

Questions? Comments?
 Suggestions?

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Westie owners are an important source of information that we with the Westie Foundation value. Each of us has had many experiences with our Westies, medical and otherwise, that would be helpful to other owners. Please consider sharing those stories for the **Westie Wellness** newsletter. Please let me know if you would like to submit an article. We love our dogs and any medical emergency or disease affecting them can be really scary. Remember, you and your Westie are not alone. I can almost promise that someone else has traveled the same road. You can email me at president@westiefoundation.org or bjpinter@msn.com. I look forward to hearing from you.



Bebe Pinter

In this issue of the newsletter, Dr. Kay McGuire addresses the use of cannabidiol (CBD) products for animals with her report "The Use of CBD in Dogs, Is This A New High?" There is some evidence that CBD is beneficial—an interesting read.

Dr. Claire Wiley provides the article "Early Detection of Urothelial Carcinoma and Juvenile-Onset Nephropathy" that was her presentation for the WFA seminar last October at Kimberton, Pennsylvania. Dr. Wiley defines both diseases, discusses diagnosis and treatment, and recommendations for Westies. She said that Juvenile-Onset Nephropathy diagnosis is challenging to diagnose, has a highly variable age of onset, and affected dogs could be bred before they show any clinical signs.

Take note of the article "New Research Identifies the Most Common Illnesses Suffered by Westies" by Arlo Guthrie, VetSurgeon News. Dr. Dan O'Neill, Senior Lecturer and VetCompass researcher at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), UK was the main author of the paper. Coauthor Camilla Pegram, Veterinary Epidemiologist and RVC VetCompass researcher said: "the most common disorders of Westies shown in this study are also common in the wider UK dog population. However, the breed does seem predisposed to lower respiratory tract disease which was a common cause of death in the Westie. Owners should be aware of this issue as their Westie ages." You can access the complete 12-page study as listed under Reference at the end of the article. There is a correction noted if you search for the research paper.

Read "What Is The Skin Barrier And Why Does It Matter?" by Valerie A. Fadok, DVM, PhD, Diplomate, ACVD. This article is very timely as spring is approaching. She discusses What is the Skin Barrier? How Can We Repair It?, A Special Role for Spot-Ons, and Conclusions. Dr. Fadok said, "We know that there are many genes involved in the abnormal allergic response, and the same is true for the skin barrier."

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On the subject of atopic dermatitis (AD) check out the article “Journal Scan: Bad Dog? Puritus May Be To Blame.” Based upon a study, conclusion showed a direct link between itch associated with AD and problem behaviors. Follow the link in the article for the full study.

Thanks to Mary Ann Neal for sharing “A Lifetime’s Journey” about her 14 year old Westie girl Maura. Mary Ann shares her journey to help keep her girl healthy, happy and doing a job(s) Maura likes. Many of us are living with senior Westies. Mary Ann’s devotion to Maura is an inspiration! *We are saddened to report that Maura crossed the Rainbow Bridge on January 30, 2020. Condolences to Mary Ann and breeder Allison for Maura’s life well lived.*

The WFA has provided grants to three AKC Canine Health Foundation research projects that have submitted progress reports as follows: (1) Grant 0239-T: *Targeting Cancer Epigenome: The Effect of Specific Histone Lysine Methyltransferase Inhibition in Canine B-Cell Lymphoma*, (2) Grant 02597: *Molecular Epidemiology of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Pseudintermedius in the United States*, and (3) Grant 02651: *Discovery of Novel Biomarkers of Canine Atopic Dermatitis through Lipid Profiling*. These are mid-year reports.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support of the WFA but most of all, your love of Westies!

Bebe Pinter

 YOUR DOG AGE CALCULATOR CHART 					
Years	Breed Size (in lbs)				
	Toy (3-10)	Small (11-25)	Medium (26-50)	Large (51-100)	Giant (100+)
1	15	15	14	14	12
2	24	24	23	22	20
3	28	28	28	28	28
4	31	32	33	34	35
5	35	36	37	39	43
6	38	40	42	45	50
7	42	44	46	50	58
8	45	48	51	56	65
9	49	52	55	61	73
10	52	56	60	67	80
11	56	60	64	72	88
12	59	64	69	78	95
13	63	68	73	83	103
14	66	72	78	89	110
15	70	76	82	94	118
16	74	80	87	100	125
17	78	84	91	105	
18	82	88	96	111	
19	86	92	100	116	
20	90	96	105	122	

Source: <http://www.vnessentials.com/Gui/Content.aspx?Page=DogAge>