

Bouvier Health Foundation Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2015



1. Call to Order (7:01pm – CST)
2. Roll Call:  
**Board Members Present:** Penny Anderson, Serge Bilodeau, Susan Costanzo, Marilyn Howard, Andie Newman and Wendy Sparschu.  
**Absent:** Erika Werne  
**ABdFC Oversight:** Dennis Craig. **Absent:** Dayle Sullivan
3. Approval of Agenda (Newman/Bilodeau); motion passed by voice vote.
4. Approval of January 21, 2015 minutes (Howard/Bilodeau); motion passed by voice vote.
5. Officer Reports
  - Chair (Costanzo) Confirmed BHF Committee Chair assignments and set the Chairs to their tasks. Reports are below. Followed-up with ABdFC Treasurer on Fund balances, and requested additional detail on expenses and income.
  - Secretary (Anderson) since the last meeting, BHF has received a total of 23 donor contributions, amounting to \$715.00 – making the current 2015 total = \$1,145.00. Of these 2015 contributions, four – totaling \$330.00 were made in memory of Robert Litogot.  
The Spring 2015 edition of the Dirty Beards will include an article on Ovulation Timing, by Dr. Bruce W. Christensen, from his presentation at the 2014 UC Davis Canine Reproduction Conference. All Board members are encouraged to contribute articles for our BHF Byline, the Summer publication submission deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Treasurer (Sullivan – presented by BHF Chair Costanzo) January 31, 2015 Account Balance report indicated a BHF fund balance of \$75,844.68 – included in this total is a Money Market account totalling \$50,120.11. Because the bulk of our funds are contained in the MM account, Susan will investigate what minimum balance must be maintained and come back to the Board with any recommendations for moving funds.  
Also reviewed were the Profit/Loss (P&L) summary (July 2014 – January 2015). The Board had a number of questions regarding the source of some of these expense categories, which Susan will investigate. It is expected that our 2015 P&L will mirror last year, except for the income from sale of Ring-side Seating during the Colorado Specialty, which won't be available to BHF.
6. Committee Reports
  - DNA Blood Draw (Jody Head) in her emailed report; recommended that the Blood Draw Clinic be conducted again on Wednesday & Thursday (October 7 & 8, 2015) of Specialty week, from 10am – 2pm. Once the dates/times have been approved, she will move forward on scheduling personnel & purchasing needed supplies.
  - Colorado Specialty Health Day – Wednesday, October 7 (Beth Leabch) in her emailed report; indicated that Four Season's Veterinary Specialists will be emergency vet care for the Specialty and have agreed to provide the Vet Techs at NO CHARGE for both days of the Blood Draw.  
She's been in contact with local Reproduction Veterinarian, Dr. Gregory Burns, to conduct a seminar on a reproductive topic. However, she has been unable to contact someone from Colorado State University – Vet School.
  - Gene Mutation/SAS Study (Sue Matthews) in her emailed report; gave an overview of her efforts over the last couple of years regarding the formation of this research study. Suggested certain alternate efforts for collecting the needed \$45,000 for inclusion. Discovered that the seed money can be paid

over two years, but an initial payment of \$25,000 is required to launch the project, with a pledge of \$20,000 to be paid in the second year. Dr. Stern needs samples from both SAS-affected & dogs who are echocardiogram-cleared – about 25 dogs in each group, and ideally with dissimilar pedigrees. Two breeds have already come forward, so there is a time constraint on the process, with a limit of five breeds to be included; however, there maybe room to add a few more breeds.

- CHF/DAF Research Projects (Sparschu) shared the 2014 DAF Activity Statement. Explained to the Board that when Donor Funds are not allocated during a given year, CHF will automatically move 5% of the balance into a project category based on the frequency of contributions – meaning, for 2014, \$44.00 was automatically moved into Oncology since much of our previous support has been in cancer-related research.  
Also shared the final report of Grant 01898-A (Cardiomyopathy), which will be uploaded to the BHF website and summary published in the next Dirty Beards.

#### 7. Old Business

- DNA Profile Proposal/ABdFC Response (Costanzo) ABdFC Board felt the current proposal too aggressive and did not feel it was appropriate for ABdFC Board to take action without prior presentation to the Club membership. It was suggested that BHF communicate the proposal to the membership through a Dirty Beards article &/or question/answer session during the Annual Meeting in Colorado. Motion (Bilodeau/Newman) to move forward based on ABdFC recommendations. Serge will prepare an article for the Summer Dirty Beards - addressing why this requirement has been proposed and the benefits to be gained by its enforcement. After which time, a presentation will be developed for the Annual Meeting; motion passed, with one opposed.
- BHF Mini Health Survey (Anderson) Total of 85 respondents (80 by the Feb 15 deadline/5 additional after deadline) The Top Six categories of concern were as follows: Oncology, Cardiology, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Musculoskeletal, and Immunology. The Top Three were overwhelmingly of greatest concern to the membership. Discussion regarding Step Two – CHF/DAF Grant Listing will not be available until July or later. Motion (Anderson/Bilodeau) to conduct Step Two Survey – sending, via ABdFC ListServe, requesting up to three conditions in each of the Six Top categories, with a deadline of June 15<sup>th</sup> – Penny to again be the contact & collect responses; motion passed by voice vote.
- Glaucoma Genome Proposal – motion (Howard/Newman) TABLED; motion passed by voice vote
- BHF Health Survey – motion (Howard/Newman) TABLED; motion passed by voice vote.
- BHF Website Overhaul (Costanzo) with the help of ABdFC Webmaster, Marilyn Adams, have adjusted a number of pages, deleting outdated information. PayPal payments have added as a secondary donation method & the Donation Form will be updated with the Secretary's mailing information. The BHF contact has also been changed to the Secretary's email address. The "blog" component of the site will be eliminated, as there doesn't seem to be any activity associated with the engine. Must be more proactive in soliciting for "Silver Beard" submissions. Penny will submit a new "color" photo of the Radko Bouvier ornament & establish a shipping charge. Penny will also forward to Marilyn all approved meeting minutes & BHF By-Line Dirty Beards articles. There is more work to be done and the Board is encouraged to review the site for areas of improvement.
- Donation Recognition (Anderson) many not-for-profit organizations will designate/recognize donations at a contribution level, without actually posting the amount contributed. Motion (Anderson/Newman) was made to create a three-tier designation to be presented at the next scheduled BHF meeting; motion passed by voice vote.

## 8. New Business

- 2015 Nominating Committee (Costanzo) through Board discussion, three individuals selected - Susan Costanzo (who accepted and will act as Committee Chair), Sue Matthews & Pat Murray; with two additional names – Marianne Bender & Patte Klecan, as alternates. Penny will contact these individuals and finalize the committee within the next week. Once acceptances have been received, Susan will coordinate committee efforts – reporting back to the BHF Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting. Nominations for the Class of 2018 must be submitted to the ABdFC Secretary before June 10<sup>th</sup> – the committee must submit a minimum of two individuals to fill the open Board positions.
- Generating Member Interest in the “Silver Beard” Recognition (Costanzo) submissions have been sporadic over the last several years and no solicitation ads have appeared in the Dirty Beards since the Summer 2010. Susan will investigate linking archived DBQ Silver Beards submissions with BHF website. Motion (Bilodeau/Howard) to reinstate Dirty Beard solicitation ad to request pic/bio of Bouviers 12yrs & older, with submissions sent to BHF Secretary, who, in turn, will forward to Dirty Beards Editor & Marilyn Adams for upload to website; motion passed with voice vote.
- Specialty Blood Draws (Repository/Profile) & Affected Bouviers (Costanzo) need to brainstorm ways to generate greater participation – including both health-clear, as well as dogs with genetic health conditions. Susan requested that Dennis ask Karen Florentine to include a statement at the end of ABdFC correspondence sent to the membership. BHF will continue to underwrite the Repository blood samples taken at the Colorado Specialty, but it’s also important to remind Bouvier owners that they can have their dog’s blood drawn at a local vet by obtaining a sample kit from OFA and paying a nominal fee. Motion (Newman/Howard) to allow Jody to proceed with the determination of costs associated with the Blood Draw on Wednesday & Thursday, October 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm, including those packaging & shipping costs to OFA; motion passed by voice vote.

### ***Wendy Sparschu excused from meeting – quorum maintained***

- Health Day Guest Speakers (Costanzo) as mentioned previously, Beth has been in contact with Dr. Greg Burns, who is eager to conduct a canine reproduction seminar on Wednesday for an estimated cost of \$150. Susan will be contacting Beth to have her verify with Dr. Burns a best time for him – the Board recommends a 2:00pm start. Beth is still attempting to contact someone from Colorado State Vet School for either a second or alternate session. No action taken by the Board until further information received.
- Gene Mutation (SAS Study) (Costanzo) Susan will check with Sue regarding Dr. Stern’s availability for Q&A from Bouvier owners and re-verify the minimum number of dogs (affected/clear) required for the study. Susan will also check with OFA to see if the Repository currently has blood samples of SAS-affected Bouviers in their database and if those have echocardiogram information. If this is going to happen, BHF must be creative in funds generation, because funds are currently inadequate to fully support the grant...social media (Crowd Sourcing) maybe a viable alternative – Susan will investigate. We would have to collect a minimum of \$25,000 for the first payment...with a \$20,000 pledge for the second year. Matching funds from the ABdFC may be an option.

- BHF Fund Raiser for Colorado Specialty – raffle was recommend – Andie suggested her friend – and Vizsla breeder, Julie Bender <http://juliebenderart.fineartstudioonline.com/> produces beautiful wood burning pieces. Andie will contact her regarding a project & associated cost and come back to next meeting with further information. Susan encouraged the Board to continue considering additional items.
  - Use of Social Media – TABLED
  - Future of the BHF “Window” Publication (Costanzo/Howard) no interest in publishing a new “Window”...Penny remembered seeing a few copies of the previous editions in a box given to Marilyn in St Louis – who will investigate and get back to the Board.
  - 2015 AKC/CHF Parent Club Health Conference, St. Louis (Costanzo) Penny expressed a desire to attend and Susan thought that Wendy was also interested, so she requested that Penny contact Wendy to verify &, if necessary, negotiate who would use the \$250 scholarship offered by ABdFC/BHF.
  - 2016 BHF Health Day – Pennsylvania Specialty (Wednesday, October 19, 2016) (Costanzo) Karen Florentine forwarded the name of Reproductive Specialist, Dr. Scarlett Gottwals, as a possible seminar presenter...will continue to investigate other options.
9. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10pm (CST) (Howard/Newman); motion passed by voice vote.