

Getting a Grip on Bone Cancer

Unprecedented Campaign Makes Strides to Cure the Disease

—By the Morris Animal Foundation staff

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The word “osteosarcoma” is all too familiar in greyhound circles, where pet parents mourn the loss of thousands of beloved dogs each year. The one glimmer of hope in the fight against this deadly disease is the ongoing innovative research that will lead to new treatments and, ultimately, a cure.

Morris Animal Foundation, a

Denver-based nonprofit that has funded animal health and welfare studies for more than 60 years, is leading the cause to cure canine cancer. Nearly three years after the Foundation launched its Canine Cancer Campaign, an unprecedented initiative to one day cure the disease, researchers around the world are reporting incremental successes. And thanks to support from GREY-

long, the ambitious goal of finding a cure becomes increasingly attainable.

It has long been known that some breeds have a predisposition to develop certain cancers—such as osteosarcoma in greyhounds, golden retrievers and Great Danes. With MAF funding, scientists are zeroing in

(Continued on page 3)

The official publication for GREYlong

Grey Tales



Photo courtesy of Lori Carter

Lovely lady ‘Temper’ showed off her Fifth Avenue chic fashion style modeling exclusive M&M Design coats and collars at a December bazaar with Central Exchange in Overland Park, Kan.

Inside this issue:

Winter Pause for Four Paws	2
Tracking the Treasurer	2
Hold the Guac	4
Fussy Senior Eater Healthy Hints	4
In Loving Memory	5
Book the Date	6
When is a Dog Considered Fat?	6

This Issue

- Morris Animal Foundation explains what’s being done to find a cure to canine bone cancer
- Some foods are just plain bad for dogs—what to avoid
- Helpful ideas to get those fussy seniors chowing down
- Dog obesity is on the rise—Is your dog fat?

Winter pause for Four Paws

By Lori Haberman-Wilson

We have had lots of snow here in Kansas - piles of it since Christmas. The pile at the end of the driveway comes up to my arm-pits. It is winter.

When the sun comes up in the morning over the snowy roofs the beautiful lavender and pink rays are gorgeous. We are fortunate to have the city clear one of the walking paths. We dress the dogs up, "double coat" the little one and head out.

The creek follows the path and is covered in ice for the most part, but little sections open to show the creek running crystal clear beneath it. Large tufts of grass in the creek are covered with snow. They look like snow mushrooms. For one who loves fungi, it brings a warm thought to the tummy.

The night walks with the snow gently

wrapping the Christmas lights like a spider's web is amazing... it is so beautiful, but I am so ready for no-snow weather!

And so it is with our charity. We love the fundraising and the joy of being able to help others. We have met such great people with outstanding ideas, creative craftsmanship, and talents. GREYlong would not have been able to make the contributions to fund cancer studies without your support of time and money.

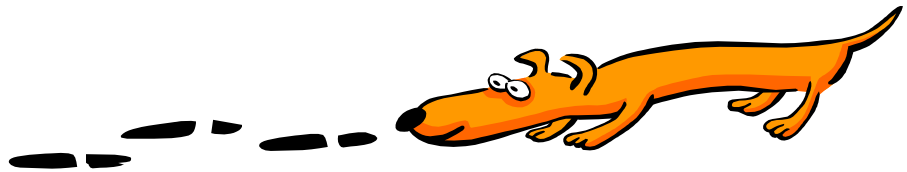
I hope that as with the winter snow, cancer, too, should melt away. I was so pleased to read that one of the studies GREYlong is supporting is having great success in finding genetic markers in bone cancer. The University of Cambridge also reported (not a Morris Animal Foundation study) that they have mapped both lung

and skin cancer. This news means that they will be able to develop medical treatments to diagnose and treat these cancers in the next five to 10 years.

Nevertheless, while we on the GREYlong Board and you as supporters are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, it is still heart-breaking to hear of those who have lost their beloved companions to cancer. But as the winter snow must melt, I give to you these positive thoughts that the scientists are indeed making progress. Someday—hopefully soon—there will be a time when our vets will be able to successfully treat cancer!

May you and yours GREYlong. Thank you for all the support along the way.

Tracking the Treasurer



We had a stellar year and it's all due to our many wonderful, supportive volunteers. Your contributions help support a study focused on K-9 lymphoma—one of the most common and fatal cancers in dogs. Thank *you!*

As a recap, M&M Design's collars and coats netted close to \$ 2,260. Referrals and a nice year-end show that helped us finish quite well.

Thanks to **Linda May**, my sister, and kindred spirit sister **Diana May**, who, along with Diana's Greyhound "Temper," helped with the year-end event. They are quite the sales team extraordinaire!

This year we've had some significant contributions: Verizon's Corporate Volunteer programs, company matches, and Mission Fish. These donations totaled \$1,836. Many thanks to **Nancy Singer**, **Joann Stephan** and **Tibby Ramsdell**.

General donations and our home-baked cookie sales at work brought in \$1,336.

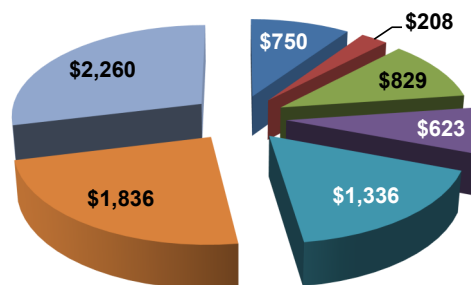
Our annual events were just as fruitful. The ever wonderful dog's day at "Dogs-neyland" at Kill Creek Park (better known as GREYlong's Gallivantasia), the May garage sale with Sinatra crooning in the

background and our ecologically minded flower bulb and flower seed sales blossomed into close to \$1,600. Thank you to **Monica** and **Jim Twigg**, **Karen** and **Dan Randall**, **Lisa Leopold**, **Linda May** and **Renee Dieckmann**. Without you, our success at these events could never happen!

Generous donations of precious stuffed toys, hundreds of collectible thimbles, hand-crafted natural stone bracelets and Harley Davidson jackets were sold at events and on EBay to buyers from Japan to England, and Texas to Minnesota. More than \$800 was raised

(Continued on page 6)

Donations



- Gallavantasia - \$750
- Flower bulb/seeds - \$208
- Ebay - \$829
- Garage Sales - \$623
- General donations - \$1,336
- Corporate donations - \$1,836
- M&M Designs - \$2,260

Getting a Grip on Bone Cancer

(Continued from page 1)

on genetic, nutritional and environmental factors that may predispose dogs to the disease, says **Wayne Jensen**, DVM, PhD, chief scientific officer for the Foundation.

“It is our goal to dramatically reduce the occurrence of and mortality from canine cancer in the near future,” Dr. Jensen adds.

One promising study under the Canine Cancer Campaign umbrella tests the efficacy of rapamycin, a drug used with human cancer patients, in treating dogs with osteosarcoma.

This bone cancer clinical trial is shepherded by the Comparative Oncology Program at the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Center for Cancer Research. Veterinary colleges that are members of the Comparative Oncology Trials Consortium are participating. The first two phases of the clinical trial have shown promising results in terms of drug safety and efficacy, and the research team hopes to enter the third and final phase of testing in 2010.

“Rapamycin is a generic drug, so it’s available already and it could be relatively inexpensive,” says Dr. **Chand Khanna**, director of NCI’s Comparative Oncology Program and the lead researcher on the study. “If it works, it would be a simple way for pet owners to improve treatment of their dogs at lower cost.”

Dr. Khanna cautions that even if the trials are successful, it may take years before rapamycin becomes a standard therapy. Still, he has seen a lot of enthusiasm for this study and says it “proves that people with common and overlapping interests can do a lot more together than they would by themselves.”

This type of collaborative research, which includes human and veterinary oncologists, could help advance veterinary medicine at a much faster pace than smaller studies involving only veterinary scientists and one institution, say medical experts. Multicenter trials facilitate faster enrollment of patients so that faster results are seen.

“While individual scientists can be successful in their fields of research, even bigger breakthroughs can be made by pooling talent,” says Dr. **Tim Fan**, lead researcher on the University of Illinois team. Dr. Fan, who has conducted extensive work on managing pain in bone cancer patients, recently evaluated the use of a drug called pamidronate to decrease pain and increase quality of life for canine osteosarcoma patients. Many of his patients were greyhounds and rottweilers.

It is our goal to dramatically reduce the occurrence of and mortality from canine cancer in the near future.

—Wayne Jensen, DVM, PhD

His research—funded by the Foundation—shows that the drug interferes with the tumor’s ability to break down bone cells and may stop the bone destruction that occurs from bone cancer. Dr. Fan and his team also developed a novel approach for assessing pain, which uses computerized gait analysis to objectively measure the degree of lameness.

These discoveries are not only promising but, some say, long overdue.

Dr. Khanna, who started his career in veterinary oncology more than 20 years ago, says little has changed to increase survival rates throughout his tenure. In fact, even treatment has stayed stagnant.

Today’s gold standard treatment—amputation of the leg with the tumor—is the same as it was two decades ago.

“The reason dogs die from osteosarcoma is because we can’t do enough to stop the spread after surgery,” Dr. Khanna says. “We realize we need to do more for dogs.”

Chemotherapy may improve outcomes, but it does not ensure long-term survival, and dedicated pet owners have started to do more

than wish for better treatments—they are supporting the science that will provide them.

“We want to find new treatments for osteosarcoma, and we can’t do that without pet owners who are willing to help us investigate this disease process,” says Dr. Fan.

“With these clinical trials, we can investigate and provide cutting-edge therapy that patients may not get otherwise,” he adds. “Foundation-funded studies serve as a wonderful avenue for pet owners to pursue conventional therapies and for researchers to evaluate novel therapies at the same time.”

The Canine Cancer Campaign goes beyond treatment. The Foundation helped fund and establish a tissue bank that is populated with samples of the most common tumor types. Cancer researchers can now use this tool to study various cancers. The campaign also funds programs at Colorado State University and the University of Minnesota that train

students to become cancer researchers.

Prevention is also a major component to the campaign. A number of small prevention studies funded through the campaign are evaluating risk factors that lead to cancer so that, one day, we may even prevent this disease.

To learn more about MAF’s Canine Cancer Campaign, go to www.curecaninecancer.org

Fat-Toid: Up to 44 percent of all pet dogs in the United States are tubby, some tip the scales to obesity. Obese is defined as being more 20 percent over the ideal weight. For a 50 pound dog, being just 10 pounds overweight can mean the dog is obese.

Hold the Guac

They are so hard to resist, those big brown eyes looking so lovingly, so longing... at your food. Let's face it, all dogs can be good moochers, but sharing our favorites isn't a healthy idea for dogs.

Most folks know that chocolate is a no-no, but what about candy, raisins and avocados? Yes, those yummy green fruits contain persin, a toxic substance for dogs. Just a tad can cause diarrhea and vomiting. Actually, the same goes for the whole avocado plant, seeds, leaves, bark and all.

As we ponder keeping our dogs healthy through what we feed them, we shouldn't forget that some foods are flat-out dangerous.

Here are some other foods to keep on the counter and out of the dog dish:

Onions – It doesn't matter what form (powdered, raw, cooked or dehydrated), it's

all the same when it comes to feeding it to your dog—bad news. An occasional taste may not cause any problems, but don't make it a habit to feed your pup onions.

Caffeine – In large amounts, it can be poisonous. Caffeine poisoning symptoms are: restlessness, rapid breathing, heart palpitations, muscle tremors, fits and bleeding. Don't forget, there is caffeine in tea, coffee, energy drinks and even in some medications.

Grapes and raisins – Even a small amount can cause kidney damage in a dog. Watch



for repeated vomiting or hyperactivity following ingestion.

Xylitol – Fancy name for a sweetener often found in candy, gum, toothpaste, some diet foods and baked goods. Ingestion may cause increased insulin in your dog, leading to a drop in blood sugar and even liver failure. Signs to watch for: vomiting, lethargy and coordination loss.

Fruit pits – A peach or plum pit sounds harmless enough, but intestinal obstruction isn't harmless.

Just in case your pup gets into something you've designated off-limits, be safe and keep your vet's emergency number by the phone, or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center number, 888-426-4435.

For a full list of food no-no's, visit the ASPCA.org.

—Teresa C. Brown

Fussy Senior Eater Healthy Hints

Yes, it is that time. The pup who always cleaned his plate is getting older and getting fussier and fussier, turning mealtime into a challenge.

Here are some of the tricks of the trade from the "K-9 Cuisine Chef," (gentle reminder: I am not a vet, so please consult your veterinarian before making dietary changes):

Watch the salt content of all food supplements. The dried chicken fillets from China caused problems for my senior citizens. We switched to all natural treats by Spoiled Hounds (www.spoiledhounds.com - tell Janice you want the Muffin morsels!) and had great luck.

Vary the diet. Don't try all the new things at once; try something new once a day. On Monday it is... On Tuesday, it is ooooo. Also, try feeding several times a day: morning, noon, afternoon and before bed with special dry kibble.

Warm the dog food in the microwave. For added enticement, add broth (see below).

Think chicken chunks. Boil chicken breasts or thighs (Cosco carries these in nice individual packages). Add a diced garlic clove and save the broth to add to the kibble later.

Think meat. Boiled lean ground round beef, turkey or chicken livers (Target carries chicken livers in little tubs in the poultry section).

Try different treats. Our dogs like small **Milk Bones** (apparently the small ones taste better than the large bones). **Innova** bars (very healthy). **Science Diet T/D** dog food (this kibble is large and chunky; use it as a treat). **Dried chicken fillets** or dried chicken livers (K-V vets, www.kvvvet.com, has all-chicken treats. It's not cheap, but if your order is \$50, shipping is free.)

Quality canned dog food. Try rabbit, tripe, lamb, fish or venison.

High-quality dry kibble. Fromm's White Fish and Potato (my Muffin ate it like a snack) or any other natural product. Read the label: Look at the first three ingredients. They represent the highest proportion of the ingredients. Do you see corn, rice or other filler (no, no and no), or is it fish, turkey, sweet potato (yes, yes and yes!)?

Prime the pump. OK, so Muffin needed a little priming. We added big chunks of boiled hamburger, or chicken thigh dipped in yogurt to get her started eating.

Tasty additions: Add yummy treats to the usual fare. Scrambled egg, baby food (beef, turkey, veal warmed in the microwave), yogurt (a tablespoon or so), mashed potatoes (a tablespoon or so, just watch the salt) or low-fat/low-salt hot dogs sliced and quartered.

Upset stomach? Try canned pumpkin; smooth low-fat peanut butter on white bread (cut a slice into nine pieces and squeeze the bread together. Watch that the bread doesn't get lodged in your dog's throat).

—Chris & Lori Haberman-Wilson

M&M Designs, LLC
Luxury Collars, Leashes, Coats and
other canine apparel


Valentines Day Sale!



Dogcollarsbymdesigns.com
All profits benefit GREYong



In Loving Memory



There is something missing in my house,
I feel it day and night.
I know it will take time and strength,
Before things feel quite right.
But just for now I need to mourn,
My heart it needs to mend,
Though some may say it's "just a pet"
I know I've lost my friend.
You've brought such laughter to my home,
and laughter to my days...
a constant friend through joy or loss,
with gentle, loving ways.
Companion, pal, and confidante,
a friend I won't forget.
You'll live for always in my heart,
My sweet, forever friend

- Author unknown

Austin loved by Mr. and Mrs. Pesek Shields
Boonie Boo loved by Lori and Scott Bartu
Flurry loved by Becky Hinks
Kelly loved by Joann Stephan
Lilly loved by Lisa Leopold
Sha'ra loved by Debra Ore
Shayna loved by Renee and Alan Dietchmann
Wilson loved by Rosemary and Marty Gorin

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GREYlong is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2006 devoted to raising funds to help support canine cancer studies. The money raised by GREYlong is donated to Morris Animal Foundation (www.morrisanimalfoundation.org). All gifts are tax-deductible. We have no paid employees; so, all gifts make an impact in finding a cure for cancer.

We are passionate about making a difference in our current and future pets' lives. Our name "GREYlong" is symbolic. It represents our goal that everyone's pets should live LONG lives in their senior-citizen GREY fur.

We are grateful for all your support. Our year-end financial report is posted at www.greylong.org.

Looking ahead at upcoming events for GREYlong.

- April 30-May 1

Tentative date for the biannual garage sale in Overland Park, Kan. Start cleaning garages and attics now! To make arrangements to deliver donated items, e-mail lori@greylong.org.



Tracking the Treasurer

(Continued from page 2)

through these collectible donations! These jewels came from **Becky Hinks, Greg and Sharon Loeser, Nancy Helvey, Susun Brouhard, Kymberly Stone, Lisa Leopold, and Margie and Terry Hunter.**

You can see, those dust-collecting garage or attic items can transform into cash helping to find a cure to canine cancer.

Many thanks to everyone for your support. I hope I haven't missed anyone—each and every one of you are so important to GREYlong. Because of you, one day there will be a cure.

When is a Dog Considered to be Fat?

Veterinarians often use a 9-point scoring system to evaluate the body condition of pets.

A point of value of 1 means the dog or cat is extremely thin to the point of emaciation. A score of 9 means the pet is grossly overweight. And, like Goldilocks and the three bears, a score of 5 is "just right." To determine body score, there are several specific areas of the dog or cat we look at. Remember these are guidelines. A Greyhound with a score of 5 is still going to be thinner than a Bulldog with the same score.

To perform the rating, we first feel the pet's ribs. We should be able to quite easily feel the ribs. There should be a slight amount of fat over them, but each rib should be distinct. If you can see the ribs, the pet is too thin. If you can not feel them at all, the pet is very overweight.

Second, check the area near the base of the tail. There should be a slight fat covering over this area and it should feel smooth. If the bones protrude, the pet is too thin; if you can

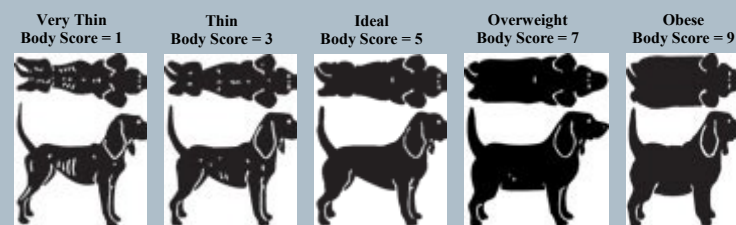
not feel any bones at all, the pet is very overweight. Third, feel other bony prominences on the pet's body such as the spine, shoulders, and hips. Again, you should be able to feel a small amount of fat over these areas. If these bones are easily felt or visible, the dog

the hips or ribs, the dog or cat is grossly overweight.

Fifth, look at the pet from the side. Dogs and cats should have an abdominal tuck, i.e., the area behind the ribs should be smaller in diameter than the chest. This can vary a lot between breeds. Irish Setters and Greyhounds, for instance, appear to have a much more distinct abdominal tuck, since they are so deep-chested. An animal that is too thin will have a very severe abdominal tuck. Overweight animals will have no abdominal tuck.

If you feel your dog is overweight, consult your veterinarian to determine if there are any other medical problems before starting the animal on a weight reduction program. Your veterinarian can also suggest various diets, how fast your pet should lose weight, etc.

WHAT IS YOUR DOG'S BODY SCORE?



or cat is too thin. If you can not feel the bones beneath the layer of fat, the animal is obviously overweight.

Fourth, look at your pet from above. The animal should have a definite waist behind the ribs. If the waist is extreme, or again, bony prominences are visible, the animal is too thin. If there is no waist, or worse yet, the area between the ribs and hips is wider than

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