



**CELEBRATING 22 YEARS**

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*\*Deceased*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

2016 was another successful year for the Foundation. The annual fundraiser was a huge success with monies collected in excess of \$60,000. Thank you committee chairs and members for your ongoing support of the foundation, and its cause.

The first progress report of the collaborative study (A novel approach for prevention of Canine Hemangiosarcoma ) conducted by Dr. Jaime Modiano has been submitted and accepted by CHF. The foundation will continue to fund this grant. A white paper on this study has been published.

In addition Dr. Joan Coates has submitted her progress report on Degenerative Myelopathy, with very promising results. A white paper on this study has been published.

Dr. Kathryn Meurs grant (hypothyroid v progression of ARVC) has not been able to fill the numbers of participants, therefore the progress of this study is on hold. However, Dr. Meurs is conducting a study on Corneal ulcers through the utilization of a whole genome sequence approach. Thus far progress reports states she has found three areas of interest.

Dr. Andrea Lam from Tufts University is conducting an acorn study (Intra lymphatic immunotherapy) for the treatment and possible cure of atopic dermatitis, progress report has been very positive.

Dr. Fernando A Fierro of UC Davis has conducted a pilot study with the (Use of stem cell and the expression of IL-10) to treat OA specifically in elbows of senior dogs. This study is completed and are awaiting his findings.

Dr. Roan J Milner from the University of Florida is conducting a study (vaccination against Canine Osteosarcoma), this study involves 4 vaccinations in combination with chemo. Progress report has shown that vaccinated dogs are producing cells that protect against further growth and metastasis, these finding are very early, but nevertheless very exciting.

The Lyme disease study supported by the Foundation and AKC is reaching its completion, an update will be issued soon on (a). an accurate geographic map, (b). finding better ways of treating and detecting this disease. This study is conducted by Dr. Stall, who will also conduct a study on Leptospirosis, sponsored by Merck.

# ABCF MESSENGER

## Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation

ABCF/president report Continued

A study that is noteworthy is Dr. Brian Caspar Phd from Nationwide Children's Hospital. He is conducting a study entitle (therapy for canine degenerative myelopathy). This study evaluates a virally base gene therapy approach to treat DM. An innocent virus is used to impregnate the cell with the gene known as (SHRNA) is attach to reduce the mutant SOD1 in canines as well as humans. The expectation of a one-time treatment will result in improve quality of life, and extend the survival of affected dogs with this hopeless disease.

Since the inception of the Canine Health Foundation 89 grants have been funded in the amount of \$38,000,000, of which the ABCF has been a leading contributor. In 2016 the Foundation sponsored grants in the amount of \$112,000. To date the foundation has funded 76 grants totaling over \$1,500.000

As you can see the wheels of progress are rolling forward. In partnership with the CHF, and the collaboration with multiple dog clubs, the CHF offers peer review support, and in many cases matching funds. We are working with true team effort and are now getting support on projects through these collaborative efforts.

The loyal supporters of The American Boxer Charitable Foundation are a unique group of people that, are truly making a huge impact on the research community. We are leaders in charitable contribution for canine health. Our goal is that one day we will make a difference with the concept of "A One Life" Health initiative.

Respectfully,

William C. Truesdale, D.V.M.

President

# ABCF MESSENGER

## Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation

### FROM THE TREASURER

Annual report:

Membership Dues calendar year 2016 --\$9,608

ABC Donation -- \$6,000

Top 20 donation -- \$5,000

ABC Auction and fundraising -- \$60,085

Endowments, Memorials, Kudos, calendar and Milwaukee Raffle --\$50,312

Grants paid in 2016 = \$112,000

Best regards,

Joyce Baker Brown  
Treasurer  
American Boxer Charitable Foundation  
P.O. Box 1607  
Mt. Dora, FL 32756  
301 775-5089



# ABCF MESSENGER

## Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation



It was great fun seeing everyone this year at the American Boxer Club National show and ABCF dinner and auction. I always enjoy seeing all the great boxers and see everyone come together for the health of our breed!

### From the Editor

It is always a crazy busy week but the love that we all have for our boxers is very evident! All week long there are various events to support ABCF. The obedience competitors brought raffle baskets and earned \$900. Not to be outdone, the ABC agility trials also had an ABCF raffle and raised another \$1700!

I know many people were also involved in selling baskets in the ballroom and worked very hard at the dinner and auction. Thanks to everyone who took time out of this hectic week to support ABCF. We ALL go home winners when we raise money for ABCF!!!

Rebecca Gilchrist



### Banana Blueberry Freezer Blend for Boxers

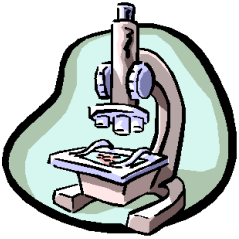
- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Cup Blueberries | 6 oz plain yogurt |
| 1 Banana          | 1 tsp flaxseed    |

Mix in blender until smooth. Distribute mixture to ice tray or other container for freezing. Keep in freezer until frozen and then feed as a cool summer treat.

# ABCF MESSENGER

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### Research Updates- Your ABCF Dollars at work!



#### Update on DM Research from Dr. Joan Coates

Currently the only way to confirm that DM was present in a dog is to do a necropsy. A biomarker test used to diagnose ALS in humans is measurement of phosphorylated neurofilament heavy proteins (pNF-H) that are contained within axons. Degeneration of the neural tissues and axonal damage causes release of pNF-H into cerebrospinal fluid and blood of ALS patients with disease progression. Thus, pNF-H has been shown to be a useful biomarker of disease in diagnosis of ALS. Dr. Coates collaborated with Dr. Michael Garcia, a neuroscientist and an associate professor of Biological Sciences at MU, to evaluate whether the diagnostic tool also could be useful in dogs affected with DM from disease diagnostic and monitoring progression standpoints.

Cerebrospinal fluid and blood samples were collected from DM-affected dogs, including dogs that had a confirmed diagnosis as well as dogs in early stage disease. pNF-H concentrations from those samples were compared to samples from age-matched normal dogs and dogs with mimicking diseases. We found a significant difference in the DM affected dogs with increased pNF-H in the cerebrospinal fluid of the DM-affected dogs relative to the control groups, indicating that the human ALS test could be used to diagnose DM. These results will enable us to 'scale up' the test to make it more accessible to veterinary community. This would make it possible to confirm a dog has DM while the dog is living and allow owners to make better decisions about how to proceed with care for the dog.

#### Ongoing research studies:

Through finding the associated mutation in a protein called superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1), we now have a target for therapeutic study. We continue to evaluate a molecular approach using antisense oligonucleotides to suppress the production of SOD1, which may slow DM progression. This study is being funded by the NIH/NINDS and safety studies completed. We are studying the therapy as a randomized, double-blinded, placebo control study. This study is ongoing and we need dog participants. The study involves a monthly treatment of ASO into the CSF.

We also are pursuing a gene therapy study that contains a small sequence of an iRNA that will suppress the production of SOD1. The gene therapy has been previously tested for safety as a pre-clinical study in dogs. A randomized, double-blinded, placebo control study is now underway and MU, we are recruiting dog participants. The study is being funded through the ALS Association (ALSA). The treatment involves a one-time injection into the spinal fluid and follow up at 1 month and every 3 months thereafter.

Below are the Inclusion Criteria for both studies:

#### History

Slowly progressive loss of coordination over 1-3 months, no signs of waxing or waning, and the owners do not perceive their dog to be in discomfort

#### Neurologic Examination

EARLY DISEASE: Progressive asymmetric general proprioceptive ataxia that is considered mild.

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### Breeds Included

- Boxers approximately 9 years of age or older at the time of initial examination
- Pembroke Welsh Corgis approximately > 10 years of age at the time of initial examination
- Other breeds older than age of 9 years old at the time of initial examination

### Diagnostic Testing (Performed by a board-certified veterinary neurologist: [www.acvim.org](http://www.acvim.org))

- No significant abnormalities on bloodwork, thoracic radiographs and abdominal ultrasound
- Genetic testing results for SOD1:c.118A mutant homozygotes (A/A – AT RISK)
- Normal entire spinal cord MRI (thoracic, lumbar, sacral)
- Normal CSF analysis
- Normal electrodiagnostic testing results

### Treatments and Follow-up Testing

An informed consent will be signed by the owner and Dr. Coates. The owner must be compliant and return to the MU VHC as directed based on study protocol

### Necropsy Confirmation

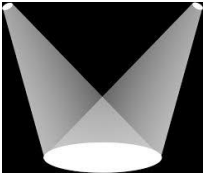
Following death or at time of euthanasia, the dog will need to be brought to MU VHC for necropsy. A histopathologic confirmation of DM is required.

If you are interested in learning more about how to participate in these important studies email: [coatesj@missouri.edu](mailto:coatesj@missouri.edu)



# ABCF MESSENGER

## Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation



### Spotlight on ABCF Heroes

This month the spotlight belongs to Nadine Kuhlemeier. Nadine is perhaps most famous as the chair of the ABCF auction and she is also an ABCF board member. The ABCF Auction at ABC is one of the most important fundraisers of the year and Nadine makes sure things run like clockwork!

Nadine has had boxers nearly all her life and her first boxer was a holiday gift to the family when Nadine was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Nadine currently has 2 boxers at home, CH Emmy and puppy Reggie. Nadine enjoys training her boxers in obedience and has recently started a nosework class.

**Why did you first get involved with ABCF:** I got involved in the ABCF because of Bliss Bancroft. She was in charge of the ABCF dinner and auction and asked me to help. The MN Boxer Club also used to address all the auction dinner invitations at her home. Bliss and I became good friends and still are and co-owned a few Boxers.

**What is your favorite part of the auction:** Getting to see the donations early on when we are checking them in and working with the volunteer-helpers and getting to know them better. I could not do it without the help of the other 3 Board Members---Bobbi Compton, Connie Haywood, and Joyce Baker Brown.

**What are your favorite auction items:** The puppy playpens, although I don't breed so don't need one, the lovely baskets people make up and donate, the boxer jewelry and anything that has been handmade that relates to the Boxer.

**How can people do more to help out:** We appreciate everything that people donate or spend their money on because it all goes to research grants for Boxer health issues. We could use younger or newer people with fresher ideas and who are willing to work. I am just not as imaginative as a lot of people are so new ideas and thoughts would be appreciated. The ABCF is for everyone who has a love of Boxers and it would be great if we could reach out to the pet owning public somehow. If anyone has an idea how to do that, let us know.

Photos from the 2017 Auction



# ABCF MESSENGER

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## **ABCF Memorial Endowment Fund**

**Don't forget to give back to this wonderful breed...**

The American Boxer Charitable Foundation is a non-profit organization with but one mission and that is to raise money for health research for our beloved breed. By mentioning ABCF in your Will, you too can provide for the breed that has brought so much to all of us who love them. Give something back! Memorial donations and bequests are placed in the ABCF Legacy Endowment Fund. The corpus of the Endowment Fund can never be spent. Only a portion of what it earns may be spent for research, which means that a gift to the Endowment will give to this breed we all love in perpetuity. You cannot ask for a donation to do more than that.

This is one case where size doesn't matter. The fact that you remember Boxers through the Foundation's Legacy Fund is what matters. Whatever you mention in your Will---be it memorabilia, keepsakes, stock, insurance, a specified amount, a percentage of what you have left---whatever you choose will help make a difference to our breed forever! When you are gone, your gift will give to the Boxers of the future.

It's very simple to make a provision in your Will for the Foundation. You don't need to have to redo your Will. You can simply add a codicil. Be sure your attorney has the following information:

**American Boxer Charitable Foundation**

**Legacy Endowment Fund**

**PO Box 8667 - Spokane, WA 99203 [hiview@mindspring.com](mailto:hiview@mindspring.com) 509 998-6122**

**ABCF TAX ID 91-1166044 EIN# 38-3233119**

Remember, leave something in writing so your family doesn't forget. Be sure that whatever you decide, you let me know that you have made arrangements so I can add YOUR name to the list of those who have made plans to give back to this wonderful breed. Just think---whether your donation is large or small, it will fund Boxer health research FOREVER. What a wonderful legacy. Perpetuity in this "throwaway culture" is a treasure. Leave a legacy for your Boxers. We added new donors last year and they are now listed. How about adding YOUR name? Give back to the breed that has given so much to you.



# ABCF MESSENGER

Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation



## MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND FOR BOXERS

The American Boxer Club Foundation has created a means for us to provide funding for health research for the breed we love. As you may know, the ABCF was created in 1995, by a group of Boxer Lovers who wanted to "give back" to the breed that has given us their all.

This gift to our breed is a perfect way for YOU to impact your breed. Donations of any size -- from individuals, clubs, whomever -- are welcomed and all are tax deductible.

**Ways that you can give to the Endowment Fund include:**

\* **Memorial gifts in memory of a person or a beloved Boxer**

\* **Gifts made in Honor of someone or a Boxer**

\* **Appreciated stock gifts allow you to donate and receive full tax benefits**

\* **Bequests - You can remember the ABCF Memorial Endowment Fund through your Will.**

\* **Designated donation - You may simply make a donation and ear-mark it for the Endowment**

Give back to this breed that gives its all for us. PLEASE JOIN US! Send memorials, honorariums, celebratory gifts, WHATEVER...to:

### ABCF Memorial Endowment Fund

P O Box 1607 Mt. Dora, FL 32756

Be SURE to note the name and address of the person that you want the gift acknowledged to. They will be sent a lovely ABCF memorial card stating that you made a donation.

You may make an endowment donation online by choosing the online donation option in the left navigation frame of the main page or by printing and filling out the form below and mailing to the address given above:

Pay for your endowment gift with a check or money order payable to the American Boxer Charitable Foundation or Master Card or VISA.

#### I want my donation to be:

\_\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted -- current health grant funding

\_\_\_\_\_ Restricted -- the perpetual endowment account

\_\_\_\_\_ Placed where the need exists

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Method of payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like for your name to appear in ABCF publications \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### For More Information:

**Phone:** (301) 775-5089 **Email:** info@abcfoundation.org

**Your Breed Thanks You!**

**www.abcfoundation.org**