

Spring 2020

Questions? Comments?
Suggestions?

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In spite of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the board and its committees have been very busy at a safe distance. We are involved with an important study in Scotland, choosing the 2020 veterinary scholarship winner, preparing to launch a new website this year, developing additional policies, planning the annual WFA Facebook Auction (date to be announced), and working to assure good communications with our donors and the Westie public. It's an ambitious agenda but our board of directors and Advisory Council are up to it!



Bebe Pinter

In this issue, start off by reading about a special sense—the eye, titled “Juvenile Cataract in West Highland White Terriers” by Lindsey Buracker, DVM and John Robertson, VMD, PhD from **The Westie Health Book**. According to the authors “Juvenile cataract may form before birth and develop shortly after birth as the dog’s eyes mature.” Subtopics include: Introduction, The Anatomy of the Eye and the Phenomenon of Vision, An Introduction to Cataracts, Juvenile Cataracts, Noticing Your Dog’s Eyes and Behavior, and Eye Examination by a Veterinarian, Prevention of Cataracts, Treatment, Prognosis and Follow-up Care. It is important to have your dog’s eyes examined by an ophthalmologist as part of his/her CHIC health clearance.

Please allow a little time to peruse the Donors, Memorials and Honorariums pages. We thank our donors one and all! Without our dedicated donors, the WFA would be unable to do the work necessary to help improve the health of all Westies. We need your support and encourage you to become an annual or monthly donor. We are an active board for a canine foundation that functions as an advocate and catalyst to make real progress in the health arena through research and education. You may contact Jim McCain, Donor Manager at donormanager@westiefoundation.org or visit our website www.westiefoundation.org for assistance. In addition, I would be delighted to visit with you about what the WFA has accomplished, major projects and research underway, as well as ways you may volunteer if you are interested. My email is president@westiefoundation.org.

Another great article on the special sense of the eye continues with “Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (Dry Eye)” by Stephanie Shrader, DVM and John

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Robertson, VMD, PhD. Many Westies encounter this disease as they age. It is also a disease affecting human eyes. Shrader and Roberson said, "There are several potential causes... the common feature among these causes is that they impair the ability of the tear-secreting tissues in the eye to perform their basic functions." This article will help you notice the condition early so you can alert your veterinarian in case a Schirmer Tear Test is needed to diagnosis the disease. Subtopics in the article include: Introduction and Overview, Relevant Anatomy of the Eye, How Tears Are Produced, What Causes Keratoconjunctivitis sicca?, How is Keratoconjunctivitis sicca diagnosed?, and Treatment of Keratoconjunctivitis sicca. Information included about the eye anatomy is very interesting to know..

Don't forget to order your personal copy of *The Westie Health Book*. An order form is included on page 19 for your convenience. It is my pleasure to mail the book to you.

We appreciate your notes and send our condolences to those of you who have had your dear Westie cross The Rainbow Bridge. Please know that everyone involved with the WFA truly understands.

In closing, I would like to share how in all this COVID-19 chaos that my Westies have created a very comforting and stabilizing environment for my husband and me while we are sheltering at home. My seven Westies continue to demonstrate love and clownish fun that definitely decreases our stress of the unknown, what lies ahead with this virus. In addition, my daily caring for them generates the structure I need for a feeling of wellbeing and family. May you all find comfort during this time with your Westie(s) and other pets. We are so fortunate to have them in our lives. Stay safe and well!

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

Bebe Pinter

PINTEREST HUMOR

<https://www.pinterest.com/lindyb2014/westie-humor/>



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