs has informed me that they are halfway through the study on genetic modifiers for ARVC and more than likely the study will be continued. Dr. Meurs states, the main problem she is having is getting enough dogs testing positive with mild symptoms. The next area of interest is to study the fact that 10 to 20% of dogs do not respond well to Sotolol, and the need for study to find a genetic marker responsible for Sotolol receptivity.

An expert in stem cells research has joined Kate's team, and will start a project of using stem cells (infusion directly into the heart via the coronary artery). This will require anesthesia, but it's a minimal invasive procedure. This is actively done with Dobermans, and Kate would like to encourage the Boxer folks to join their study.

From the Broad Institute

Dr. Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, thanks the ABCF for enabling her lab to advance its research efforts in several diseases. With Juvenal Renal Dysplasia, they have examined the genes of American Boxers both with and without JRD, an excellent candidate gene has been identified. They are expanding their study to include Swedish Boxers, where a larger group of dogs will be included in the project. Following this work, they hope to develop a genetic test.

Osteosarcoma. In 2013 a paper was written describing 33 novel risk factors. This involved Rottweilers, Greyhounds, and Wolfhounds. Leonbergers and Goldens have been added to the study.

Hemangiosarcoma/Lymphoma Mapping studies have been performed in Goldens leading to identification of new risk loci.

Mast Cell Tumors: New risk loci have been found in Golden Retrievers, Labradors and also UK Boxers.

Mammary Tumors: The discovery of new risk factors has been found in Springer Spaniels. In addition tumor sequencing is being performed at the Broad for Osteosarcoma, Lymphoma and Melanoma. Boxers are included and presently funded by the NIH.

Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) Collaboration with Missouri University and the Broad continue to look for modifying risk factors. They are now working on this mutation that involves Boxers and Corgies. They consider this gene very intriguing.

From Dr. Joan Coates, many thanks to ABCF for the infrastructure funding which helped pay for collection kits and tissue processing. Dr. Coates is still seeking candidates that are DM positive with minimal signs.

The ALS Association sponsored a study in collaboration with Dr. Janice Robertson, PHD (immunization therapy – ALS/DM) safety trials were completed. They are now recruiting a small number of Boxers within driving distance to the University of Missouri. The object is to procure animals in early onset with clean MRI results. It appears these animals will receive an intramuscular injection every two to three weeks in an ongoing study. Dr. Coates will give a progress report within a year.

NIH, is still undergoing safety studies for a spinal infusion of a medication that stops production of the enzyme responsible for producing DM. This is classified as a genetic study. Dr. Coates stated that of the 4100 dogs tested only 555 are clear. 1059 are carriers and 2084 positive. That means approximately 72% carry the gene. She has not seen a change in this dynamic yet.

In closing, I wish to extend my sincere thank you to Sharon Fosseen for her many years of service to the Foundation as the treasurer, and Master Fundraiser. Sharon will be missed at the Trustees meeting, but will continue her work with the Legacy Fund. I personally, am grateful to Sharon for the endless hours dedicated to this Foundation.

Thank you Joyce Baker Brown for stepping up to take over Sharon's position. I have no doubt you will do a splendid job. Thank you Nadine Kuhlemeier for chairing the auction and to the many volunteers that year after year step up to help make the annual auction/dinner a success. Thank you Phillip Koenig, we are most appreciative for a grand evening of delicious food and beautiful flowers. Thank you all for your support.

Respectfully,

Dr. William C. Truesdale
ABCF President

How to Join our Mission

Most of you who are reading this are probably already members and in addition to your continued support the future of the ABCF depends on attracting and involving a fresh, energetic group to bring new ideas and vigor that will drive this organization in the years to come. Our base membership fee is only \$25, the same as it was 19 years ago. I'm asking each of our members to reach out to others, be it a boxer owner, a club member, a litter contact to join us. If you have ideas for expanding the membership rolls, I would love to hear them.

We raise money through our membership dues, the auction at the ABC, endowment donations, legacy memorials and donations in memory of our cherished owners and friends. To date, there are approximately 1,400 dogs represented on the Memorial Wall. Please go to the website and see the remembrances of all of those that have touched our lives. www.abcfoundation.org

We have recently launched a new program called **Kudos Corner**. We are hoping people will consider joining us on the "Corner". This is the perfect way to show off your new litter, brag about that very special win or championship, display your obedience, agility tracking, lure coursing brags and achievements. We welcome any honor for therapy dogs and loving pets. You may thank a handler or special friend and of course a Kudos is a perfect gift in lieu of flowers, Birthday or Christmas Cards, etc. If breeders would just give a small donation from each litter to the ABCF, we can dream of a healthier future for our breed.



Our friends and Club members did an outstanding job of fundraising for the foundation at this years' ABC. The 2014 auction was a huge success. The agility and obedience groups did separate raffles for us. Rhode Island Boxer Club raised money for the ABCF at their barbeque. Our friends and Club members are doing creative fundraising activities for the ABCF. The Boxer Club of Milwaukee had a very successful raffle for the ABCF and some clubs are donating judging fees from their specialties. Moving forward, we have begun working on the 2015 auction and already have several boxes of memorabilia ready for the auction. If any of you have any constructive suggestions on how to improve the auction, I'd love to hear from you and on a high note, we will be sure the food line has enough stations next year so there is no delay.

On a somber note and while difficult to discuss, the spines of dogs that pass from DM are needed to further the research. The Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) research by Dr. Joan Coates is most promising and the current phase of her research is beyond exciting. They are working along with NIH to find a way to repress the expression of the gene which is the same as identified in Lou Gehrig disease. If you have a dog or know a dog afflicted with this dreadful disorder, please contact us to discuss and arrange for this precious gift. The ABCF will pay for the harvest and the shipment of the spine. There is no greater legacy to a beloved pet than to be a part of finding a cure for such a devastating disease.

Boxer friends...you have made the first 19 years of the ABCF number 1 of all breed research foundations. I implore you to join us in our mission to increase the longevity of our beloved breed while helping all of mankind. Join us and make a difference.

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Grants and Financial Information – July 2014

On March 31, 2014, The ABCF Donor Advised Fund at the AKC/Canine Health Foundation had a balance of \$322,047. Since 1995, the ABCF has funded \$803,599 for research programs that affects our breed. In 2014, we expect to spend some of the \$322,047 balance and our sponsorships will exceed the \$1,000,000 mark. We have sponsored more grants than any other Breed foundation in the past 19 years. Degenerative Myelopathy, Cancer, Heart Disease, Renal Dysplasia, Indolent Corneal Ulcer Research along with gastrointestinal diseases have been studied.

There are lots of very important projects to fund this year. Our health committee is looking into the various projects before deciding what to fund. Some of the suggestions of the Canine Health Foundation are:
<http://www.abcfoundation.org/PDF/ABCF-Research-Needing-Support.pdf>

A most significant grant that we had sponsored was a genetic test for Degenerative Myelopathy (DM). Researchers found that DM is similar to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) as they both are a progressive neurodegenerative disease. Additional grants to Dr. Coates have been made. She is working on therapeutic developments for ALS in a canine model. It is essential to realize that the projects we fund help not only our Boxers, but humans as well.

To see the many programs that we have funded go our website to the tab that says AKC Canine Health Foundation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIVA7QiUmRY>