

Feb., 2006

Today, your Yorkshire Terrier Club of America Foundation (YTCAF) has a NEW BEGINNING with a Board of Directors who is recommitted to regaining your respect and placing our Foundation on a positive (+) charge once again.

First, I thought I would clarify a few things because you asked. The By-Laws which run this Foundation dictate that the Board of Directors is the governing body for the Foundation and as such makes all important decisions affecting its business and operation. Recently, I agreed to be the new Foundation President because I saw in this board a strong team of committed individuals who wanted to go forward. I saw my job as no harder than any board member except that I would serve as their spokesman. Commitment, focus, and teamwork are all necessary ingredients for a successful governing board. This team has those assets and I believe that our group can and will reemerge as the responsible health care vehicle for promoting and fostering the public's knowledge and appreciation of our Yorkshire Terriers and the health problems which can effect them.

The most common question that I have been asked over the years, "What is the Foundation doing?" Rightfully, you had every reason to know and ask. Not only because of our shared love and concern for the good health of our Yorkies but because many of you have contributed money so the YTCAF could do a job. In reply, I can say with much truth that the AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKCCHF) pulled the plug on a large research study we committed to with the Cairn Terriers. But, I know you don't want to hear excuses. I promise I am not going to tell you what we are "GONNA DO" anymore! Instead, we are going to ask you what you want us to do. What do you think are the biggest health problems facing the Yorkshire Terrier today? Then, we are going to find out what research studies are available that can help solve those problems.

A health survey is not a survey put together, mailed, and compiled overnight. We plan to make it anonymous. An independent individual (statistician) will tally the results and analyze the survey on a no name needed reply form. But to insure we don't forget to list something you believe is important and necessary, we need your input on what you would like to see on the questionnaire. Our future depends on YOUR commitment to help us serve you better. Effective immediately, you will know what YOUR Foundation is doing. The YTCA has agreed to allow the YTCAF space in the quarterly Yorkie Express. I promise we will use the Express to advise you what we are doing! Similar information will appear on the YTCA web page as well.

Lastly, let me thank past YTCAF President, Carl Trehus, and all of the previous board members for their help and contributions. Let me also welcome Georgina Miller (CA), who was recently elected to serve on this team. We all learned quickly Georgina will be a valuable member of the board. It was the dream of one of our founding members and late first President, Betty Dullinger, that the YTCAF

would strive to solve and combat some of the afflictions that beset our precious dogs. Please give us a chance to gain your confidence back. In the meantime, let us hear from you. You can contact me directly, Sharon McCadam, our Secretary, Pat Quinn fields calls for information on specific health issues, or any board member for that mater. We need your help as we undertake this New Beginning of your Foundation. Please give us another chance to improve the health of our beloved breed.

Sincerely,  
Mary Trimble President  
ThimbletipYorkie@aol.com  
PO Box 100685 Arlington, VA 22210  
(703) 312-8832