

HEALTH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

Prepared by Flo Laicher

Membership

Currently there are 20 members.

Grants and Studies

Three studies were funded during 2013 with a combination of funds from the GPCA and the Donor Advised Fund at the CHF. Projects for 2014 are also being funded through the GPCA and the DAF at CHF.

Summaries of the progress reports for 2012, 2013 and 2014 are being published in the Q2 2015 issue of the *Bulletin*.

We expect to be reviewing proposals from the CHF after the national and again in the fall. The CHF is moving from sending out many large proposals to setting up broad initiatives and gathering committed support for them so they have a “war chest” and can fully fund the approved studies. This approach is similar to the bloat initiative we supported last year. We continue to receive proposals for smaller explorative studies and will be looking at those also.

Dwarf Marker Study – I contacted Dr. Neff earlier this month and he had nothing further to report on this project.

CHIC/DNA Collections

Since most researchers prefer blood samples to cheek swabs, we are trying a blood draw at this specialty. The health committee voted to underwrite the cost of processing these samples in support of canine research. The clinic will be held on Wednesday and pre-registration is required.

2014 Health Survey Results

The results are included with this packet and will be published in the National Specialty issue of the *Bulletin*.

Online Store and HC Table

Jean Pero will continue to assume responsibility for this activity. We have some new items available, so please visit the health committee table to view them. The online store will be revamped after this year’s national, since we have a new website manager. Come to see us at the table to gather health information from OFA, CHIC and the GPCA.

National Specialty

Seminars:

1. 2014: Dr. William Rausch made a wonderful presentation on cardiac issues. The report was printed in the 2014 NS issue of the *Bulletin*.
2. 2015: Mr. Eddie Dzuik will be discussing using the OFA screenings and various genetic tests in planning your breeding program.

Clinics:

1. 2014 we offered Cardiac screening immediately after the seminar on Thursday evening. Dogs were screened and all passed the exam. Please see the 2014 NS issue for a detailed report.
2. 2015 CHIC/DNA blood draws will be collected on Wednesday afternoon.

Health Awards – This program was revamped in 2013. The information on Pyrs receiving CHIC numbers that is sent to the HC is now being forwarded to Darrell. He is recognizing the dogs that have met the criteria for the various health award levels and reaching out to the owners of those dogs. In 2014, 54 Pyrs and their owners were recognized through this new approach.

Longevity Awards – Three certificates were mailed in 2014.

Recipients of the health awards and longevity awards were published in the Q1 2015 issue of the *Bulletin* and will be listed on the HC website.

Health Committee Brochure – we've been creating these since 2006. A 2015 -16 version will be created after the national and once decisions about research projects for 2015 are made.

Affiliated Club Liaison for Health – Jan Waitz has taken over this program. As a former information professional in the pharmaceutical industry, she receives constant updates from the government and other sources on recalls of drugs, food products and other items of interest. She forwards these notifications to the list of reps as she receives them. In addition she has forwarded links to various articles and podcasts on health issues.

Articles for Reprint/Bulletin

We have been fortunate this year to have quality articles for print that did not require reprint permission. We encourage all GPCA health committee members keep the bulletin editors informed of possible material for the bulletin. We maintained a presence in each issue of the *Bulletin* during 2014.

Health Survey Database

Our health survey data is reviewed annually by Catherine de la Cruz. The 2014 summary was based on 50 responses.

GPCA Sponsored Programs

Champion of Health

The dog recognized in 2015 will be our 7th Champion of Health. We found not all dogs who are awarded Champion of Health will be posted on the CHIC/OFA site for Champion of Health. The recipients of this award will be recognized in the NS issue of the *Bulletin* and on the health committee website. We hope interest in this program remains strong. We feel the Champion of Health Program encourages health testing and screening and thus CHIC registry.

The Champion of Health sub-committee has two openings. Current member are Cathryn Lundberg, Joan Stewart and Sandy McCrady. Members review and discuss the applicants each year in early February. Other than that there may be brief discussions during the year on our guidelines or the application content. The time commitment is minimal. Please let Joan know if you would like to participate. If you are interested and are not a member of the health committee, consider joining the committee and volunteering for the role.

Meet the Breed

The requests for free pamphlets and brochures are managed by Sandra McCrady. This benefit to regional clubs may need some promotion as it is currently unused.

Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia

No activity to report this year.

Health Committee Donors

There were 92 members donating cash and/or gifts to the health committee in 2014. \$2,737 was received in donations with dues and an additional \$500 was received from an individual who adopted a Pyr. \$405 was received in memorial donations from 6 members in honor of 9 Pyrs. The names of all donors and the memorial donations were published in the Q4 2015 issue of the GPCA *Bulletin*.

All donors should have received a thank you letter with a copy of our health survey encouraging them to support our efforts with health survey submissions. Joan Stewart Ruiz is continuing to do this mailing.

Website

In the fall of 2013 the computer that was used to maintain the GPCA Health website died and took all programming and files with it. Thus there has been little work on or updates to the website since. We have purchased new software. Tim Swain has taken on the management of the website. He has already begun making updates and fixing links. We welcome Tim to the health committee and appreciate his taking on this important job. We thank Joe Bruns for his continuing work and support.

We'd like to thank you all for your generous support of our endeavors. Through your donations and purchases from the store we are able to support all of our programs and research. The Health Committee does not use any funds from the GPCA general fund. We ask for your support to continue the momentum of the Health Committee.

A HEALTHY PYR IS A HAPPY PYR. Please visit our website at
www.gpachealth.org