

May 16, 2006

Hello everyone:

The Board has been working diligently on many projects these past several months as we embark on our NEW BEGINNING.

First, however, I want to give you an update on a grant which the Yorkshire Terrier Club of America Foundation (YTCAF) has been involved. In 2005, the Foundation agreed to partially fund (in the amount of \$1,300) a Thyroid Research Grant at the University of Georgia (that totaled \$97,878). This is a study on hypothyroidism which is the failure of the thyroid gland. It is the most common hormonal abnormality in dogs. It can cause many medical problems, including hair loss and skin infections, and the Yorkshire Terrier is one of several breeds that fall victim to the problem. Our 2006 commitment is another \$1,300 and once the final payment has been made, we will have \$4,244* remaining on deposit with the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF). You will be advised when we receive any results of the study.

This January, the AKC CHF asked the Foundation to consider contributing \$5,000 to support a grant at the University of Tennessee to evaluate a minimally invasive imaging technique called "transplenic portal scintigraphy (TSPS). This procedure is performed on dogs under light sedation to diagnosis Porto systemic liver shunts (or abnormal liver structures) and will allow lower doses of radioisotopes to be used. This could mean better patient care and increased staff safety in diagnosing shunts in our dogs. The Board unanimously voted to support this study by utilizing the remaining \$4,244* on deposit with the CHF (these are monies left over because CHF called off the study we were supporting with Cairn Terriers) and supplementing it to meet the requested \$5,000 (+\$756).

Our primary focus has been the upcoming Health Survey which I discussed in my last communication. Step one in the process has been to negotiate a contract with a Statistician or Tabulator. I am pleased to report that Beckie Stanevich, who was highly recommended, has agreed to take on the task. A delegate to the AKC from the Mountaineer Kennel Club, Beckie has conducted two health surveys for the Newfoundland Club of America and one for the American Brussels Griffon Association. She helped put together health survey responses for the Kuvasz club and serves on the AKC CHF Advisory Counsel. At this point, her experience, suggestions, and expertise have been invaluable to us. The Board is committed to put forth the best questionnaire we can: one that is easily understood and not complicated, one that can be completed with ease, and one that will give us the best possible return.

In these next several weeks, the Board will begin the final process of preparing the Survey. Our goal is to include everyone involved with Yorkshire Terriers who has

knowledge of health problems in our breed. This Survey will be a wonderful tool once it is completed. It will insure we are focusing on the right health issues and it will also show where the YTCAF needs to direct its assets. However, success depends on YOUR participation - we cannot stress that enough. The Survey will be completely confidential and anonymous. Please contact any board member if you have a health issue that you would like included in the Survey.

So, now we can ALL set a goal! Let's make the Yorkshire Terrier Health Survey the one that will stand out as an example to the other breed clubs. The Board will work on its presentation --- its success will be YOUR job!

Sincerely, The Foundation Board