

# ABCF MESSENGER

## Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation

March 2019



**William C. Truesdale, DVM**  
President

**Gary Ryan**  
Treasurer, Donor Relations  
treasurer@abcfoundation.org

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Robert D. Conrad, DVM PhD\*,  
Bruce Korson, Jeanne Korson\*  
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Phillip Koenig, Sharon Fossen

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The American Boxer Charitable Foundation Celebrates Another Successful Year for Boxer Health, and Canine Health in general.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Canines & Cocktails Gala held in Orlando the CHF named The American Boxer Charitable Foundation, and the Golden Retriever Foundation, 2018 Distinguished Research Partners for their ongoing and outstanding commitment to support Canine Health Research.

CHF CEO, Dr. Diane Brown states "We are honored to collaborate with the highest caliber scientists, breeders, veterinarians and dog lovers, we look forward to better health for all dogs as we work with these groups to create even more opportunities to advance canine research"

Matched funding opportunities provided a means for CHF donors to double their impact on canine health in 2018. The AKC matched donations from new or lapsed donors, from clubs, and donations for hemangiosarcoma research.

In 2018 We welcome four new Board members, Bob Erickson, Gary Ryan, Phillip Koenig, and Linda Abel. We are grateful these new members have joined the ABCF board.

An investment committee has been formulated with Sharon Steckler as Chair, Bob Erickson and Gary Ryan as members. This committee will guide the Board in creating a sound investment portfolio. The committee will also engage in creating a solid endowment account. A healthy endowment account is necessary to secure the future of the foundation. It is imperative we remain engaged in long term Boxer health research.

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. 2019 Gary Ryan will become the foundation's new treasurer, Gary will replace interim treasurer Sharon Fossen.

Tina is seeking volunteers to help with the function.

Happy New Year!

Bill

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### FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Foundation Supporters:

First of all, I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy 2019. Then I want to thank every single one of you who became members (with the help of Bobbi Compton's gentle reminders), made memorials and honorariums and donated their time and treasure to the Foundation. We are thankful to every single one of you.

I was Treasurer for 13 years and then retired and handed the job over to the very capable hands of Joyce Baker Brown who did an amazing job and brought new energy and ideas. She then retired after three years due to the pressures of her business. So I came out of retirement in 2018 as Interim Treasurer.

I am now delighted to report that we have a new Treasurer, Gary Ryan. Gary has the experience and energy that this volunteer job needs and I know he will do a great job. As a note, please send all donations, memberships, etc to Gary at our new mailing address ABCF, P.O. Box 4194, Gettysburg, PA 17325-4194. I will continue on as Donor Relations but Gary is the guy that you will all be in contact with.

This should be an exciting year with new board members (Bob Erickson, Phillip Koenig, Linda Abel and Gary Ryan.) Also, we thank Nadine Kuhlemeier for acting as Auction Chair for several years and welcome our new Auction Chair, Tina Truesdale. We know she will do a great job! And under the leadership of Dr. William Truesdale we know that great things and growth are just around the corner!

Best to all of you....healthy Boxers, lovely puppies, love of the BEST of breeds...

Sharon Fosseen  
Donor Relations

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by Rebecca Gilchrist

Happy New Year! I hope 2019 is a wonderful year for all my boxer friends! This issue of the Messenger has our normal plea for study participants. If you are able to help participate in these studies that is the BEST way to further the science to overcome these terrible diseases.

We also issue a reminder renew your ABCF membership. Members are the lifeblood of this very important organization and you are the ones that make all this work possible!



2 ½ cup rolled oats

½ t salt

1 egg

½ cup beef broth

Heat oven to 325. Add 2 cups oats, salt, beef broth and egg to mixing bowl and combine. Add remaining oats and mix.

Knead dough for about 3 minutes and let stand for 3 minutes. Press into ½ inch thickness and cut. Bake for 20 minutes.

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**ABCF is please to have several new members serving on the ABCF Board. Each newsletter we will introduce one of the new members. This month we introduce Linda Abel.**

I have been a member of the American Boxer Club since 1994 and will become a Lifetime Member this year, and a member of the Minnesota Boxer Club since 1990, where I have served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and trophy chair. I have had the privilege of judging sweepstakes at several Boxer Specialty Clubs around the country as well as at the Boxer Club of Canada National in 2018. It will be my privilege to judge the very first Maturity Stakes for the ABC at the 2019 Regional in Oklahoma.



I have served on the Board of the ABC for the last six years - three years as Vice President, and President for two years. I also served as the Annual Awards Chair for fourteen years. Starting in 2018 it has been my pleasure to gather information and assemble the Program for the ABC Annual Awards Dinner.

I am retired from Procter & Gamble, where I worked for 32 years in Account Management and Sales.

Through a limited breeding program, together with my husband Skip, we have bred 14 Champions under the Storybook name, most notably CH Storybook's Rip It Up SOM LOM "Jake". We have four children and eight grandchildren and currently reside in Elk River, Minnesota with our two Boxers, GCH CH Storybook Storytime Rag Doll CA "Brinkley" and her and Jake's son, CH Storybook Rip Van Winkle "Rip".

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## Help Needed!!! Studies Currently Looking for Boxers to Participate

### Characterization of Kidney Disease in Boxers

#### Purpose and Brief Explanation of Study:

The purpose of this project is to characterize the most common type(s) of kidney disease in American Boxer dogs in order to identify a possible genetic cause of the disease.

#### What qualifies my dog for enrollment in this in this trial?

A purebred American Boxer Dog diagnosed with kidney disease, along with its close relatives, is eligible for participation.

#### What does enrolling my dog in this clinical trial involve?

Your dog will participate in this study on one occasion at either your regular veterinary office or a specialty veterinary practice. This visit may take approximately one hour. Both blood and urine will be used for diagnostic testing, and DNA will also be isolated from the blood for genetic analysis in order to detect possible mutations that are causing the disease.

#### Client Compensation

The AKC-CHF grant will cover the cost of the renal biopsy / autopsy evaluation (if this is performed), urinalysis, serum chemistry, urine protein gel electrophoresis, and DNA isolation (approximately \$850 value).

The client will pay for the appointment for the clinical evaluation, CBC analysis prior to biopsy, and the biopsy procedure to obtain the tissues.

#### Client Contact

If you believe your pet may be eligible to enter this study, please click [here](https://redcap.bmi.osumc.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=abvmGhMFVh) (<https://redcap.bmi.osumc.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=abvmGhMFVh>) to fill out a questionnaire.

Dr. Jessica Hokamp, [hokamp.1@osu.edu](mailto:hokamp.1@osu.edu)

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### Shine On Phase 3 Early Detection and Prevention of Hemangiosarcoma

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 has formed.

- Must be an AKC-registered or pedigreed Golden Retriever, Portuguese Water Dog, or Boxer.
- Dogs must be at least 6 years old and in good general health
- Owners must agree to submit blood samples for re-testing according to the study guidelines
- Dog/Owner must live in the contiguous 48 states

Dogs that have positive test results, and that do not have a detectable tumor, will have the option to receive the experimental drug, eBAT, to determine the drug's potential to prevent progression of disease.

**Due to an overwhelming response and to the number of samples we can currently process in one week, responding to eligible participants will take longer than we anticipated. Be assured that eligible participants' forms will be added to our list, and we will respond as quickly as time and space allow.**

**Enroll Here** - <https://tinyurl.com/yaggzrmk>

**Treatment with eBAT will be done exclusively at the Veterinary Medical Center, University of Minnesota in St. Paul, MN.**

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## Research Updates- Your ABCF Dollars at work!



### Grant 02436: Predicting Disease Stage and Diuretic Responsiveness in Dogs with Acquired Heart Disease -10/02/18

By Mark Papich, DVM, North Carolina State University

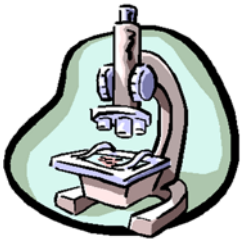
**Original Project Description:** Congestive heart failure (CHF) causes difficulty breathing because of fluid accumulation in the lungs. It is an important and common clinical problem. Mitral valve regurgitation and dilated cardiomyopathy are common causes of CHF in dogs, which can develop as these conditions progress in severity. Because there currently is no cure for these heart diseases, the treatment focus has been on prolongation of the time to CHF development, relieving signs of fluid retention when CHF occurs, and supporting the function of a failing heart. Diuretic medications ("water pills") cause increased urination after removal of fluid from the lungs and are the most effective treatment for CHF. Most dogs respond to diuretics initially, but over time, progression of heart disease and maladaptive mechanisms result in less urine production and return of CHF signs with potential for suffering, death, or euthanasia. Loss of responsiveness to diuretic medications may be multifactorial, and so identification of the underlying reason could guide medical interventions to restore urine production in response to diuretics, and improve quality of life for dogs. The investigators have identified several candidate blood and urine variables that correlate with urine production in dogs and may be useful to indicate responsiveness to diuretic medications. This study will evaluate these variables in dogs with progressive stages of naturally occurring heart disease to identify those that are poorly responsive to diuretic medications and determine underlying causes for improved patient outcomes.

**Presentations:** Dr. Kari Kurtz orally presented a portion of preliminary results from this study at the North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine Annual Research Day on August 10, 2018. Her presentation summarized the chemistry panel differences between dogs in different ACVIM heart disease stages.

**Update:** The AKC CHF funded study entitled "Predicting Disease Stage and Diuretic Responsiveness in Dogs with Acquired Heart Disease" has made satisfactory progress thus far. The enrollment of dogs in the study is complete and all the blood and urine samples have been submitted. A total of 150 dogs with paired serum and urine samples have been enrolled from ACVIM heart disease stages B1-D. An additional 50 paired samples were collected from dogs with repeated evaluations. Additionally, 28 serum samples from dogs with congestive heart failure (ACVIM heart disease stages C and D) were sent for specialized neurohormonal analyses to complement the other assessments and provide input as to activation of compensatory mechanisms in these late stages. Most of the test results have been received however, there are a few pending tests. The amount of data generated is large and it is anticipated that data analysis will take some time. Evaluation of data sets has begun with anticipation of manuscript preparation in early to mid 2019.

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### **Grant 02407-A: In vitro Efficacy of Nano-sulfur against Planktonic and Biofilm State of Resistant Bacteria -10/01/18**

By Domenico Santoro, DVM, University of Florida Health Science Center

**Original Project Description:** Antibiotic resistance and biofilm are emerging problems in both human and veterinary medicine. The inappropriate use of antibiotics helps selecting for resistant strains. Biofilms have an increased resistance pattern due to the presence of a shield that hinders penetration of antibiotics. Currently few antimicrobial options are available for resistant bacteria and biofilm causing major concerns for postsurgical patients. Over the past years, the increased development of nanotechnologies has made the fight against bacteria easier and safer due to the use of lower antimicrobial doses, reduced side effects, and increased antimicrobial efficacy. The most commonly used nano-antimicrobial is nano-silver. However, despite its efficacy, worries persist regarding its safety profile and environmental toxicity. Another emerging nano-antimicrobial is nano-sulfur; widely used in the agricultural industry. Sulfur has been a well-known and safe antimicrobial for centuries, however, its efficacy as nano-particles against biofilm formation/disruption is unknown. The investigators will evaluate the efficacy of nano-sulfur against resistant bacteria and in preventing and/or disrupting biofilm I with on multidrug-resistant Staphylococci (*S. aureus* and *S. pseudintermedius*) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. This study will determine: 1) whether nano-sulfur is effective against bacterial growth and biofilm adhesion/formation/disruption; 2) if nano-sulfur is cytotoxic at antimicrobial concentrations. If proven effective, nano-sulfur will provide a more cost-effective and safer treatment for antibiotic-resistance and biofilms.

**Update:** At this point of the project, we have completed the in vitro antimicrobial analysis for *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* and in the progress to complete the in vitro antimicrobial analysis for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. We will soon begin our work on *S. aureus*. Nanosulfur was more effective than nanosilver in killing *S. pseudintermedius*. We have also completed the toxicity study on nanosilver and nanosulfur showing no toxic effects for either compound. Furthermore, we were able to standardize and optimize successfully the biofilm testing methodology so to be able to grow mature biofilm on canine skin in absence of contamination. We have optimized the sterilization process to avoid alteration of the canine skin explants and eliminate contamination. Finally, we have started the antimicrobial testing for *S. pseudintermedius* biofilm and nanosulfur.



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## FDA Alert on Grain Free Diets and Heart Disease

If you have not heard about the FDA alert on grain free diet and heart disease you obviously do not spend much time on the internet. The alert has been the hot topic of many messages, posts and groups. Even local vets seem to be talking about this issue with clients and offering some insight on the proper course for action. Since heart disease is a problem in boxers all boxer owners should pay attention to the research and information being shared. Here are 2 different articles on the topic that hopefully will shed a little light on the situation.

### What Dog Owners Need to Know About the FDA's Grain-Free Diet Alert- by Anna Burke –[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

The [FDA launched an investigation](#) into potential links between canine heart disease and diet — specifically grain-free diets. We've compiled the information you need to know to understand this recent development.

#### What is the FDA Investigating?

It is easy to jump to conclusions anytime we see an FDA headline about pet food. After all, our dog's health is important to us, and we know that diet can make a big difference in a dog's wellbeing. We reached out to Dr. Jerry Klein, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the AKC, to hear his thoughts on the investigation.

“The FDA is investigating a potential dietary link between canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and dogs eating certain grain-free pet foods. The foods of concern are those containing legumes such as peas or lentils, other legume seeds, or potatoes listed as primary ingredients. The FDA began investigating this matter after it received a number of reports of DCM in dogs that had been eating these diets for a period of months to years. DCM itself is not considered rare in dogs, but these reports are unusual because the disease occurred in breeds of dogs not typically prone to the disease.”

#### What is Dilated Cardiomyopathy?

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a type of canine heart disease that affects the heart muscle. The hearts of dogs with DCM have a decreased ability to pump blood, which often results in congestive heart failure.

Some breeds, especially large and giant breeds, have a predisposition to DCM. These breeds include [Doberman Pinschers](#), [Great Danes](#), [Newfoundlands](#), [Irish Wolfhounds](#), and [Saint Bernards](#). While DCM

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is less common in medium and small breeds, [English](#) and [American Cocker Spaniels](#) are also predisposed to this condition.

When early reports from the veterinary cardiology community indicated that recent, atypical cases in breeds like [Golden Retrievers](#), [Labrador Retrievers](#), [Whippets](#), [Bulldogs](#), and [Shih Tzus](#) all consistently ate grain alternatives in their diets, the FDA took notice.

### **Should you be Concerned About Grain-Free Diets?**

According to Dr. Klein, “At this time, there is no proof that these ingredients are the cause of DCM in a broader range of dogs, but dog owners should be aware of this alert from the FDA. The FDA continues to work with veterinary cardiologists and veterinary nutritionists to better understand the effect, if any, of grain-free diets on dogs.”

As a general rule of thumb, the best thing you can do for your dog’s dietary health is to consult your veterinarian, not the internet. Together you can weigh the pros and cons of your dog’s diet and if necessary monitor your dog for signs of DCM.

### **Diet-associated dilated cardiomyopathy in dogs: What do we know?**

Another good reference on this topic is the commentary published in the December Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association- <https://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/pdfplus/10.2460/javma.253.11.1390>

**Summary-** Pet food marketing has outpaced the science, and owners are not always making healthy, science-based decisions even though they want to do the best for their pets. The recent cases of possible diet-associated DCM are obviously concerning and warrant vigilance within the veterinary and research communities. Importantly, although there appears to be an association between DCM and feeding BEG, vegetarian, vegan, or home-prepared diets in dogs, a cause-and-effect relationship has not been proven, and other factors may be equally or more important. Assessing diet history in all patients can help to identify diet-related cardiac diseases as early as possible and can help identify the cause and, potentially, best treatment for diet-associated DCM in dogs.

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## It's Not Just Grain-Free: An Update on Diet-Associated Dilated Cardiomyopathy

by Lisa M. Freeman, DVM, PhD, DACVN – posted November 29 at

[http://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2018/11/dcm-](http://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2018/11/dcm-update/?fbclid=IwAR3rgV8g1HhxpSQEyJCA2Nyn1MwWGc6Ole0ee0ghsVSaMQtKB6PK7FJkQ7E)

[update/?fbclid=IwAR3rgV8g1HhxpSQEyJCA2Nyn1MwWGc6Ole0ee0ghsVSaMQtKB6PK7FJkQ7E](http://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2018/11/dcm-update/?fbclid=IwAR3rgV8g1HhxpSQEyJCA2Nyn1MwWGc6Ole0ee0ghsVSaMQtKB6PK7FJkQ7E)



You may have read my June 4 post, "[A broken heart: Risk of heart disease in boutique or grain-free diets and exotic ingredients.](#)" This post had more than 180,000 page

views in the first week and continues to get more than 2000 page views a day. So, I'm pleased that people are interested in this important issue and trying to learn about it. But I've also found a tremendous amount of confusion and misinformation in the past 5 months including people who doubt that this is a real issue, some who still haven't heard about it, and people who mistakenly think it's just grain-free diets or that it's only related to taurine.

As a result of the continued confusion, some of my cardiologist colleagues and I wrote an article which was published in the latest issue of the [Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association](#). This article provides a summary of our current understanding of diet-associated dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), how to recognize it, and a recommended protocol for veterinarians to follow when they see dogs with DCM.

To be sure this information reaches as wide an audience as possible and to clear up confusion, I thought I'd provide some updates to address the most common misconceptions I'm hearing:

1. *It's not just grain-free.* This does not appear to be just an issue with grain-free diets. I am calling the suspected diets, "BEG" diets – boutique companies, [exotic ingredients](#), or grain-free diets. The apparent link between BEG diets and DCM may be due to ingredients used to replace grains in grain-free diets, such as lentils or chickpeas, but also may be due to other common ingredients commonly found in BEG diets, such as exotic meats, vegetables, and fruits. In addition, not all pet food manufacturers have the same level of nutritional expertise and quality control, and this variability could introduce potential issues with some products.
2. *Most dogs being diagnosed with DCM do not have low taurine levels.* Some owners continue to feed a BEG diet but supplement taurine thinking that this will reduce their risk for heart disease. In our hospital, we currently measure taurine in all dogs with DCM, but more than 90% of our patients with DCM in which taurine has been measured have normal levels (and the majority are eating BEG diets). Yet some of these dogs with DCM and normal taurine levels improve when their diets are changed. This suggests that there's something else playing a role in most cases – either a deficiency of a different nutrient or even a toxicity that may be associated with BEG diets. Giving taurine is unlikely to prevent DCM unless your dog has taurine deficiency. And given the [lack of quality control for dietary](#)

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[supplements](#), you can introduce new risks to your dog if you give a supplement without evidence that she needs it.

3. *Raw diets and homemade diets are not safe alternatives.* Out of concern, some owners are switching from BEG diets to a [raw](#) or [home-cooked](#) diet. However, we have diagnosed DCM in dogs eating these diets too. And raw and home-cooked diets increase your dog's risk for many other health problems. So, forego the raw or home-cooked diets and stick with a commercial pet food made by a well-established manufacturer that contains common ingredients, including grains. If your dog requires a home-prepared diet for a medical condition or you feel strongly about feeding one, I strongly recommend you consult with a Board-Certified Veterinary Nutritionist™ ([acvn.org](#)). However, because home-cooked diets are not tested for safety and nutritional adequacy like good quality commercial diets, deficiencies could still develop.

### Current thoughts on DCM

Currently, it appears that there may be three separate groups of dogs with DCM (although this may change as we learn more). I am listing them in the approximate frequency that we are currently seeing them in our hospital:

1. *Diet-associated DCM with normal taurine levels.* While this form of the disease was first identified in dogs of breeds not predisposed to DCM that are eating BEG diets, it appears to also occur in dogs of typical DCM breeds that are eating a BEG diet.
2. *Primary DCM in predisposed breeds that is unrelated to diet.* This is the traditional, genetically-related DCM in typical breeds, such as the Doberman Pinscher, Boxer, Irish Wolfhound, and Great Dane.
3. *Diet-associated DCM with taurine deficiency:* This is the least common form we are seeing in our hospital. This appears to happen both in breeds predisposed to DCM and breeds that are not predisposed to DCM.

### Common questions

We still have a great deal to learn about diet-associated DCM. However, I'm providing answers to some common questions I've been getting based on what is currently known:

1. *What's causing diet-associated DCM in dogs?* **For the vast majority of dogs, we do not yet know what is causing this disease.** There are definitely some dogs with DCM that have low taurine levels, many of which will improve with taurine supplementation and change of diet. For dogs that have normal taurine levels, however, other nutritional deficiencies may be present. Some nutritional deficiencies can

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affect the heart's normal function, so an insufficient amount of these nutrients (or reduced bioavailability) in the diet could cause heart disease. Diet-associated DCM could also be due to an ingredient in the food that is toxic to the heart. The [FDA](#) and many researchers are actively studying this issue so that it can be solved as quickly as possible.

2. *My dog was diagnosed with DCM. What should I do?* **Ask your veterinarian to measure taurine levels and give heart medications as directed by your veterinarian.** If your dog is eating a BEG diet or other unconventional diet (including [vegetarian, vegan](#), or home-prepared diets), I recommend following the steps outlined in my [previous post](#), including switching to a non-BEG diet. Three updates to my previous post are:
  - *Taurine supplements:* [Consumer Lab](#) is expected to release a report on independent quality control testing of taurine supplements in late 2018. Given the lack of quality control for dietary supplements (human and pet), having these results will be very useful to find good quality products for dogs that require taurine supplementation. Your veterinarian or veterinary cardiologist can help you determine an optimal dose for your dog.
  - *Other dogs in the household:* We are now recommending that other dogs in the household of dogs with DCM that are eating the same BEG diet be screened by their veterinarian since their hearts could also be affected (even if they are showing no symptoms).
  - *Outcome:* Not all dogs with DCM will improve and improvements in the echocardiogram, when they do occur, can take a long time (often more than 6 months).
3. *If my dog is eating a BEG diet but has no symptoms, should I test for DCM or switch to a different diet?* It's unlikely that most dogs eating a BEG diet will develop DCM. **However, given the fact that we don't yet understand why BEG diets are affecting some dogs and because DCM is a life-threatening disease, I recommend you reconsider your dog's diet until we know more.** Contrary to popular belief, there are no health benefits of grain-free or exotic ingredient diets except in the rare case of food allergy. If your dog is a part of your family and you want to feed him the very best, be sure to base this important decision on more objective factors than marketing and the ingredient list (see our [post](#)).

Be sure to watch for early signs of heart disease – weakness, slowing down, less able to exercise, shortness of breath, coughing, or fainting. If you notice any of these, get your dog checked out by your veterinarian who will listen for a heart murmur or abnormal heart rhythm (although not all dogs with DCM have any changes that can be heard with a stethoscope). Your veterinarian (or a veterinary cardiologist) may do additional tests, such as x-rays, blood tests, electrocardiogram, and ultrasound of the heart (echocardiogram – the test of choice to diagnose DCM). Tell your veterinarian what you're feeding your dog. You can help your veterinarian by bringing [a list of everything your dog eats](#) to every appointment.

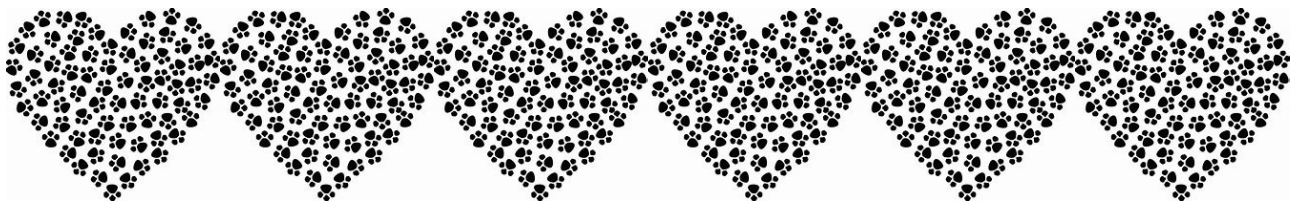
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If your dog has no symptoms, additional testing is really up to you. Some owners have measured plasma and whole blood taurine levels or scheduled an echocardiogram to check their dog's heart size and function. However, given the cost of an echocardiogram, other owners have elected to have their veterinarian do a blood test called NT-proBNP, which goes up when the heart is enlarged. While a normal value doesn't guarantee your dog has no heart disease, a high level suggests your dog's heart should be evaluated further.

4. *Has diet-associated DCM been seen in cats?* The association between BEG diets and heart disease has only been reported in dogs so far. However, that doesn't mean cats are immune. If your cat is diagnosed with DCM and is eating a BEG, vegetarian, vegan, or home-prepared diet, I recommend following the same [protocol](#) as described for dogs with DCM.

Lastly, if your dog has been eating a BEG diet and has been diagnosed with DCM, please don't feel guilty. I've talked to owners who feel terrible because they wanted to provide the finest care for their dog by feeding them the best diet possible. They often spent a lot of money buying an expensive boutique diet and now that same diet may be associated with their dog's heart disease. Trying to decide what is really the best food is confusing and difficult because of the many different products available, nutrition fads, and compelling marketing. My hope is that the one bright side of this serious situation is that it will shine a light on the complexities of making safe and nutritious pet food and the importance of nutritional expertise and quality control, rather than just what is new and trendy.



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## 2019 ABCF Fundraiser

The 2019 Fundraiser committee is hard at work. This year the committee is chaired by Tina Truesdale with committee members: Francesca Illuzi, Doreen O'connor and Bev Wilson.

The 2019 Fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 at the Wyndham Hotel in Indianapolis during the ABC National Show. We anticipate that once again this year will be another successful event.

Start collecting items for donation now! The committee will be available at ABC to receive donations. Donations can be taken to Fortune Square C room Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 10 AM to 3PM, Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4PM and Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 5PM.

If you will not be in Indianapolis, you can send your donations items any time after April 22 to:  
Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, American Boxer Charitable Foundation  
c/o Mrs. Tina Truesdale  
2544 Executive Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46241.

I am seeking volunteers to help us organize another Fabulous event. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

Thank You,

T. Truesdale  
[Wtruesd636@aol.com](mailto:Wtruesd636@aol.com)  
508-223-7077

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### IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR ABCF MEMBERSHIP!!!!

Happy New Year to one and all!!!! May 2019 be filled with puppies, old dogs, and lots of new titles in ALL venues!!!

As with every new year for a long time now, I'm once again asking for your help. **It's time to renew your membership in the American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Inc. for the calendar year which runs from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.**

I'd like to explain that a memorial donation is NOT the same as an ABCF membership. The monies from the memorial donations go into a permanent fund, the Legacy Endowment Fund, the principal of which is never touched. The income from the membership drive is used to fund the daily expenses of ABCF, such as the dinner and auction as well as the more mundane things such as postage and stationary.

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. Until this past year, the ABCF had raised more money for health research than any other breed club. **Last year, the Golden Retriever Club of America surpassed us in raising research funds. Shall we let them beat us again? I don't think so!!!!**

The money raised by the foundation has funded studies in boxer cardiomyopathy, sub-aortic stenosis, degenerative myelopathy, , thyroid disease, and cancer, including lymphoma, osteosarcoma, and canine meningioma (brain cancer). Currently, the ABCF has pledged a total of \$118,000 to Dr. Modiano's grant into the study of hemangiosarcoma. I know this one is near and dear to many of us who have lost a boxer to this frightening disease.

**Another new and exciting study funded by ABCF involves the use of gene therapy in treating dilated cardiomyopathy!!!** The principal researcher is Dr. Margaret Sleep, VMD, at the University of Florida. Although the current study involves only Dobermans, if results show that the gene delivery slows progression of heart failure in dogs with DCM, the results will have significant ramifications for all breeds.

For as little as \$25.00, less than the cost of ONE show entry, you can become a member of ABCF. By clicking on the following link, <http://abcfoundation.org> , then hitting Membership, then Online Membership Form on the left side, you can print the form 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.

And a huge thank you to those individuals and clubs who have joined ABCF **for the calendar year 2018!!!! Let's pull together and beat those yellow dogs!!!**

A happy and healthy new year to all!!!

Bobbi Compton

ABCF Membership Chairman



# ABCF MESSENGER

## Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation



### ABCF Annual Support 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:  
**American Boxer Charitable Foundation**  
P.O. Box 4194, Gettysburg, PA 17325-4194  
Email: [treasurer@abcfoundation.org](mailto:treasurer@abcfoundation.org)  
**[www.abcfoundation.org](http://www.abcfoundation.org)**