



Dylan



Bear



Maya



Cantik



Kelly

**Key*
Quarterly
Contributors**

John Cannarsa

Coastal White
GSD Rescue
Referral

Cliff & Missy
Lee

Ken Makowski

Judy Huston

* Please go to page 4
for additional
information.

The **WHITE
SHEPHERD**

ADVOCATE

The Official Newsletter of the White Shepherd Genetics Project, Inc.

SERVING THE WHITE SHEPHERD COMMUNITY SINCE 1999

WHITE SHEPHERD GENETICS PROJECT

"Dedicated to the health and preservation of the White Shepherd"



Kyra
In Memory of Kyra



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Comments from our President

December 2009

Judy Huston

We are floating on Cloud 9. To say we are excited and optimistic about our future barely expresses how we are feeling.

"Welcome to our newly approved White Shepherd Genetics Project (WSGP) not-for-profit organization!" Please see page 5 for more details on what this means for all of us.

The dream continues. The way has been paved for us to do even more for our beautiful White Shepherds. Getting this legal status, moving toward the new professional database, and launching our newsletter are just a few of the tools that we are using.

Every one of us has a story to tell, a dream to share, and goals to reach! Every one of us has tried to do his/her part either personally, with one or more of the clubs, with the White Shepherd Genetics Project or all three at once...to have our dogs recognized as the all-purpose dogs we know them to be. I believe each of us is committed to do our part to improve the health of this breed in the best way we can. All of us have experienced the "best" of these dogs and the worst when we struggle with health and genetics issues.

The caliber of people with their individual talents who have come together to get us to this point in time is phenomenal. Not only do we have the best dogs, we have the best group of people. We have pioneers whose experience and mentoring helped uplift the breed. We have people with talents ranging from website design and management to creating and maintaining databases. We have researchers and writers in our group. We have a pool of creative people who can do it all! We have workers who are the backbone of our clubs and who never gave up even in the worst of times. It hasn't been without bumps in the road, but life's roads have bumps, and somehow we manage to keep on going and regroup and stay on target because ultimately we know we aren't doing all this work for ourselves, we are doing it for the betterment of our outstanding white dogs.

This newsletter is for all of you! It is designed to keep you up-to-date on all issues, research, fundraisers, new tests, and new findings that affect our breed. Melanie Fuellgraf will write about the database and the progress we are making there. Ken Makowski will cover Board issues, fundraising, and other business-related matters. As in the past, our Treasurer's Report will be available on the WSGP website. I will include information on necropsies, diagnostics, and research. We will highlight breeders and owners who have something to share that will advance our knowledge.

You all have worked hard for the breed, and as you continue to participate in the project and support this work, we will all have reasons to be proud.

For the White Shepherd, **Judy**

WWW.WSGENETICS.ORG

4th ANNUAL WSGP FUNDRAISER

SEPT. 26 & 27, 2009 HELD AT
CURREY'S FAMILY PET CARE IN ROMULUS, MI

We did it!

We raised \$3,500...up from last year!

White Shepherd people are the best.

You all did it! You made the 4th Annual WSGP Fundraiser a success. You did it in a shaky economy. And, you did it in a spirit of fun and with smiles on your faces. You did it by contributing to the raffle table and by buying raffle tickets. Some of the UWSC members made donations to buy the three BOLT dogs (two of them are now Canadian citizens thanks to John Chanyi's generous bidding). Whatever part "you" played, it was important to the healthy future of our dogs!

It means we have the funds we will need to keep moving ahead in our goals to support education and research for these dogs we all love so much.

We plan to do it again next year at the same location (Currey's). The date will be decided once we know we won't conflict with other important shows.

Thanks to everyone who had a part! And, especially, thank you to Pat Currey for again donating his site for our annual event.



Madison begged her mom to keep bidding for the "Luger" basket.



White Shepherd Sugar Cookies! Go to the last page of the calendar for the recipe. Courtesy of Robin Davey's 2010 Calendar. See page 4 for ordering information.



Diana encourages bidding on BOLT!



Raffle table set up by Pam Koons and her daughter, Sheri Zamonski; was manned by Sheri the entire weekend. Thanks Sheri!

4th ANNUAL WSGP FUNDRAISER

SEPT 26 & 27, 2009 HELD AT

CURREY'S FAMILY PET CARE IN ROMULUS, MI

(Continued from page 2)



Best of Breed Class...Guess Who...?

NECROPSY PROJECT CHANGE OF PROTOCOL

Please see the first page side-bar of this newsletter to view the most recent five dogs whose owners have gone Above and Beyond to help our breed by allowing necropsy.

We began doing necropsies in 2003 for our dogs to try to determine whether or not they were suffering from Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) or one of the other spinal conditions like Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD), Lumbosacral Stenosis (LS), or Spondylosis.

After gathering results on 31 dogs, it is still not conclusive. We have had two dogs that pathologists *think* may have had DM. We've asked Dr. Joan Coates, researcher at the University of Missouri, to review the reports and possibly the slides. She has had more experience with DM than any other researcher we have contact with.

- #31 "Dylan"—Braehead's Memento of Q, owned and bred by Susan Ewart.
Cause of death was Hemangiosarcoma
- #30 "Bear"—Eisbaer Von Patchwork, owned by Brian and Laurie McGeorge,
bred by Rhonda McMahan. Cause of death was Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy.

- #29 "Maya"—Surefire Miss Mya Nachiri, owned by Oliver Lambert, bred by R. McMahan.
Cause of death was Mesenteric and omental angiomatosis.
- #28 "Cantik" owned by Esther Cohen and Avia Klein, bred by Rhonda McMahan and Kelsey Joyce-Shepard. Cause of death was acute pulmonary edema and hemorrhage compatible with a toxic etiology.
- #27 "Kelly"—Kelly's Snowy River, owned by Robin Davey, bred by Daniel and L. Peck. Kelly was euthanized at almost 14 years of age. She had both IVDD and Spondylosis.

We've learned that most of our older dogs have one or more of the spinal conditions—usually IVDD or Spondylosis or both. Some are considered to have a degeneration that some pathologists, including Dr. Padgett, called "old dog DM" as opposed to GSD DM. Hopefully Dr. Coates will review a few of these cases as well. Some of our younger dogs are being diagnosed through OFA with an extra vertebrae called Transitional Vertebrae which appears to cause an instability of the spine.

We will continue to ask owners to allow a necropsy on any dog with a diagnosis of Degenerative Myelopathy and the project will pay for the procedure. We will also continue to pay for any dog that dies suddenly and prematurely. For the time being, we have enough information on the older dogs, but will consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis, especially if the dog in question has progeny in breeding programs.

Key Quarterly Contributors

(Continued from page 1)

The White Shepherd Genetics Project, Inc. (WSGP) has just recently been granted the status of a “Public Charity” under the IRS tax code 170 and is now certified as a “Not-For Profit” 501(c)3 Public Charity. This has many implications for us, all of them positive. There will be additional information as to how this impacts us as an organization and as individual contributors.

The Board of Directors, in consultation with outside not-for-profit groups, has taken a look at our initial draft formatting of this newsletter. One of the considerations that was paramount from the beginning was that major cash contributors needed to be recognized. We most certainly agree. Our Board spent a lot of time considering what constitutes a major cash contributor at this time in our development. Since the WSGP has been established as a fund raising organization for research into the breed, the Board has decided that only cash contributions that are unrestricted will be recognized in the first page banner of our newsletter and, additionally, that the contributions be at least \$100. Donations may be made by cash, check or credit card. Please go to the website for details.

Donations “in kind” (materials, items, services, etc.), while they are much appreciated and will contribute significantly to the success of our fledgling organization getting off the ground, will not be eligible for inclusion in the “banner.” This is, once again, because our primary focus is fundraising for research into our White Shepherd breed.

The Board of Directors is also considering some sort of format where all of the contributors to the Project will be recognized in some way, from its very inception. We welcome any and all suggestions.

Guess Who...? (from page 3)

For those of you that didn’t recognize yourselves in our page 3 “Guess Who,” we’ll do our best to help you!

- Left to right:
- Tiffany with King
 - Lynda with Pen
 - Chelsea with Pebbles
 - Lora with Sugar
 - Michelle with Lazer
 - Breanna with Ramsey

Missing from the picture are the BOB and BOS dogs, Kole and Erika.

2010 WSGP Photo & Recipe Calendar



DO NOT BE SCARED!

Let's have a fun and spooky fundraiser for this year! Give us some donations and we'll make the ghosting to make the fundraiser!

WANTED:

- 1. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 2. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 3. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 4. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 5. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 6. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting

WANTED:

- 1. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 2. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 3. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 4. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 5. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting
- 6. 100 items (donations) to make the ghosting

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER: 1-30, 31
OCTOBER 2010
NOVEMBER: 1-30, 31

Continued on page 5

2010 WSGP Photo & Recipe Calendar

(continued from page 4)

Be the first in your neighborhood to get a “soon to be collector’s item” - the 2010 White Shepherd Genetics Project combination *Photo and Recipe Calendar*.

This fundraiser was conceived by Robin Davey, with expert help from Annmarie Mikelski, it all came together resulting in the final product. Photos and recipes were unscientifically selected from a multitude of submissions. Thank you all for your submissions and suggestions.

There are calendars remaining from the initial printing for purchase/donation. They are \$30.00 each which includes priority mail handling as well as a significant contribution to the White Shepherd Genetics Project. Please send a check made out to Robin Davey for the full amount (\$30.00 each calendar). Please mail to:

Robin Davey
426 Wire Mill Road
Stamford, CT 06903

If you have any questions, you can email her at adogsday@optonline.net.

Health & Genetics Database Update

The WSGP health and genetics database is in a state of growth and change. Plans for the new WSGP health and genetics database involve developing an interactive on-line application which will enable all of us to make new submissions as well as update information about dogs that are already there. Highlights of the new application include the ability to record and maintain multiple test and screening results per dog for a given condition, additional optional fields allowing owners to add more information about their dog’s characteristics and living environment, ability to request specific reports from the information in the database and limit the search criteria for those reports.

As we transition toward a new health and genetics on-line application, due to some changing technologies, we will be maintaining the charts and submissions collected prior to 2008 in the original format and a set of consolidated submissions from 2008 to current in a new format. In order to obtain a complete picture of all submissions, you must look at both sets of data.

Some of the goals for future data recording have already been introduced in the post 2008 database charts, such as the inclusion of TLI test results. The inclusion of these test results indicate only that the TLI tests were performed, along with the results of the test. They do not necessarily indicate a dog has been diagnosed with EPI. We do not want to apply a conclusion to all results, only record the results of the tests. As we move toward the future we find that “we do not even know what we don’t know,” therefore it will be advantageous for us to collect as much health testing and screening information as possible for the future.

It will be many months before the new on-line application will be available for us to use, however it is important as always for us to continue to submit health problems as well as health clearances and test results. Please refer to the following steps to submit your information.

Steps to submit a health problem or clearance:

1. The submission forms are available at: http://www.wsgenetics.org/information_submission_database.htm
2. Select a form from the website, a dialog box will appear asking you to open or save the form. Please save a copy of the form to your computer.
3. Complete the information on the form and save the form with your updates.
4. Send an email to me at melanie@wsgenetics.org with a copy to Judy Huston at judy@wsgenetics.org attaching a copy of the completed form as well as a copy of any supporting documentation, i.e. scanned certificates, test results, etc. Please put “WSGP” in the subject line.

We would like to thank all of you for your continuing support of the White Shepherd Genetics Project and the health and genetics database.

For the White Shepherd, **Melanie**

(Melanie Fuellgraf is our Database Manager as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the White Shepherd Genetics Project, Inc. She will be a frequent contributor to this newsletter.)

New Look !!

Perhaps you've noticed? We have a brand new look.

Thanks to the collaborative effort of the Board of Directors and Annmarie Mikelski, our Website Designer and Advisor, we have come up with a brand new look for the White Shepherd Genetics Project, Inc.

The reasons for the change are many, some of which have to do with our recent status change to a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization, as well as gaining control of our domain site and all future communications regarding the WSGP.

This has been a long time in coming and very rewarding. Congratulations to all those that contributed to the effort.

An Appeal...Please Consider Donating to the WSGP

As the end of the year is rapidly approaching, now is the time for each one of us to assess our tax situation. It may make sense to donate some monies at this time to a charitable organization that would be tax deductible. Since the WSGP is newly classified as a not-for-profit organization, any donations that you make are deductible on your tax return.

Please consider donating any amount. We have new necropsies to fund on premature deaths of our White Shepherds and any donation of \$100 will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Please go to the website: www.wsgenetics.org and find "Make a Donation" at the bottom of the home page. Click on the button and you will be presented with a PayPal page that lists several options for making a donation, including credit card payments.

Your support will be graciously accepted.

Also, please remember that there are many other ways to contribute to the Project in lieu of actual cash contributions. The WSGP appreciates any contribution in any form, cash, in-kind, services, etc. Your efforts will not go unappreciated.

MISSION STATEMENT

Following is the official, registered, Mission Statement of our Organization:

"To preserve, protect, and improve upon the health of the White Shepherd/white German Shepherd Dog by educating breeders, pet owners, and the general public, by conducting and supporting research, and by organizing fundraisers through seminars, raffles, auctions, and through donations."

Notes

1. This is our Inaugural Newsletter. Any and all comments will be appreciated. We are newbies at this so please forgive any gross oversights. Thank You.
2. We have had a lot of great suggestions as to what should be included in this newsletter. One that rises to the top is a column dedicated to "What's New?" The Board is in agreement that this column would be beneficial.
3. Please expect revisions to this format of the newsletter, as well as to the format of the website, as we move forward. These are happy times!

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