



# Sheltie Showdown



A publication of the Central Indiana Shetland Sheepdog Club

September 2010

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\***

## LOCATION & TIME for CLUB MEETINGS

Our next membership meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Circle City Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital, 9650 Mayflower Park Drive, Carmel, IN 46032. We will meet in the Rehab Room on the ground floor. This room has a private entrance on the right side of the building. **Note: the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. and end promptly at 9:00 p.m.** Well-behaved dogs and puppies are welcome.

Directions to Circle City Vet Clinic: From I-465, take exit 27, U.S. 421/Michigan Road. Go north on 421/Michigan Road to 96<sup>th</sup> Street and turn left (west). Turn right on Mayflower Park Drive. 9650 is on the left.

Remaining membership meetings for 2010:  
**Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.

Remaining board meetings for 2010: Oct. 1st

### September Program

We will view a DVD entitled "Dogsteps - What to Look for in a Dog." Classic study of canine structure and movement using slow motion and moving x-ray photography. Expert commentary offers a clear understanding of what to look for in evaluating a dog. Emphasizes the importance of sound structure and shows how serious deviations may affect efficiency and endurance. Produced and edited by Rachel Page Elliott.

### 2010 Officers

President: Kathleen Morphew  
Vice President: Carole Creech  
Treasurer: Doug McKee  
Recording Secretary: Cheryl Sharp  
Corresponding Secretary: Kathy McKee  
Board of Directors:  
Elizabeth "Babs" Beck, Karen Burton,  
Tom Schultz, Kathy Underwood

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Agility Trial: Babs Beck  
Awards: Kathleen Morphew  
Education: Carole Creech  
Equipment: Doug McKee  
Historian: Kathleen Morphew  
Judges Selection: Carole Creech  
Librarian: Karen Burton  
Membership: Kathy McKee  
Policies & Constitution: Cheryl Sharp  
Sheltie Info Line: Tom Schultz  
Showdown: Carole Creech  
Sunshine Committee: Kathleen Morphew  
Ways & Means: Karen Burton  
Website: Jaye Athy  
Club Website: <http://www.cissc.net>

### CISSC 2010 Upcoming Events

#### Fall CGC Test

September 11, 2010

Pawsitive Partners Dog Training Center  
Beech Grove, IN

#### Fall Agility Trial

November 26-27-28, 2010

Pawsitive Partners Dog Training Center  
Beech Grove, IN

Judge: David Hirsch

#### Winter Agility Trial

January 15-16, 2011

Pawsitive Partners Dog Training Center  
Beech Grove, IN

Judge: Lisa Rieves

#### 2011 Specialty Shows

##### Indy Winter Classic

Indiana State Fairgrounds

Friday evening, February 11, 2011

Judge: Dr. Al Bianchi

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Judge: Marjorie Tuff



# The President's Corner

It has been a busy summer for many of us in many ways. Some club members have been traveling, others have been nurturing new puppies, and some people have been keeping busy with lots of events.

The CISSC Board has listened to concerns voiced to us about our meetings. Some club members went to a seminar on hobby breeder's tax issues at the Circle City Veterinary Clinic and recommended this as a meeting place for CISSC. The meetings will be held in the Rehab Room that has flooring conducive to easy cleanup. There is more than adequate parking, and this location is not far from where we met for years at the Indianapolis Humane Society. I am looking forward to our first meeting there on Friday September 10th - once again we needed to move to the second Friday of the month to avoid Labor Day weekend.

The ICC/CISSC picnic and fun match was held on August 1st. The turnout was really good, the weather was pretty good, and the site is a beautiful one. CISSC had 9 members and 5 guests in attendance and everyone reported having a really good time. Our fun match was a small one, but was good experience for people, dogs and the judge! And as always, our picnic spread was more than adequate! I thank everyone who attended and contributed to this joint event.

I have been told that the Myra Savant-Harris seminar was also a success and was very informative. I was sorry to hear that only two CISSC members attended; I had hoped for better participation.

Meet the Breeds at the Muncie cluster will be handled by Kathy McKee and me. I hope that club members who are entered there will have a chance to stop by and say hi.

CISSC will hold a CGC test on September 11th in conjunction with the Field Dog Agility Trial at Pawsitive Partners. Kathy Underwood needs some volunteers to help with this testing from noon until 4:00 p.m. Please contact her if you can help!

We need to hold many of these events in order to keep our show giving status active. They may not be events that you participate in, but we still need volunteers to help put on any event that we hold. I would hope that Club members can participate more fully in meetings and events over the next several months. I look forward to seeing you all on September 10th.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Morphew

## About the Newsletter

The *Sheltie Showdown* is the official newsletter of the Central Indiana Shetland Sheepdog Club and is published six times per year. Subscriptions are free to members and to other clubs on an exchange basis. Non-members may subscribe by contacting the editor for the current subscription price. Subscription is free to non-members if requested via email. The deadline for news and advertising is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication. Send news and advertisements to: *Sheltie Showdown* c/o Carole Creech, 12945 Fleetwood Drive, North, Carmel, IN 46032 or email [whitehall.shelties@yahoo.com](mailto:whitehall.shelties@yahoo.com). Advertising space is available for qualified CISSC members and to other recognized breed clubs.

Advertising rates are as follows:

- Camera ready display ads: \$5 per half page or \$10 per full page, per issue
- Gents for Rent listings (CISSC members only) \$12 per dog per year (6 issues)
- Business Cards (CISSC members only) \$12 per business card per year (6 issues)

*Please make payment by check to CISSC when submitting advertising.*

Reprints: Other publications may reprint articles from the *Sheltie Showdown* provided credit is given to the author and this newsletter. The CISSC logo is the exclusive property of the club and for its use only. Artwork, except for paid advertisements, may be used if credit is given.

*Note: Articles, opinions and advertisements contained in the newsletter do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by CISSC or its editors. Editors reserve the right to edit all submitted materials.*

### FROM JANE MASTERS

*I would like to thank all of those who sent condolences on the loss of Tova.*

### IN MEMORIAM

*Condolences to Sheila Kitchens on the recent passing of Houston.*

## Brag All About It!

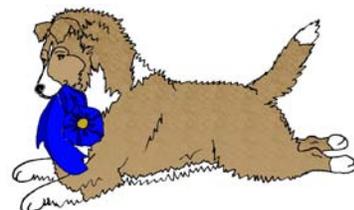
### From Babs Beck:

Bravo earned his MACH at the ACI Trial on June 25th. *Way to go Bravo!!!*

### From Jane Masters:

Eli (Prelude's No Boundaries) went Best Puppy in Match at the club's picnic on August 1st. It was his first outing and he had a great time!!

Bacu (Prelude's Show 'N Tell, RN) (co-owned with Liz Carroll), and Teak (Prelude's Protocol, PT) both acquired their CGC titles at the picnic.



## Genetic Causes of Canine Mammary Tumors Investigated

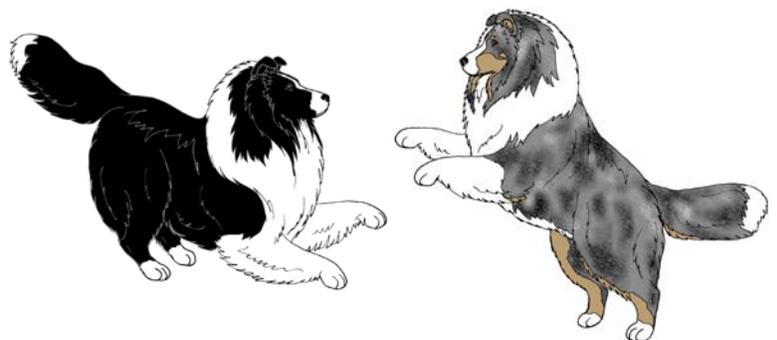
ScienceDaily — Various forms of cancer are one of the most common causes of death in dogs today. But both diagnosis and methods of treatment for cancer in dogs and cats have developed dramatically in recent years. In his doctoral dissertation at SLU, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, veterinarian Patricio Rivera identifies various risk factors for developing mammary tumors in dogs. Genetic causes, among others, contribute to the outbreak of the disease in certain breeds, including English Springer Spaniel, Doberman, Boxer, and German Shepherd. Even though this research focused on mammary tumors in dogs, there has been a human connection in many of his studies. Mammary tumors in female dogs are three times more common than breast cancer in women. Patricio Rivera found that spaying reduces the risk of mammary tumors and that the age of the dog when it is diagnosed and the type of mammary tumor both affect the survival period of the animal. By studying the ten genes that cause breast cancer in women, he found that the two most common genes in humans, BRCA1 and BRCA2, also contribute to the risk of mammary tumors in female English Springer Spaniels. In dogs he also found a variant of a gene, a so-called haplotype, tied to the immune defense that had a protective effect against mammary tumors. Female English Springer Spaniels that carry this gene have a lower risk of developing mammary tumors than others of the same breed. "It's my hope that this research will ultimately be of significance both for women and female dogs when it comes to diagnosis and treatment," says Patricio Rivera. The earlier tumors are discovered -- the better the prognosis for survival. Just as women should examine their breasts, dog owners are recommended to regularly check their female dogs for lumps. Mammary tumors are the most common tumor disease in female dogs, appearing most frequently in middle-aged and older animals. More than 50 percent of the tumors are benign and do not spread to other parts of the body. The malignant tumors, on the other hand, have a potential to spread and establish daughter tumors in other organs and tissues. The female dog often develops tumors in multiple parts of the mammary glands at the same time, and these tumors can be of various kinds. The most reliable method of diagnosis is microscopic examination of tissue (biopsy) from the tumor. As a rule, a malignant mammary tumor will be removed by surgery, but the prognosis after the operation is very individual

and depends on the nature of the tumor, among other factors. Spaying at an early age, preferably before the female dog reaches sexual maturity, is the most radical and reliable method to avoid mammary tumors in dogs. The tumor's development is dependent on sex hormones. On the other hand, if the dog is given contraceptive injections or some other hormonal treatment during her life, there is an increased risk of developing mammary tumors. In his research, Patricio Rivera collected blood samples from 600 female dogs between the ages of two and fourteen years of the English Springer Spaniel breed and a number of dogs of other breeds. By comparing the genes of sick and healthy dogs, he found gene variants that impact the risk of developing mammary tumors in the breed under study. These samples now constitute a unique and important biological material that can serve as a foundation for future research in the field. "At present there are no genetic tests that can tell us which dogs carry genes that predispose them for mammary tumors, but I hope to be able to continue to do research on this," says Patricio Rivera.

### A Question to Ponder....

Charlotte McGowan, ASSA Legislative Liaison and well respected AKC Judge, posed the following commentary and question recently to the ASSA list:

"As you know, bark softening was outlawed in Massachusetts. We fought as hard as we could, but were overwhelmed by outside animal rights groups while the mouthpieces claimed it was a grassroots effort. So, I would like to know your opinion: Are you going to stick with Shelties if this procedure is illegal nationwide?"



## Investigation of Bladder Cancer in the Shetland Sheepdog

Updated August, 2010

Background: The Ostrander Laboratory at the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH and the Purdue Comparative Oncology Program at Purdue University and the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at Michigan State University have been working since 2006 to discover the genetic causes of transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) of the urinary bladder in dogs. TCC is a devastating disease and Shetland Sheepdogs are four and one half times more likely to be diagnosed with TCC than most other dogs. Our ultimate goal is to identify the genetic variants responsible for this much increased susceptibility to the disease.

We are excited to be able to report the completion of our first SNP based genome-wide analysis in more than 60 of our best Sheltie cases and controls. The most informative cases have a diagnosis of TCC confirmed by biopsy with histopathology. The best controls have passed the age of eight with no diagnosis of cancer of any kind.

Our researchers looked for locations in the genome that differ between affected and unaffected dogs, and have found genomic regions that appear to be important in TCC. Currently we are studying multiple disease associated regions. We believe further work will lead to the identification of causative mutations for TCC of the urinary bladder in Shetland Sheepdogs, as well as in other breeds that are at increased risk of developing the disease.

Our thanks go out to the American Shetland Sheepdog Association and all Shetland Sheepdog owners for their great response to our request for blood samples for our TCC research. Because of your support we have received samples from 70 Shelties with TCC and 105 healthy, control Shelties at least 8 years of age. However in

order to reach our objectives, we are in need of more samples. Specifically we need samples from dogs with a biopsy confirmed diagnosis of TCC and healthy, aged controls. In addition, we ask that you please keep us updated as to the health of your participating dogs. Also, if you have provided us with a sample in the past and if your dog recently celebrated his/her eighth birthday in good health, let us know. If your dog has received a diagnosis of cancer since a sample was submitted, please fax or mail the veterinarian's report to us at the address below. Updates can be sent to us either by phone, email, or through our online survey at [http://research.nhgri.nih.gov/dog\\_genome/](http://research.nhgri.nih.gov/dog_genome/), which can be accessed with the password: Missy07. Finally, if you are new to our study and would like to participate and you need information or a sample collection kit, please contact:

Gretchen Carpintero  
Ostrander Lab Samples Manager  
National Institutes of Health / NHGRI50  
South Drive, Bldg. 50, Room 5347  
Bethesda, MD 20892-8000  
Phone: 301-451-9390 Fax: 301-594-0023  
Email: [dog\\_genome@mail.nih.gov](mailto:dog_genome@mail.nih.gov)

Each kit contains a one page consent form, a pair of vials for collecting 5-10 cc of blood at your veterinarian's office, and instructions for handling the collected sample. The collection kit is provided in a small cardboard mailer tube approved by the Post Office. A return address label is also included so that the materials can be returned to the lab easily. Blood can be mailed at room temperature without cold packs.

As always, your participation in the study and any information you provide us will remain confidential. Specifically, your participation in the study, your dog's pedigree, health information you provide, and any data we get from your dog's DNA sample will not be disclosed to any breeders, Club personnel, the AKC, or the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

This has been an exciting year for TCC research and we feel very optimistic about the progress we have made. None of this would have been possible without your dedication to this wonderful breed and its health. We hope our work will determine the genetic cause of TCC so that steps can be taken toward the prevention of this terrible disease. With your continued participation and enthusiasm, we are making great strides in that direction.



## Update of Gallbladder Disease Research in Shetland Sheepdogs

From: Mary Mahaffey, DVM, Chair ASSA Research Advisory Committee

**NEWS FLASH!!! Genetic Mutation Found and Research Results Published!**

Dr. Katrina Mealey, primary investigator of the study, reported to the ASSA Research Advisory Committee in September, 2009 that her group had identified a genetic mutation in Shelties that was strongly associated with gallbladder mucoceles. Dr. Mealey's group is the same one that developed the DNA test for the MDR-1 gene. The research results were published in *Comparative Hepatology* in July, 2010.

Mealey KL, Minch JD, White SN, Snekvik KR, Mattoon JS: An insertion mutation in ABCB4 is associated with gallbladder mucocele formation in dogs. *Comp Hepatol.* 2010 Jul 3;9:6.

A genetic mutation that likely plays a role in the formation of gallbladder mucoceles in dogs was found. Median age of affected Shelties was 9 yrs (range 5-12 yrs). Although not yet proven, the authors believed that the occurrence of gallbladder mucoceles in dogs is inherited as a dominant trait with incomplete penetrance. None of the affected dogs was homozygous for the mutation. Because people who are homozygous for a similar mutation have very severe disease, the authors

speculated that dogs homozygous for the mutation might die, either during embryonic development or in early puppy-hood.

The discovery of the mutation may be used, in the future, to identify dogs predisposed to gallbladder mucocele formation at an early age. This would allow these dogs to be closely monitored for mucocele formation. Surgical intervention could be performed before disease-induced morbidity places the patient at higher risk for intra- and post-operative complications. Also, early medical or dietary management might be used to prevent or delay the onset of gallbladder mucocele formation.

The article is available to the public through PubMed (using the website below, click on the tab in the right corner, "Free in PMC"): <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20598156>

As of August, 2010, Dr. Mealey's group is studying approximately 100 samples (Shelties and other breeds) from North Carolina State University (through their pathology laboratory) which should give them more information. If they do not find a dog that is homozygous for the mutation in those samples, they will ask for the ASSA's help in contacting breeders in an attempt to identify heterozygous breeding pairs so to determine what happens to puppies that are homozygous for the mutation.

At the present time, Dr. Mealey does not need DNA samples from affected dogs unless they very young for having a mucocele (less than 5 yrs of age). If anyone has a Sheltie that fits that criterion, Dr. Mealey would like to obtain DNA via cheek swabs from such a dog. Dr. Mealey can be contacted via e-mail at: [kmealey@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:kmealey@vetmed.wsu.edu).



# This election day your right to own and breed a dog ...



## ... could hang in the balance

Mandatory spay/neuter, laws that limit ownership, breed-specific laws and breeder restrictions can impact your right to own and breed dogs. Know your candidates' views on dog ownership and breeding before you vote.

*For more information about canine legislation and policy, contact AKC Government Relations at 919-816-3720 or [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).*



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