

# BFCA *Health Times*

**Summer 2011**

**Chairman: Nancy McDonald**

**Committee Members: Vickie Halstead, Lisa De Camps, Paula Hendricks, Larry Letche DMV**

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## **Committee Member Recognition**

Occasionally, members are recognized for the work they have contributed to the Bichon breed, BFCA, and this committee. To do so does not discredit others on this committee or members of other BFCA committees who put hours of their time and knowledge into supporting the Bichon Frise. Please note what is said here is not inclusive of all these two members have done or accomplished, but briefly acknowledges some of their work.

### **Anne Jones**

The Bichon Frise breed has undoubtedly benefited from the service and dedication bestowed upon it by many unsung heroes who are no longer exhibiting their dogs. These individuals work behind the scenes to serve the breed they love. Anne Jones is one of these dedicated individuals. Her devotion has been with the breed since it was first recognized by AKC and continues to this day. Anne has been involved in multiple activities associated with the Bichon and BFCA, but her passion lies with the health of the Bichon. Anne was instrumental in development of the very first Bichon health survey as well as establishment of the BFCA Health Committee; she served as chairman and has continued to serve as a committee member. Anne's wealth of knowledge on all aspects of canine disease has made her an invaluable contributor to educational articles for the BFCA health web site as well as The Bichon Reporter. Taking her knowledge of Bichon/canine health and her experience as a breeder and exhibitor, Anne has been able to compile articles with foremost understanding of the needs of the reader. Anne personally answers phone calls from Bichon owners about health problems, listening and advising and following up on the progress. Emails and the bichonhealth.org web site has made Anne's work load easier in recent years. Anne informed the committee last year that she would be stepping down as a member of the committee. Besides her endless energy and passion for her beloved breed, Anne has been sage in her advice to the committee and her understanding of situations when it involves show dogs. She will be

available for consult when the committee needs counsel. Because Anne has not been highly visible in recent years, many members may not have met her. All the same, members and their Bichons have benefited from Anne's efforts.

**Vickie Halstead**

Due to circumstances out of her control, Vickie Halstead has resigned as chairman of the BFCA Health Committee but will stay on as a member of the committee. Although the BFCA Health Committee has been graced with a succession of talented chairmen, Vickie has exemplified strong, visionary leadership to raise the standard for Bichon health. Vickie guided the committee through a member survey on the health of the Bichon and tirelessly kept detailed numbers from a variety of sources to access any changes in the health of the Bichon as a breed. She organized and led the development of the very successful web site, bichonhealth.org. Writing many educational articles herself for the web site, she encouraged committee members to do the same thus educating not only BFCA members but Bichon owners all over the world. Vickie initiated CHIC numbers for qualifying Bichons from OFA and then took testing a step further by her vision of the CHIC 5-star award. It was Vickie's insightfulness to have available appropriate swabs at the National Specialty Shows for breeders wishing to collect DNA from their Bichons for the DNA banks and/or for Cache at Home. These accolades only skim her accomplishments of her tenure as chairman.

**Larry Letsche DMV**

Larry is now an official member of the BFCA Health Committee. BFCA is fortunate to have a member who practices veterinarian medicine and is willing to serve as a consultant for all subject matters relating to the health of the breed.



**Let's Play It Again!**

During the general meeting at the National in May, members were reminded to collect DNA from their Bichons for three purposes. The reason most people considered for collecting DNA is for proof of parentage which, of course, is truly valuable. In addition and extremely important to the future health of the Bichon Frise is to collect DNA to keep at home from all Bichons you own and puppies you produce, "Cache at Home", **AND** to send DNA samples to CHIC DNA bank. Researchers need DNA from healthy Bichons as well as not so healthy Bichons, and if no samples are available, research is delayed. Special swabs are needed to collect DNA but those are FREE. All you need to do is pay for the shipping. Please go to [www.bichonhealth.org](http://www.bichonhealth.org) for complete instructions.



## New Chic numbers

Each quarter CHIC issues a report of new qualifiers of CHIC numbers and updates of dogs that have existing CHIC numbers.

To receive a CHIC number the Bichon must:

1. Have a tattoo or microchip for identification
2. Complete OFA of hips at the age of 2 or more years
3. Completed OFA of patellas at the age of at least 1 year
4. Completed a CERF exam.
5. Release the results

To keep a Bichon updated, it must repeat the patellar exam and CERF exam yearly.

**August 28, 2011**

### CHIC Report by Paula Second Quarter 2011

#### SUMMARY OF TOTAL CHIC NUMBERS AND UPDATES FOR BFCA TO DATE

ORIGINAL QUALIFIERS	382	July 2007
TOTAL NEW QUALIFIERS	686	July 2011
UPDATES	52	July 2011
TOTAL UPDATES	234	July 2011

### CHIC 5 STAR AWARDS

A CHIC 5 Star Award is issued to any Bichon owned by a BFCA member with a CHIC number, has passed the CHIC tests, and additionally has obtained any two of the following (see <http://www.bichonhealth.org/CHIC.htm> for more information and applications):

1. Cardiac OFA certification by cardiologist or practitioner
2. Legg-Calve-Perthes OFA Certification
3. DNA registered with AKC
4. Urinalysis that tests for diabetes, bladder infection, crystals
5. Bile acid blood test to rule out liver shunt
6. Standard veterinary blood panel including:
  - CBC (complete blood count): WBC, RBC, hemoglobin
  - Electrolytes, BUN, Creatinine (to assess kidney function)
  - Blood glucose level (to rule out diabetes)
  - Liver enzymes (to rule out liver disease)
  - Pancreas enzymes (to rule out pancreas disease)

All new CHIC 5 Star Awards will be posted in each issue of The Health Times.



**Look What You Are Doing!**

Each year AKC/CHF sends parent clubs requests for support of research grants. The list is varied on subjects and breeds, and always sparks some excitement within the committee at the scope of the research. Your health committee members carefully read the information presented and gage each study on any impact it could have on the health of the Bichon Frise. As these decisions are taken very seriously, it is a pleasure to show the list of supported research.

**Schedule A  
Bichon Frise  
2010 Grant Sponsorships**

**Number Name Amount**

01421 Genomic Resources for the Control of Canine Pyoderma \$ 1,000.00

01415 Development of Anti-IgE Peptide for Treatment of Canine Allergy  
\$ 2,500.00

01363-A Comparison of Vitamin B6 levels in a Breed (the BichonFrise dog)  
Predisposed to Calcium Oxalate Stones versus Healthy Dogs \$ 7,500.00

01355-A Expression of Vascular Endothelial markers in Canine  
Hemangiosarcoma and their use in Diagnostic Cytology Using  
Immunocytochemistry \$ 500.00

01345-A Circulating Isoforms of B-type Natriuretic Peptide and the Pathogenesis  
of Canine Heart Failure \$ 500.00



**A Big Thank You to Betty Harken**

Betty Harken put her talents to work raising funds for research benefiting Bichon health. Auctioned during the awards banquet at the 2011 National Specialty show was a beautiful wall hanging quilt featuring Bichons, of course. Betty’s workmanship is remarkable and the attention to detail makes it a true treasure. Thank you, Betty, for your generous contribution and using your skills to benefit the Bichon Frise.



## The Fun of Learning

There are many different way of learning but going on a cruise with other persons interested in dogs and listening to lectures and discussions about dogs has to be at the top of fun learning. Vickie Halstead did just that and brought home lots of “learning pearls.”

### **SUMMARY OF 2011 K9 COLLEGE CRUISE SEMINAR Vickie Halstead, RN, CVNS, CCRN, CEN, LNC**

In April I attended several canine seminars aboard a cruise ship, along with Pam Goldman of Camelot Bichons and lots of fun. We listened to many renowned speakers during the days at sea when we were not going ashore. Topics included nutrition, contract law, breeding, reproduction, raising puppies, genetics, pedigree analysis, structure and movement, ring training and a judge/exhibitor workshop where the judge’s panel was asked questions by the attendees. This was a great learning opportunity, not only the seminars, but also time to socialize with and query the speakers. I would highly recommend attending this yearly cruise, which I hope to repeat in the future. After learning so many “pearls” from these seminars, I want to share some of the highlights. However, my disclaimer is that this information originates from my notes without a guarantee that the information is 100% correct and accurate.

#### **Puppy Development**

1. 50% of the higher intelligence of puppies is derived from what the dam is fed
2. DHA that is contained in most fish oils helps the brain develop in puppies during pregnancy. The brain is developed at about 14 weeks, so start DHA before pregnancy and continue to give it during pregnancy.
3. At 7-8 weeks you can evaluate movement: the good one gaits most of the time, the poor movers gallop, side-wind, and often fall over

#### **Breeding**

1. Inbreeding = breeding closer than cousins to cousins
2. Line breeding = breeding cousins to cousins
3. Outcross = no common relatives in the first 4 generations
4. Breed type = it looks like the breed, not necessarily high quality
5. Skills of a successful breeder:
  - a. Has good knowledge of the breed and health issues
  - b. Has an organized method to select sires and dams for litters
  - c. Can evaluate the depth and breadth of pedigrees
  - d. Can accurately evaluate litters, and pick the best of the litter
  - e. Has an organized record system
  - f. Can successfully manage, feed and develop what you keep
  - g. Do not breed to a *popular dog* unless he has genetic “data” that your bitch needs

#### **Genetics**

1. Reach and drive is recessive (must inherit the genes from both parents)
2. There are 500-1000 disease traits found in dogs--the mode of inheritance has only been found in about 100 diseases, most being recessive (defective gene is contributed by both parents)

#### **Reproduction/Infertility**

1. Dr. Hutchinson feels that Mibalarone is safe for bitches, a drug that can postpone heat cycles until the drug is discontinued. Each time a bitch has a heat cycle, the uterus ages because the hormone changes are the

same whether pregnant or not. If you want to special a bitch, you can give this drug until her show career is over. For example, if you start this drug on her second heat cycle at the age of 1.5 years and stop it at the age of 4 years, her uterus will be preserved at the age of 1.5 years. A young uterus promotes increased conception rates, larger litters, less pregnancy problems, improved whelping, and less chance of infertility issues.

2. No need to do a vaginal smear with a swab to test for infection prior to breeding because several bacteria normally live there, including mycoplasma. If there is an infection, the amount of normal bacteria in the vagina will decrease.
3. Safe antibiotics during pregnancy: Amoxicillin, Clavamox, Baytril, Cephalexin
4. **Brucellosis is very dangerous!!!** All dogs in your kennel and new dogs brought in must be tested for Brucellosis because it is very contagious and causes infertility, and treatment is primarily euthanasia. Similar to HIV in humans, the disease is transmitted via exposure to body fluids such as urine, vaginal secretions, and semen. If a dog with Brucellosis pees on a post and another dog touches the urine with his penis while peeing on the post, the disease can be transmitted. Test stud dogs every 6 months and bitches close to the time of mating. Keep in mind if doing AI's with fresh or frozen semen, that stud dog should have been tested within 6 months of collection because sperm carries the disease.
5. Frozen semen can be stored for 1000 years, but collect it at a young age because at age 6 the fertility in stud dogs drops by 30%
6. Size of pups is not related to when the mating occurred or when the eggs were fertilized. All eggs are ovulated over a 12-hour period of time.
7. Cryptorchidism is a recessive gene from both parents. The right testicle is behind the kidney, so is the last to descend. Therefore if the left testicle is descended, the right one may be floating and may descend after more time. Testosterone injections are not effective.
8. Hypothyroidism does not affect fertility or sex drive.
9. Split heat cycles may be due to an ovarian cyst that temporarily drops the progesterone level.

### Nutrition

1. Dogs with sensitive skin (#1 health issue in Bichons) tend to have imbalances in the microflora (bacteria) present in the gut (intestines), which contributes 70% of the body's immunity to diseases. Speaker recommends supplementation with prebiotics (stimulate the growth of beneficial bacteria) and probiotics (beneficial bacteria that are ingested).

### Contracts/Legal Issues

2. Married couples divorcing—the one that is owner on papers gets the dog
3. Sales of puppies, statements and info that can be included in contracts:
  - a. Have all parties sign contract, including both spouses
  - b. All dogs need ID including microchip and DNA info from parents
  - c. Will live in the house with family and not placed elsewhere without notifying breeder
  - d. Buyer has no right to sell, re-home or give away
  - e. Mandate obedience classes within a certain time period
  - f. Can list names of breeders that will not get a puppy from future litters
  - g. State if puppy is returned that a certain amount of money will be refunded
  - h. No euthanasia unless medical emergency
  - i. Include wording for contracts for future offspring
  - j. No guarantees on color or size
  - k. State "show prospect" without guarantee of show quality
  - l. Have buyers place initials next to significant paragraphs
  - m. Must disclaim any health issues that exist at time of sale.
  - n. Temperament is not a health issue and problems can be learned behavior, so state that temperament is normal at time of sale