

ABCF MESSENGER

Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation

January 2018



CELEBRATING 22 YEARS

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*Deceased

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Report 2017

The American Boxer Charitable Foundation (ABCF) has had a long and productive history of supporting canine health research that has generously supported discoveries impacting both the health of our breed as well as advancing the understanding of disease and genetic mechanisms in the canine species, in general. The investments made to date by the ABCF, almost \$1.5 million, to support 65 studies working with the AKC Canine Health Foundation, have contributed to the mapping of the canine genome, advanced our understanding of the genetics of lymphoma and osteosarcoma, pushed the challenging research in hemangiosarcoma, led directly to the gene and biomarker discoveries for degenerative myelopathy, and more.

The areas of research supported through these 65 projects have specifically included: the canine genome, colitis, reproductive disease, regenerative medicine/stem cell research, ARVC/DCM, osteoarthritis, degenerative myelopathy, corneal disease, atopy, thyroid disease, meningoencephalomyelitis (GME/MUE), tick-borne diseases, and cancer that includes brain tumors, lymphosarcoma, osteosarcoma, mast cell tumor, soft-tissue sarcoma, histiocytic sarcoma, and hemangiosarcoma. I as a veterinary practitioner know what advancements in standard of care for our veterinary patients have been made in diseases from this list over the past 20 years – the time course over which the ABCF has methodically supported scientific research. We also know that while we have seen such progress, there remains more to be done, and scientific research is a series of building blocks that require significant time, resources and bright minds for breakthroughs, but that even incremental change has made a difference for the health of dogs.

Reference Dr. Meurs' recent progress report from Grant 2163-MOU, "The role of thyroid hormone and cardiac genetic variation on the clinical expression of ARVC in the Boxer dog", in which she states, "As an additional finding, we observed that when we started the study in 2015, we easily recruited dogs that were positive for the ARVC mutation,

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however, by the second ½ of 2017, the majority of adult Boxers we recruited ended up being ARVC negative. We think that this may be an indication of breeding and gradual selection away from the ARVC mutation.” Also, consider the fact that because of the ABCF support for Dr. Coates’ research, a living dog can now be diagnosed with DM, opening the possibilities for interventions based on accurate, early diagnosis! These are only two examples.

I’m also glad to report that the pending project to fully characterize kidney disease in the Boxer has completed the review process, and is making its way through the CHF contract phase with the university. This project will begin in early 2018, and we would like to thank those who have already contributed samples, and will be asking you to raise awareness to recruit more samples to send to the investigators – we will share that information as soon as possible.

Finally, one way the CHF track impact of investments in scientific research is through peer-reviewed publications – this is the gold standard measure of scientific progress that is substantiated through the rigorous peer-review process. You will see, separately attached, a listing of publication outcomes, by CHF grant ID number, for some of the research projects supported by the ABCF – this list alone represents 38 grants that have contributed to more than 135 peer-reviewed publications in scientific/veterinary journals. The breadth and outreach of this work is far and wide.

So, to our remarkable Board and members of the Foundation, Boxer breeders and supporters of health research to better the breed and the health of all dogs, my sincere gratitude. I do hope I have been able to provide some evidence that you truly are the ones making a difference. I cannot imagine CHF, veterinary medicine or being a dog owner/lover without the hard work and generous support of our dedicated world of “Boxer people”.

Respectfully,

William C. Truesdale, D.V.M.

President

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FROM THE TREASURER

A letter from past treasurer Joyce Baker Brown

On November 24th I advised Bill Truesdale that I would be stepping down from the Board and the Treasurer position effective the first of the year. I am still active with my own Baker Brown Company and the demands of both work and the Treasurer position had become difficult to manage. I felt I could not continue to devote the amount of time necessary to adequately serve the organization.

Sharon Fosseen will be the interim treasurer. Her contact information is: Sharon Fosseen, P.O. Box 8667, Spokane, WA 99203. Phone number 509-998-6122. Email. hiview@mindspring.com

It has been my pleasure to serve the ABCF and I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you the very best in the coming new year. I look forward to continuing to support the Foundation and it's efforts.

Sincerely,

Joyce Baker Brown

Treasurer Report December 2017

ABCF Funding was provided for the following studies in 2017:

- 02321 Clinical Trial of Procaspase-3 Activator (PAC-1) in Combination with Hydroxyurea for Treatment of Canine Meningioma
Principal Investigator: Timothy M. Fan, DVM, PhD; University of Illinois
Support amount \$22,500
- 02405-A Transcriptome Based Diagnostics in Canine Soft Tissue Sarcoma
Principal Investigator: Andrew D. Miller, DVM; Cornell University
Support amount \$5,000
- 02309 Targeting the Cancer Epigenome: The Effect of Specific Histone Lysine Methyltransferase Inhibition in Canine B-Cell Lymphoma
Principal Investigator: Angela McCleary-Wheeler, DVM, PhD; Cornell University
Support amount \$22,500
- 02383 Identifying Cellular Mechanisms of Inflammation During Canine Tick-Borne Diseases
Principal Investigator: Chris ne A. Petersen, DVM, PhD; University of Iowa
Support amount \$22,500
- 2452-A Targeting the T helper Inflammatory Pathway in Meningoencephalomyelitis of Unknown Origin (MUO)
Principal Investigator: Renee Barber, DVM, PhD; University of Georgia
Support amount \$5,000
- 02234- Theraputic gene transfer abrogates canine Dilated cardiomyopathy

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Principal Investigator: Dr. Margaret Sleeoer, VMD, University of Florida
Support amount \$22,500

- 02234- A Novel approach for Prevention of Canine Hermangiosarcoma
Principal Investigator: Dr. Jaime F Modiano, VMD, PhD, University of MN
Support amount \$36,000

Submitted by Joyce Baker Brown



What do you get that special boxer person who has everything? A donation to ABCF! You can create a Kudos for them or just a donation in their name. A perfect gift that always fits a boxer lover!

From the Editor

Also as you are using those holiday gift cards don't forget about the ABCF program with Amazon Smiles. When you shop on Amazon go to smile.amazon.com and set your charity to American Boxer Club Charitable foundation. Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to ABCF.

Rebecca Gilchrist



Mint Cookies

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Cup flour | 1 Cup baking mix (bisquick) |
| ¼ cup Milk | 2 Tablespoons margarine |
| 1 egg | 1 teaspoon corn syrup |
| 5 drops mint flavoring | |

Mix all ingredients and roll out on floured surface to ½ inch thickness. Cut with holiday cookie cutters. Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes. For festive decorating dip cooled cookies into melted carob or chocolate free vanilla almond bark.

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Research Updates- Your ABCF Dollars at work!

Below are a few of the studies being funded by ABCF and updates on the work from the researchers.

Is Hypothyroidism a Contributor to Progression of Arrhythmogenic Right

Ventricular Cardiomyopathy? Dr. Kathryn M Meurs, DVM, PhD – Grant 02163 ABCF funded \$42,251 in 2016

Dr. Meurs hypothesizes that low thyroid levels and/or other genetic variants may lead to the development of the more severe form of Boxer ARVC. Understanding the role of these factors in the severity of disease will greatly improve the ability to manage the common and sometimes fatal heart disease of ARVC.

Update- We are continuing to enroll dogs in the Thyroid aspect of the study. We still do not have enough of each group enrolled yet to be able to say if there is an association to hypothyroidism, however, so far it appears that low thyroid levels are found in both mildly and severely affected dogs. We are working on being more aggressive with our recruitment through outreach through the club. We hope to get this project wrapped up within this year.

Determining the Genetic Contribution to Boxer Corneal Ulcers. Dr. Kathryn M Meurs, DVM, PhD—Grant 02164 ABCF funded \$68,053 in 2016

In a previous study funded by the AKC-CHF Dr. Meurs and colleagues collected samples from adult boxers with and without SCCED and performed a genome wide association study. In the study proposed here they will perform whole genome sequencing (GWAS) on a subset of affected and unaffected dogs and use the data from the GWAS to focus in on important variants. They will then more closely evaluate variants of interest to determine the gene and ultimately the causative genetic mutation. They hope that the identification of a genetic cause for SCCEDs in the Boxer can be used to reduce the prevalence of this disease in this breed but also to provide information for other affected breeds.

Update: We have now identified one very strong mutation that is strongly associated with the disease in the canine population. However, it is observed very frequently in the overall Boxer population and we are focused on additional molecular analysis to demonstrate the importance of this mutation in the development of the disease.

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A Novel Approach for Prevention of Canine Hemangiosarcoma. Dr. Jaime F Modiano, VMD, Phd – Grant 02234- ABCF funded \$118,000 from 2015 to present

This project will pair two novel technologies consisting of a patented test to detect hemangiosarcoma cells in blood samples, and a treatment that attacks the cells that establish and maintain the disease. Three milestones will be met: first, will be to expand understanding of the performance and utility of the blood test for cancer in dogs with active disease; second will be to confirm the utility of the test to predict disease progression in treated dogs. And third will be to establish the performance of the test in the "early detection" setting (dogs at high risk without evidence of active cancer), and thus measure hemangiosarcoma prevention through eradication of the tumor initiating cells with the targeted, investigational drug. This project will create tools to guide further development, licensing and deployment of these paired technologies against cancer, specifically hemangiosarcoma, with an ultimate goal for disease prevention in all dogs.

Update: During the first 18 months of the project, we have made substantial progress toward Objectives-1 and 2, including the first two milestones, and have created the foundation needed to open the third phase of the study to address Objective-3 and the third milestone. Specifically, we have:

1. Tested the parameters of the early detection test on 61 dogs that had diagnoses of hemangiosarcoma, non malignant spleen masses, other tumors, or no apparent illness
2. Updated and refined the criteria and the algorithms to identify hemangiosarcoma cells in circulation, and to use this as a test for early detection of hemangiosarcoma for dogs at risk
3. Continued to develop robotic systems to automate the test for potential commercial deployment
4. Established the foundations to open phase-3 of the Shine On project this fall (estimated mid-October 2017), where we will screen healthy Golden Retrievers, Boxers, and Portuguese Water Dogs at risk for developing hemangiosarcoma using the test for detection of circulating hemangiosarcoma cells in blood

Phase III of the study will begin in 2018.



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*Do you want to
participate in the
next generation
of canine
Hemangiosarcoma
prevention?*



CLINICAL
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For more information, visit

z.umn.edu/ShineOn

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Current research studies looking for Boxer Participants

A Novel Approach for Prevention of Canine Hemangiosarcoma has started phase 3 of their research. See previous page. Additional information including a link to enroll and FAQs are available at www.z.umn.edu/ShineOn.

Purpose of the study: Phase 3 is to determine if a test looking for specific cells in the blood can be used to detect hemangiosarcoma in its earliest stages, before a tumor is found.

Eligibility: Must be an AKC registered boxer (or Golden retriever or Portuguese Water dog), must be at least 6 years old in good general health, owners must agree to submit blood samples for retesting according to study guidelines, Dog/owner must live in the contiguous 48 States.

Dogs that have positive test results, and do not have a detectable tumor, will have the option to receive the experimental drug, ebat, to determine the drugs potential to prevent progression of the disease. Note—treatment will only be done at the University of Minnesota and owner will need to pay travel costs and plan for a 5 day course of treatment.

Contact Information: Go to www.z.umn.edu/ShineOn

Genetic and Environmental Risk for Lymphoma in Boxer Dogs

Study Type: DNA Sample

Study Location: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Trepanier and her team are collecting cheek swab DNA and environmental questionnaires from Boxers with lymphoma (of any age or stage of treatment), and from control Boxers 10 years of age without systemic cancer (localized mast cell disease of the skin is allowed). Their goal is to see whether genes that neutralize toxic chemicals in the environment are defective in the Boxer breed, especially in Boxers with lymphoma.

Contact Information:

Name: Dr. Lauren Trepanier

Email: lauren.trepanier@wisc.edu

Phone: 608-265-9022

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Potential Therapies for treatment of Degenerative Myelopathy

Study Type: Clinical trials

Study Location: University of Missouri

Dr. Joan Coates and team are testing 2 potential therapies for treatment of DM. One study involves a study to learn how injections of antisense oligonucleotides (ASO) slows progression of the disease and the other is a gene therapy study. Dr. Coates is looking for boxers in the early stages of DM that are able to travel to Columbia, Missouri for treatments.

Dr. Coates also needs spines donated from older at risk dogs that are not showing any signs of DM

Contact Information:

Name: Dr. Joan Coates

Email: coatesj@missouri.edu

Using Advanced Imaging to Diagnose Canine Degenerative Myelopathy

Study Type: Clinical trials

Study Location: Cornell University

Dr. Philippa Johnson is working to determine if Advanced MRI technology could be used to create a method to diagnose DM. They are looking for dogs with a positive SDO1 test (at risk) that are showing clinical signs of DM and those over the age of 8 that are not showing any signs. Dogs need to be able to go to Cornell, undergo anesthesia and spend the day undergoing MRI Testing.

Contact Information:

Name: Dr. Philippa Johnson

Email: [vet-research@cornell.edu](mailto:veter-research@cornell.edu) or 607-253-3060

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Spotlight on ABCF Heroes

This month the volunteer spotlight is on Bobbi Compton. Bobbi is the membership chair for ABCF and an integral person for the yearly auction at ABC.

When did you first get involved in boxers and tell us about your current dogs:

I got my first boxer in 1953 when my father thought I needed a sibling. She was very well bred but far from a show dog and she lived to be fifteen. My husband, Bob, and I got our first boxer from a backyard breeder. We thought she was gorgeous; she was not. In 1982, we bought a lovely and well-bred black faced fawn, our third classic. Barbara and Susan Blue, our breeders, were active in both conformation and obedience and got us interested in both. Thank you once again, ladies!

I have only two dogs in my house now. Tressa is a breed champion with a CDX, an RA, and a therapy dog title. We visit a nursing home and hospice every week and everyone loves her. Everyone calls her by name; they have no idea who I am. I also have an eight month old puppy who is just starting his conformation career and of course, he'll do obedience after that. Freddie has also visited the nursing home several times.

What are your current ABCF volunteer duties?

I am the membership chairman so I'm the one who nags people to join every few months. I also work cataloguing all the boxer figurines for the auction.

Why did you first get involved with ABCF?

As a breeder, health has always been important to me so the ABCF has interested me from its beginning. Sharon Fosseen asked me to help at the dinner our first year in Wisconsin and I've been there ever since.

What is your Favorite part about volunteering with ABCF?

I've made many wonderful friends in ABCF. We have the same love in common, our boxers, and the same goal, better health for our boxers. I look forward to working with our great volunteers every year. Sometimes, the task looks very daunting on Monday morning but amazingly, by Tuesday afternoon, everything is done and we've had a wonderful time doing it!!

What would you recommend to someone who wants to get involved with helping ABCF?

Of course, first I'd tell them to become a member!!!! Then I would suggest that they come to the setup room at the hotel early on Monday morning and you will have "instant friends." There are all kinds of things to be done and we always find something that fits your talent. We welcome new people and new ideas!!! Please come!!

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The perfect way to celebrate life events and the happy blessings that our Boxers provide. Brag about a litter born, a championship achieved, agility and obedience titles earned. Your donation, a special honorarium, can be used as a Wedding, Birthday or Christmas gift. It might be a way to thank a special person, a mentor or to congratulate someone for their achievements.

Donate to Kudos Corner and become a member of the Wall of Celebration, recognized for your contribution to the health of our Boxers. You need not be a member of ABCF to donate and your gift may be in any amount.

Complete the Kudos Corner form and submit via online or print and send by mail. The information you submit will be placed on the Kudos Corner area of the ABCF website.

A card acknowledging donations will be sent to the donor and the recipient. All donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations

<http://www.abcfoundation.org/KudosCorner/index.html>



Don't forget about the Memorial Wall to honor those boxers we have lost.

All Memorial Wall donations will fund health research. Each year, as we add new names, we cherish the memory of each of these Boxers and rededicate ourselves to addressing the health issues that affect our beloved breed. This Memorial Wall is perpetual and is constantly revised with new additions. Currently over 1,400 of our Boxers are listed on **The Wall**. Look at the faces on this site and remember with all of us these beloved Boxers that are "**Gone But Never Forgotten**".

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

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ABCF Membership Drive

I realize that this is the time of year when you're inundated with requests from charitable organizations. All good causes, to be sure, however, I hope you'll consider this one because it concerns the future of the breed we love, our boxers.

As I'm sure you're aware, the Foundation was created to fund research into the problems that affect our beloved breed and that goal remains our sole mission. To date, the ABCF has raised more money for health research than any other breed club. The money raised by the foundation has funded studies in boxer cardiomyopathy, sub-aortic stenosis, thyroid disease, degenerative myelopathy, and cancer, including lymphoma. And just recently, **ABCF has pledged \$118,000 to Dr. Modiano's study into hemangiosarcoma!!!!**

For as little as \$25.00, the cost of ONE show entry, you can become a member of ABCF. By clicking on the following link, <http://abcfoundation.org>, then hitting Online Membership Form on the left side, you can print the form below and send your check or card number by email, snail mail or by fax. But PLEASE take the time NOW to join the ABCF and help our boxers to lead longer and healthier lives. **I'd also like to add that cost of membership has remained the same since the inception of ABCF. How many organizations can say THAT?**

And a huge thank you to the following individuals and clubs who have already joined ABCF **for the calendar year 2017!!!!**

Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season!!!!

Sincerely,

Bobbi Compton

Membership Chairman, American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Inc.

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ABCF Membership form

1. Select your membership level:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other

2. Select how you want to receive the ABCF Newsletter:

Online Via US Mail (There is an additional fee of \$10 annually)

Pay by check or money order payable to the American Boxer Charitable Foundation or use MasterCard or Visa to join or renew your membership. You can also join, renew or pay online via our website.

Amount: _____ Method of payment: Check Money Order MasterCard Visa

Signature: _____

Account Number: _____ Expires: _____ CVC: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Complete form and mail to:

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