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of the Bearded Collie
Foundation for Health*

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In This Issue

- Presidential Reflections by Elsa Sell, page 1**
- Thyroid Testing by Linda Aronson DVM, page 2**
- The 4 B's -Beardies, Breeders, BeaCon, Buyers by the BeaCon Board of Directors, page 3**
- In The Spotlight-Meet the Director, page 4**
- Ask The Vet by Linda Aronson, DVM, MA, page 4**
- Fear of Sounds in Bearded Collies By Sharon Dunsmore, page 5**
- MacLean & Company, page 8**
- Odds and Ends, page 8**
- The Open Registry Health Booklet & year 2 CD order form, page 9**

In Great Appreciation to our Donors

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Presidential Reflections

Thanks to all donors this year and to those who participate in the open health registry. You make a difference with these actions!!!!

A year ago in this column I asked – ARE BEARDED COLLIES A HEALTHY BREED? If you can answer this, let me know. Someone wrote recently: “We chose beardies because we were told they have no health problems, can expect longevity and are easy whelpers. In retrospect, I think someone got it wrong – don’t you?” Another wrote: “There is nothing like being bit in the butt to get one motivated. Been procrastinating on getting health surveys out to puppy buyers. This week I find out from 2 different people that dogs in my line have been diagnosed with Addison’s.” Enough said.

The registry now has 392 dogs (141 healthy) from 200 owners. New entries are ~1/3 each from USA, UK, and Australia or New Zealand. As last year, the most frequent problems were fear of loud sounds, umbilical hernia, Addison’s disease, hypothyroidism, and hip dysplasia. Other problems were 2 deaths from small intestinal cancer, deafness considered familial, nasal cancer (# 7), exercise induced hyperthermia (# 3), more punctuate cataracts.

Miscellaneous Things. 1) DOCP is now available in New Zealand for Addison’s treatment, 2) Dogs with punctuate cataracts should have yearly exams - if such cases show no progression, you can be more confident that the finding is benign, 3) BeaCon is working on a long term fundraising program – Mia Sedgwick leads this effort, 4) We will be reestablishing health liaisons with regional USA clubs and others – Judy Howard leads this effort.

How Breeders Can Help Promote Health. You and your puppy buyers can participate in the open registry or donate to research or to BeaCon. I would like to share one breeder’s approach which she developed on her own. The following is from Kathleen Flanagan, Anasazi, August 20, 2002.

I had an idea about six years ago, to have buyers of my puppies buy into the problems of our breed. At the time, I saw Beardie Rescue as a growing concern. I reasoned that as a breeder, I

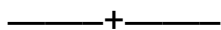
wanted to do what I could to prevent having any of my puppies from ending up in a shelter or in a rescue situation. So I added a paragraph to my contract requiring a \$50 donation to Beardie Rescue.

When BeaCon was organized in 1999, I changed the recipient of this donation to the new organization. I now have puppy buyers make a tax-deductible donation to AKC Canine Health Foundation supporting the health issues of our breed. I request a separate \$50 check be returned with their signed contract and payment for their puppy. These are sent to BeaCon and on to their directed donor fund at AKC CHF.

My puppy buyers are more than happy to make this donation. This also opens the door for me to remind buyers to get hips OFA certified at two years, eyes CERF'd as needed and periodic thyroid panels done. These are required in my contract and all I have to do is remind buyers that they need to do these tests. Recently I've sent DNA packets to them to complete and send to UC Davis for the Addison's project.

This is a great opportunity for breeders to make a difference. Supporting research can only benefit all of us in the long run. Breeders can't live in a vacuum, making breeding decisions without having as much information possible about health issues.

Any breeder can have a health problem present itself in any puppy of any litter. **The issue is not that it happens, but rather how well the breeder prepared to prevent it and how the breeder responds to help prevent it in the future.**



Thyroid Testing

By Linda Aronson, DVM

Autoimmune thyroiditis is the most prevalent autoimmune disease in beardsies and most dog breeds. It is frequently found in conjunction with other autoimmune diseases, most of which are far more serious and difficult to treat. Hypothyroid dogs are more susceptible to infectious disease, may develop poor hair coat or skin lesions, and grow old before their time. Even sub optimal or borderline thyroid levels may be associated with profound behavioral abnormalities. Because autoimmune thyroiditis is heritable it is important that we strive to breed dogs with healthy thyroid function. However, the array of tests available can be overwhelming for the average dog owner.

Owners hear that hypothyroidism is over-diagnosed and under-diagnosed. Both statements are true too! Part of the problem is that blood levels of thyroid hormones do not necessarily reflect tissue levels; a great many environmental or animal specific conditions can also affect thyroid levels. Supplementation of thyroid will of course raise hormonal levels, so it is possible to influence them in this manner unscrupulously, although hard to adjust them so that the intervention won't be obvious.

So some may say, why bother to test at all until we have a definitive, DNA based test? If we repeatedly get low readings we can be pretty sure that the dog is hypothyroid and we are not seeing some artifact of disease or physiological status – such as a bitch in season. The more thyroid tests on the panel used to assess thyroid function the more certain you can be of the accuracy of the test, too, and I will discuss the individual tests in this article. While I would not proceed and breed a dog that tested low thyroid, without further tests being done that show thyroid function to be normal, I would not rush to spay or

castrate the animal and withdraw an apparently healthy dog from a breeding program based on a single low panel.

The thyroid hormones are manufactured in the thyroid gland in the neck. There the amino acid tyrosine is combined with iodide to form thyroglobulin. This in turn is converted into thyroxine (T4 because each molecule has 4 iodine atoms) and triiodothyronine (T3 has just 3 iodine atoms). These are secreted into the blood to maintain a fairly constant level under the influence of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) released by the pituitary in response to another hormonal factor, thyroid releasing factor (TRF), which is released by the hypothalamus when circulating thyroid levels dip too low. More T4 is made by the thyroid gland and released into the circulation. Most of the T4 and T3 molecules that are released bind to serum protein for transportation through the circulation to the tissues. A very small amount travels unbound or free, but it is only the free hormone molecules that can be taken into the tissues. Once taken up by the tissues, T4 loses an iodine atom to become T3, the active form of the hormone.

The Tests

Total T4: This includes both the T4 bound to serum proteins, and the free, unbound hormone level. Used alone, this test is most unreliable. It has been estimated that two thirds of the thyroid gland may have to be compromised before Total T4 levels drop. So early stages of thyroid disease, where remaining glandular tissue is putting out as much T4 as they can in compensation, will be missed. Thyroiditis will not be detected. On the other hand Total T4 will be significantly lowered in animals that are starving or have non-thyroidal illness (NTI). Certain drugs – corticosteroids, anticonvulsants, sulfonamides and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents such as aspirin, Rimadyl etc – will also lower Total T4.

Free (unbound) T4: Free T4 levels are less than 0.1% of the total circulating hormone and are less influenced by NTI. If you are only going to do one test, this is the one as it has the highest accuracy, sensitivity and specificity for diagnosing canine hypothyroidism. Be aware that not all tests for FT4 are equal. Testing should either be by direct radioimmunoassay (RIA) after equilibrium dialysis or solid-phase analog RIA.

Total T3: TT3 is only useful as part of a panel. If TT4, FT4 and TT3 are all low, there is likely an NTI, if TT3 is high or very high there is probably a circulating T3 autoantibody.

Free (unbound) T3: This may be slightly elevated if a dog has increased metabolic demands, and is very high if there are high levels of T3 autoantibodies.

Endogenous canine TSH (cTSH): Human TSH tests are very specific and sensitive but this is not true of the ones currently available for dogs. A high cTSH in conjunction with a depressed FT4 is indicative of hypothyroidism. However, there is a 20-30% discrepancy between actual cTSH results and those that would be expected in both confirmed normal and hypothyroid dogs. cTSH is not recommended as a sole test and spurious results may be seen in both normal and hypothyroid dogs.

Canine Thyroglobulin auto-antibodies (TG_{aa}): While 80% of cases of canine hypothyroidism are estimated to result from autoimmune thyroiditis, most but not all will have elevated TG_{aa}. Certainly a positive TG_{aa} is indicative of thyroiditis although false positives can occur if the dog has been recently vaccinated. For accurate results dogs taking thyroid supplements should be off all medication for at least 90 days prior to

testing.

T3 and T4 auto-antibodies (T3aa/T4aa): Whereas most all cases of autoimmune thyroiditis should have elevated TGaa, only about 20% have elevated T3 and/or T4aa. Where present they confirm autoimmune thyroiditis, however, their absence does not rule out the disease. ~70% of circulating autoantibodies will be against T3, ~25% of antibodies will be against, both while only about 5% are against just T4.

Cholesterol: Unlike humans elevated cholesterol in dogs is usually indicative of hypothyroidism, although it can occur in some other conditions. When testing dogs who are on thyroid supplementation, blood should be drawn 4 to 6 hours after a pill (medication should be given twice daily to maintain constant physiological levels). At least TT4 and FT4 should be measured, and because at this point you will be measuring the peak post pill levels, the results should be in the top 1/3 to 25% above the lab normal of these tests for optimal control. Because treatment of thyroid disease doesn't affect the underlying genetics, it is recommended that hypothyroid dogs not be bred.

Factors that can affect thyroid levels: I have already mentioned the effects of NTI, certain drugs and starvation or anorexia. Age, sex, size and breed can also affect optimal levels. When some bitches are within a period 12 weeks before or after their estrous period (heat) their thyroid levels may be low. Diet can also affect thyroid hormone production. Obviously diets that are very low in iodine will produce hypothyroidism, as there will be insufficient to manufacture the hormones. Diets deficient in selenium cause tissue levels of thyroid hormones to drop while serum levels will often increase. Selenium levels in soil vary widely, and thus grains raised on deficient soil, or animals fed on those grains will be low in selenium. The artificial antioxidants (ethoxyquin, BHA, BHT), added to animal fat and some dry dog foods to prevent the fat going rancid, can impair bioavailability of selenium as well as Vitamins A and E. This is not a problem when feeding diets preserved with natural antioxidants such as Vitamins C and E. Long term feeding of artificially preserved kibble could lower thyroid levels.

As we have seen running a total T4 test is inadequate to diagnose hypothyroidism, let alone determine if the dog will make genetically sound breeding stock. Most breeders currently rely on one of two types of panel; some cover all the bases and do both. The OFA thyroid panel includes FT4 by equilibrium dialysis, TG_{aa} and cTSH. Another popular panel will include TT4, TT3, FT4, FT3, T4_{aa} and T3_{aa}, +/- cTSH and cholesterol. While the OFA panel only is acceptable for inclusion in the AKC's CHIC program both kinds of panel are accepted for inclusion by BeaCon.

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**The 4 B's - Beardies, Breeders, Buyers, BeaCon
What BeaCon Is, What BeaCon Is Not
The BeaCon Board of Directors**

A restatement of what BeaCon exists for is in order. There appear to be some misconceptions circulating, as judged by questions asked of various board members about breeders, breeding selections, dogs not in the registry, etc. BeaCon was created by Beardie lovers for Beardie lovers to gather and make available information needed for informed decisions to those who want it. BeaCon is independent of any Bearded Collie club because at the time BeaCon was formed, no other group expressed interest in long term tracking of

Bearded Collie health, or in joining with BeaCon and being a part of the registry.

BeaCon is guided by the missions of studying health with a voluntary open health registry, education about health issues, and research support. The open health registry is an information source about a dog's wellness or health problems, as submitted by owners and if possible, verified by their veterinarians. No one else can submit information! If you know of a health problem you think belongs in the registry, you can request the owner of the dog to report it; they may or they may not. If a co-owner won't agree to public disclosure, then a dog's information will not be accepted.

BeaCon is here to help everyone get the maximum amount of accurate information to use in making their own decisions. The information can be used or ignored. Those who choose to use the open health registry data are responsible for how they incorporate the information into their decision making process, perhaps in consultation with their veterinarian, a geneticist, or other sources.

Books and articles by geneticists tell us that all dogs carry at least at least 5 or 6 potentially deleterious genes. In time, those may surface in a breeding program. The judicious way to try to avoid these problems from happening is to track the health of all puppies for the long term, to avoid repeat breedings which have produced a serious problem, to not breed a dog who has a serious health problem, and to avoid breeding a carrier of a recessive trait to another carrier of the same trait.

Beacon is not, nor was it ever intended to be, the determiner of whether or not dogs should be bred. By the same token, BeaCon does not suggest, support, or offer advice regarding the choice of dam or sire; and it does not offer support for or discriminate against any specific breeder. Finally, BeaCon does not manage health care; that is what your veterinarian is for.

Even the U.S. parent club for Bearded Collies does not regulate breeding practices. It provides suggestions for prospective sire and dam: among those are normal health exams, normal hips, normal eyes, and not repeating a breeding if 2 or more puppies exhibit major departures from the official standard or have a condition classified by a veterinarian as an inheritable health defect, or if a sire or dam produces similar undesirable results from other matings to not use that dog again for breeding purposes (p 65-66, BCCA Membership Roster, 2001-2002.)

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SHARON DUNSMORE CCRN

BeaCon Board of Directors

By Chris Walkowicz

Sharon is the one desperate people come to with canine problems and terrors. She runs her own Dog Training Center, providing training in obedience, agility, flyball, conformation - and behavior consultation for those problem dogs. She's a pro -- because, as a registered nurse and CCRN, she's seen the worst while she was a critical care nurse educator with a specialty in emergency nursing before turning to dogs as easier to "handle" than humans!

A dog owner her entire adult life, Sharon has had a Chow Chow, German Shepherds, and various mixed breeds before turning to Beardies in 1985. She can't believe how time has flown since then!

Her current Beardie population is at five, aged one to 13 years of age. In her 17 years with Beardies, Kincurran has produced eight litters. People-wise, she's produced two grown sons. One of them has a Beardie, but hasn't succumbed to the show bug. She thinks he O.D'd on that growing up.

A member of the BCCC and BCCA, Sharon participates in conformation, agility and obedience. She also dabbles in herding and a bit of tracking. In addition, she provides demos within her community. In between her busy schedule, she's served as secretary, education chair, specialty showchair, and on the health committee, as well as now being on the Board of BeaCon for Health since its inception. She is also a member of The Canadian Association of Professional Pet Dog Trainers (CAPPDT) and acts as Agility Trial Secretary for both CKC and AKC clubs.

Sharon also checks on Beardies and Neardies reported in shelters. She alerts the rescue coordinator and helps place them if necessary.

She says the main reason she joined BeaCon is: "To maintain the health of our Beardies -- I still think we have a healthy breed and want to see them stay that way. We need to be proactive to maintain our status quo and if possible help breeders get valid information to help them make their breeding decisions. I think if we keep breeding in the dark we are going to end up with more and more problems as has happened in other breeds. We need DNA markers and to get them we need accurate data on all Beardies to hand over to the researchers. It takes years of tracking data to get any that is useable in some fashion."

The Open Health Registry is important because "I see it as the fastest way to get valid information, which then can be used, for making informed breeding decisions. Data collection on a regular and open basis will identify trends in health for our breed faster than any other method. By identifying trends we could potentially head off major problems. An Open registry to me is the easiest way getting that data."

When she has the time, Sharon participates in bdl and bcl. She believes the internet has done a lot to help Beardie owners come together and share and learn from each other. Most Beardie lovers know that they can contact Sharon for health information at any time by e-mailing her at Kincurran@simpatico.ca.

Sharon finds dog behavior fascinating to study. She says, "I love my pack -- of four females, all related, and now only one male. They are very much a pack and have been instrumental in teaching me to understand better the way of the dog

pack and the differences they have from the wolf pack."

She's worried that "we will get ourselves boxed in genetically and not be able to prevent serious health problems in our breed. I think it is mandatory that we have some kind of tracking mechanism to predict problems before they become overwhelming.

"Support BEACON -- it is all we have right now than can provide breeders with the data they need in order to make the best breeding decisions. As breeders, we need to be willing to put aside our differences and share health knowledge without being afraid of the rumormongers. An Open registry goes a long way toward doing that. Support BEACON

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Question & Answer Linda Aronson DVM

Q: I would like to include my dog in the BeaCon Open Registry but my vet is uncertain as to the cause of his illness.

A: Despite all the advances in veterinary medicine in recent years it is still an art rather than a science. Some of the conditions on which we are gathering data may prove not to be inherited. We hope the registry will improve our understanding of these diseases. Some diagnoses are pretty self evident to all, but others depend on interpretation of the data at hand. Sometimes we have insufficient data to reach a definitive diagnosis, other times different vets might disagree on the diagnosis on the basis of the information. Owners are constrained by financial considerations, and sometimes vets treat empirically, based on their best guess as to the problem, without a definite diagnosis. If the dog gets better it is easy, but not always accurate, to assume the working diagnosis was correct; if the dog does not improve it does not mean the diagnosis was definitely wrong. There will be cases where we may doubt diagnosis. If dogs die, even necropsy may not reveal the cause of death. We would ask that only diagnoses for which your veterinarian is comfortable with the accuracy be submitted for inclusion in the registry. While not all diagnoses may be correct in time the registry should contain enough data that oddball results may be recognized and refuted.

"Excellence is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities." Author Unknown

Fear of Sounds in Bearded Collies

By Sharon Dunsmore, , K-9 Klubhouse Training Center and
BeaCon Committee
(Cook, Sedgwick, Sell, and Walkowicz)

Fear of sound was a frequently reported problem in BeaCon's first open health registry; this led to a more complete survey mailed to the originally reporting owners and available to all on the internet Beardie lists.

Results of the 209 dogs are given in the tables. An average of 74 percent exhibited fear reactions of varying degrees. **This number is not representative of Beardies generally, as few with healthy dogs take the time to participate.** As a trainer of both purebred mixed breed dogs, I find fears are very common in all dogs. If we have a thunder storm during one of our indoor classes, on average two out of ten dogs of various breeds will be terrified, shut down and not be able to work.

Variable	Male	Female
Number	105	104
Fear of sounds	84 (80%)	72 (69%)
Age onset		
< 1yr	32 (38%)	25 (35%)
1-2 yr	30 (36%)	31 (43%)
3 yr & >	14 (17%)	16 (22%)

Number of Beardies in Household

# Beardies	1	2	3	4
# Households	83	45	36	44

Event precipitating Initial Fear Reaction

Air flight
Attacked by another dog, crashing chairs
Away with handler
Can of coins
Copying another Beardie
Dynamite blasts
Firecrackers
High fever
Lightening strike close
Move
Nearby accident
Owner reaction to loud sound
PA screeching sound at shows
Shots (had bullet in leg when adopted)
Storm
Sudden, loud startling sounds
Train going overhead

Both
g e -

netic and environmental components appear to be contribute to these fears. Animals are preprogrammed to retreat from that outgoing puppy to a more reserved adult. This is a safety strategy most wild animals have built into their systems. Young animals of most species will approach strange objects and people and then as they get older will learn to be more guarded in their approach or actually move away in fear.

5

Types of Noise Dog Sensitive To (many were fearful of more than 1)

Noise	#
Thunder	134
Gun shots	85
Trucks, busses, other vehicles	70
Fireworks	62
Lawn mower, snow blower, weed whacker, chain saw	56
Motorcycles	51
Vacuum cleaners	49
Kids	11
Wind, rain, hail	6
Pots	6
Smoke alarm	5

Other Noises (1-2 dogs each): toaster, popping sounds, air conditioner, ladders & metal objects, phone, TV static, tinfoil, squeaky toys, pills rattling, fireplace noises, dishes, jar or vial popping open, shouting, whirlpool, hammer, stereo, silverware clank, dropped wood, bird chirps, avalanche cannons, orchard cannons, magazine pages turning, basketballs bouncing, air-planes, hot air balloons, skateboards, coughing, sneezing, bands, hairdryer, coffee grinder, washing machine, turn signals, vibrations, mini-blinds, freezer door, vacuum tube at bank, furnace noise, spinning tires, PA system, blender, cooking sounds, bass treble, nail guns, sirens, pages turning, and more (n=66).

Length of Fear Reaction

Duration	# dogs
When noise ended	63
1 hr	14
Minutes	11
Depended on noise type	11
Up to 15 min	10
Up to 10 min	6
Minutes	6
2 hr of more	6
Up to 5 min	4
Several hrs to days	3
Slow to recover	2
Dogs hid/don't know time	2
Until asleep	1
Months 'til meds worked	1
Hours to find dog who bolted	1

Owner Response

Response	First	Current
Reassure/comfort	82	52
Ignore	12	32
Made dog face fear	8	
Corrected the behavior	8	
Divert attention	7	7
Avoided	2	6

Response	First Response	Current Response
"Jolly" routine	2	6
Sought vet help	1	
Medicate		7
Calming signals		2

Of particular interest to me as a trainer, was the owner reaction to the dog's first reaction to the fear. Soothing or comforting the dog was the owner's first response 39 percent of the time. The dog could perceive this as rewarding his response to the fear, although many trainers recognize that verbal praise is a very low level form of reward for most dogs, so it probably doesn't have much effect from learning or training perspective.

Fortunately, most dogs did not have a prolonged fear reaction.

Can fear be learned? 29 percent (39/134) said yes and the most common reasons were that fear occurred after a specific incident (n=19), it was learned from another dog (n=11). Some felt the dog learned their fear behavior from other dogs or from the owner. We know that any animal that lives in a pack can learn from each other in a process known as Social Facilitation. This process is also referred to as "Pack Behavior". For instance, if you have a dog that is wary of strangers and you bring a new dog in the house, the new dog may become wary of strangers. Fears and phobias can be transmitted through Social Facilitation, either by other dogs or people.

Transmission of fear from person to dog is the most common cause of dog problems that I see. A widespread example of this process is a dog that lunges and barks at strangers, while on leash. This behavior often just becomes worse and worse with each encounter. This is most often due to the owner imperceptibly tightening up on the leash, not because they are scared of the stranger but because they are scared of the dog's reaction. The dog, however, just picks up on the fear demonstrated by the owner and assumes it is the stranger that is the problem.

Damage to Self or Property from Fear Reaction

	Yes	No	Could have
Ever harmed self?	12	129	3
Property damage?	24	127	1

Common Methods of Fear Alleviation (144 answered)

What Lessened Fear	#
Nothing	41
Remove from noise	18
Physical comfort and contact	16
Distraction	15
Verbal comfort	9
Melatonin	5
Dark room/special place	5

Medications (some used in combination)

Medication	#
Melatonin	23
Homeopathic	11
Rescue Remedy	11
Ace	9
Calms Forte	5
Tranquilizers	5
Thyroid meds	3

Response to Most Commonly Used Medications

Medication	Response
Melatonin	Very successful - 2, noted improvement - 4, some but not enough improvement - 2, takes edge off - 5, no marked change - 1
Homeopathic	Mixed result, some ok, some not - 1, seemed calmer - 1, no change - 1
Rescue remedy	More relaxed - 4, unsuccessful - 1
Ace	Sleeps - 3, calms or more peaceful - 2, slow to take effect - 2, too doped up - 1, high level required - 1, level of drug usage difficult to assess - 1
Calms Forte	Better but not enough - 1, reduces trembling - 1, sleeping - 1

Associated Medical Conditions (not all reported sufficient information to be included in this section). Fearful dogs who were thyroid tested had hypothyroidism in sixty-five percent (35/54). Another 94 fearful dogs' thyroid status was not tested. Among 18 dogs with an autoimmune problem 17 (94%) were fearful, and 8/10 (80%) tested for hypothyroidism were Euthyroid. Among 182 with no autoimmune problem, 131 were fearful (72%), and 27/44 (61%) tested for hypothyroidism were Euthyroid. It is unknown whether fear improved after treatment for hypothyroidism. These associations will continue to be followed with the ongoing registry.

How can we help our Beardies?

A small number of owners found relief for their dogs with removal of/from the noise (13%), physical comfort (11%), distraction (11%). Although various medications were tried, these were helpful in just a few cases.

Let's first look at what we can do for young dogs to help them before the fears reach problematic stages. Neophobia is the fear

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." -Author Unknown

of novel things and is a characteristic behavior of most animals. Anyone who has raised a puppy has seen this behavior. The puppy sees something for the first time and woofs at it and rapidly retreats. It also happens when they hear certain noises. So we need to actively socialize our puppies to as many different objects, people, and noises as we can. To actively socialize them we need to be proactive as much as we can to predict any problem areas.

It is not enough to just take them places and introduce them to things and people. We need to reward them and associate the good things in life with these new experiences. We need to structure their living environment so that it has many different noises on a routine basis. We can set up the environment in some instances to help us socialize in a positive manner. For example, one of my Beardies who was born in my house was terrified of the squeaky loud noise my oven door made as it opened. (Tells you how much baking goes on in my house!) Every time I opened the door she left the room and ran upstairs. This behavior started around four to five months of age. If I just left the oven door open for her, she would scooch past it in her hurry to avoid it. I then started putting her favorite food on it and just left it open for her. It took about two weeks for her to accept the open door and then another two weeks to let me open it and take out treats for her.

Dogs require a large reward history associated with those novel experiences and noises in order to overcome their natural tendency to retreat. You should list in priority order your dog's top five rewards. Teach young puppies to take food from your hands. Use their dinner and hand feed them. Just doing this sets you up as the pack leader, by controlling their resources and also at the same time associates people with the good things in life, their food. Teach them games such as tug toy and tricks such as spin. Make these games the be-all-and-end-all for your dog. Keep a special tug toy that you produce for those special games. Start with these games and rewards first at home and then on your walks and then in as many other places as you can.

So now that your puppy has high-end rewards, how can you use them in fearful situations? Watch your puppy closely for signs of fear such as tails tucked, ears flattened and back, tense mouth, backing up, or barking and lunging.

You need to assess the level of fear in your puppy in every situation. If your puppy can be enticed to play and take rewards then you have a party there. Whoop it up, play, throw treats, have the puppy find them. If your puppy that you have trained to take rewards and play games is not interested in any of the above, then you calmly leave the situation that is producing the fear if possible. Keep offering the rewards as you move away slowly until the puppy is able to take some reward. For instance, a car backfires and you try the jolly routine but the puppy is having none of it-- then you calmly walk away from the noise source all the while offering rewards. You keep trying to give rewards until the puppy accepts them. Keep your own demeanor as calm as possible. If your puppy is not eating or playing, it is too stressed and needs to be removed from the situation.

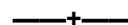
What about thunder? Hard to get away from! So what we do

here, at my house is have a party with lots of food and treats and music from the stereo. We play catch the food and find the treats. We have stuffed Kongs, which we place for the dogs to find. These parties are usually practiced without thunder but with the stereo on whenever we have a new puppy or young dog staying here.

Now what about the dog who already has the phobia developed? This is a much more difficult task. The same principles apply as for the puppy but you need to move very slowly. You cannot make the dog face his fear if he is terrified. That often just makes the fear worse. How do you know what level of stress your dog is feeling? Dogs who are not able to take food or rewards or play favorite games are not able to cope at that moment with the situation. Remove them to an already established safe haven or place.

You can work to get some games and rewards that are really fun for your dog. Establish these behaviors without noises. Then start with playing the games or training with a stereo on low and ever so slowly increase the base and volume. If the dog shows any sign of fear – step back to your previous level. If your dog simply reacts to thunder by hunkering down in a crate and seems fairly comfortable, I'd just leave them alone. Dogs and wolves in the wild don't stay out in thunderstorms. They find a safe place to wait out the storm. Allow your dog to do the same.

We would like to thank the owners who participated in this survey and hope you find some of the information useful. Those who have dogs in the open health registry were remarkable; 59/60 who reported fear reactions to the registry also completed this survey! As we gather more data and do more statistics, maybe we will be able to get a clearer picture of how much of these behaviors are genetic and how much are due to the dog's environment.



Reprinted from the Canine-I list with permission of the author, Char Reynolds:

"BeaCon is THE leader in promoting knowledge of Addisons and has done outstanding work on this issue, their website on AD is one of the first places we send new folks. In fact, until recently it was one of the few places with reliable info on atypical Addisons, the form Morgan was first diagnosed with. It helped return my sanity and help me focus on just what was happening and what I needed to do to help my Pom Queen."

"Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it -- but sail we must, and not drift, nor lie at anchor." Oliver Wendell Holmes

Odds and Ends



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1396 265th Street
Sherrard, IL 61281-8553.

Donors of up to \$100 receive a logo pin
For \$100-199 you receive a sterling silver angel pin
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The pins can be viewed on the BeaCon Web site.

Open health registry forms can be obtained by contacting any of the Board of Directors or on the BeaCon web site.

Addison Tape from the National Specialty

The videotape of Dr. Oberbauer's seminar on the Addison's update can be obtained from Elsa Sell for \$10. There are only a few left. Contact her at: beardiebb@bellsouth.net

Contributions to BeaCon's directed donor fund with AKC CHF

Checks should be made out to AKC CHF and be accompanied by a letter requesting that the money be deposited in BeaCon's directed donor fund. Send to: Erika Werne, 251 West Garfield Road, Suite 160, Aurora, OH 44202

Location to order DNA kits
The URL is:
<http://cgap.ucdavis.edu>

The BeaCon Board of Directors

Elsa Sell - beaconbb@bellsouth.net
Sharon Dunsmore - Kincurran@sympatico.ca
Chris Walkowicz - walkoway@revealed.net
Scott Cook - scook21@cfl.rr.com
Kathy Coxwell - Hattieboo@aol.com
Gordon Fitzgerald - grfitz@bellsouth.net
Cheryl Poliak - cpoliak@hotmail.com
Linda Aronson - PetShrink1@aol.com
Karen Drummond - beardie-mom@worldnet.att.net
Mia Sedgwick - lochmoor@myisp.net.au
Judy Howard - beardiebunch@cabarrus.com

Any member of the Board of Directors may be contacted at these addresses for any questions you might have. Please contact the Board if you have any ideas or wish to participate in any of BeaCon's ongoing projects.

Future editions of the BeaCon newsletter will be available free to anyone interested in the Health of Bearded Collies. Please contact the editor if you wish to receive any future editions of the newsletter by e-mail, didn't receive the first edition, want to have another person added to the mailing list or want to be removed from the mailing list.

GR Fitzgerald
142 Glenhill Drive
Houma, La 70363
grfitz@bellsouth.net

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"Integrity is a choice. It is consistently choosing the purity of truth over popularity."
—Author Unknown—

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"You got your teeth scaled! How much did they weigh?"

BeaCon's Second Year Open Registry Book/CD Order Form.

Purchase on-line with PayPal or by mailing check and form.

The Registry is available in book form or CD (or both). Prices include USA book rate mailing and insurance. The attractive spiral bound book contains data on new dogs and updates year 1 dogs. A few copies of the year 1 book are still available. The CD contains both year 1 and year 2 data, pedigrees, and software to run the program. The CD is for Windows operating systems only; it works best with windows 2000 although it has been installed on 95, 98, and XP. Antivirus program script write detection must be turned off during use. Approximate size is 360 MB. A separate Coefficient of Inbreeding file of 600 MB is also available - the images are .bmp format; content is an 8 generation inbreeding coefficient graph, a rate of inbreeding per generation graph, and common ancestors' contribution to inbreeding.

Note: books will be printed after sufficient orders are received. You will be notified of approximate mailing date. Make check (USA \$ only please) to BeaCon for Health and mail to: Elsa Sell, 262 Liberty Rd, Milner, GA 30257

Before ordering, please contact Elsa at beaconbb@bellsouth.net for mailing costs outside the USA, about the CD, or availability of the year 1 registry book.

	<u>Registry Participants</u>	<u>Non-Registry Participants</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Registry	Book #__ @ \$27.00	#__ @ \$32.00	\$_____.
Registry	CD #__ @ \$15.00	#__ @ \$20.00	\$_____.
Inbreeding Coefficient	CD #__ @ \$5.00	#__ @ \$7.50	\$_____.
		Donation	\$_____.
		TOTAL	\$_____.

Name and address where material should be mailed

Raffle

A Gillian Baldock (Australian artist) portrait of your Beardie's head from a photograph; or give your friend a gift and provide Gillian with your friend's Beardie's photograph.

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**Lighting the Way
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