

On The Healthfront

By Kay McGuire, DVM, MS

The Westie Foundation (WFA) continues to work for you by selecting appropriate Research Grants to support. You can find several Grant updates later in this newsletter. We are very much aware of the health conditions that commonly affect our dogs, and we continue to monitor the recurrent health survey that can be found at www.offa.org. With Atopic Dermatitis leading the list of conditions that create discomfort for our dogs, be sure to read Dr. Valerie Fadok's article where she mentions new treatment options for affected animals.

There are many of you that have helped us support the above-mentioned grants by submitting blood and tissue samples necessary for research. The WFA is moving towards participation in a biobanking facility where these samples can be stored for the indefinite future. Our dream is to have a facility that can house DNA and/or tissue samples available for future research endeavors.

The WFA was one of five sponsors (AKC Canine Health Foundation, Morris Animal Foundation, Mars Veterinary, WFA and the Sidney E Frank Foundation) to support a Workshop held April 8-11, 2017 at Texas A&M University. This meeting brought together dedicated professionals from other Bio Specimen Repositories (NIH, Cornell University, Michigan State University, St. Petersburg

State University, Pan-Smithsonian Cryo-Initiative and Colorado State University) to discuss the best practices in standardization and collection methods to provide long-term high quality, biological and environmental specimens for research purposes.

As October nears, we are excited about our upcoming Health Seminar to be held at the Kimberton Fire House, PA on October 5th, 2017. Margaret Casal, DVM, MS, PhD from the University of Pennsylvania will be our speaker.

Dr. Casal is an Associate Professor in Molecular Genetics at the School of Veterinary Medicine and a Diplomate of ECAR (reproduction). The topic presented will be Neonatal Puppy Care and "Fading Puppy Syndrome." Please join us at 6:30 PM if you are able, we will



be providing light refreshments for the talk and will be taping the presentation for our website.

In closing, the NEW Westie E-Books is up on our website, www.westiefoundation.org. This has been a large undertaking to update all information as well as adding chapters. The publication is 134 pages and we feel that this will be a book that every Westie owner and breeder will desire. We are moving to have it available in print and available for purchase soon.