

BFCA *Health Times*

Winter 2013

Editor/Chairman: Nancy McDonald

Committee members: Lisa de Champs, Vickie Halstead, Paula Hendricks

Consultants: Larry Letsche DMV, Anne Jones

“Bichon Champions For Health” 2014 Calendar

You're gonna love it!

The 2014 calendar featuring Bichons with big wins and healthy credentials.

Available at Bichon Frise National Specialty Show 2013

The Bichon Frise Club of America has every right to be extremely proud of these Bichons featured in the 2014 calendar. Not only are they beautiful and worthy of big wins, their breeders and owners know breeding is a science as well as an art. The test results on these beauties are public for all to see. Only through knowledge are good breeding decisions made.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
**CANINE HEALTH
FOUNDATION**
PREVENT TREAT & CURE®

*Funding research
that helps Dogs
Live Longer,
Healthier Lives*

New Year, New Look!

It's a New Year, and the AKC Canine Health Foundation educational programs are getting a new name and a new look.

Under the new name, **HealthE-Barks**, CHF will continue to bring you information on canine health topics and on cutting-edge canine health research in bi-monthly e-newsletters and in twice-a-month podcasts. You can also look forward to new webinars throughout 2013. All HealthE-Barks publications will provide the dog-loving community with reliable information to improve the quality of life for our dogs, and the people who love them.

All three programs will carry the new **HealthE-Barks** name. You'll recognize their release with the three banners below.

Don't want to miss any of these educational resources?

[Update your e-mail preferences to receive notifications of e-newsletters, podcasts and webinars.](#)



Be knowledgeable! Stay up to date!

Veterinarians, medical doctors, nurses, CPA's, hair dressers, teachers, lawyers, and many other professionals must seek continuing educational credits to be up to date in their fields. Knowledge does not stand still but continues to grow. The breeder of

January 12, 2013

CHIC 5 STAR AWARDS

The BFCA Health Committee has issued the first of the CHIC 5 Star Awards to the following:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Merrymaker's Living Doll | Cindy Morey | 11/15/09 |
| Merryell Absolutely Spellbound | Mayno Blanding | 11/29/09 |
| Jasme Raggedy Ann | Mayno Blanding | 11/29/09 |
| Victoire's Cheers to Austin | Vickie Halstead | 11/30/09 |
| Victoire L'Amour Champagne Lace | Vickie Halstead | 11/30/09 |
| Victoire Juniper's Hot Tamale | Vickie Halstead | 11/30/09 |
| Victorie's Norwegian Red | Vickie Halstead | 11/30/09 |
| Victoire Melodie's Bleu Reign | Melodie Michel | 11/30/09 |
| Victoire Diamond Rio Citrine | David & Darlene Scheiris | 12/02/09 |
| Mybliss Galway's Irish Imp | Nancy Noonan | 06/06/10 |
| White Shadow Galaway Hide N'Seek | Nancy Noonan | 06/06/10 |
| Allure's U Chenoa Joe | Lisa Des Camps | 10/01/10 |
| Victorie Gerie No Lemon Gemstone | Vickie Halstead, Mary Wangsness | 11/30/10 |
| Paray Parasol of Knollwood | Susan & Dean Anneser | 12/1/10 |
| Paray's Secret Encounter | Susan & Dean Anneser | 12/1/10 |
| Merrymaker's Southern Charm of Bibelot | Cindy Morey | 1/13/11 |
| MyBliss Petite Coquette | Loretta McDonald | 3/16/11 |
| Jabree's Jack of Hearts | Nita & Mark Gryan | 3/23/11 |
| Bibelot's Sugar Plum Dancer | Paula Hendricks | 6/6/11 |
| Bibelot's Purple Heart O'Mine | Matt & Paula Abbott | 9/12/11 |
| Jabree's Bellefleur La Jolie | Nita & Mark Gryan | 12/19/11 |
| Bijone's Mon Cheri Music of the Nite | Susan Brockett, Barbara Shaffer, Nicole Shaffer | 1/4/12 |
| Mybliss Dandy Devil Wears White | Myra Wotton, Jan & Alan Shetzer | 1/5/12 |
| Crème's Fool's Rush In | Carol Haines | 5/3/12 |
| Crème's Brandy Alexanderia | Carol Haines | 5/3/12 |
| Crème's Madam President | Carol Haines | 5/3/12 |
| Mybliss Expertly Engineered | Myra Wotton | 7/26/12 |
| Luvit's A Rolex Cellissima At Dalnavert | Linda Ross, Bernice & Brian Lucas | 8/1/12 |
| Saks Winning Card | Sandra & Kieth Hanson | 8/6/12 |
| Saks Hamelot Little Drummer Boy | Sandra & Kieth Hanson | 8/6/12 |
| Bella Diamella Sunday Surprize | Stephanie Uva, Katherine Dillon, Lisa Des Camps | 8/19/12 |
| MyBliss Sport Edition At Bella | Stephanie Uva, Myra Wotton | 8/19/12 |
| Luvit's A Rolex Yacht-master At Dalnavert | Bernice & Brian Lucas, Linda Ross, Marilyn Torrance | 1/7/12 |
| Luvit's a Rolex Daytona At Dalnavert | Linda Ross, Bernice & Brian Lucas | 11/26/12 |
| Bibelot's Destiny Awaits | Paula Hendricks, Gina Pantely | 11/26/12 |
| Victoire Phantom's Devil in Disguise | Diana Bugos, Vickie Halstead | 12/4/12 |

Canine Heartworm Disease

Nancy McDonald, BSN, RN-retired

Since macrocyclic lactones (the parasiticides used in preventing heartworm infections) became available, perhaps heartworm disease doesn't get enough attention. Let's take a look at the cycle to understand why it is vital to remember this is a deadly disease that can be prevented.

THE BEGINNING: A mosquito bites an animal infected with heartworms. Within that blood meal are microfilariae (heartworm babies) that the mosquito ingests. (Micro means the microfilariae are so small a microscope is necessary to see them and so small they survive within a mosquito.) The microfilariae live in the mosquito for two to three weeks, maturing into larvae.

NEXT: The mosquito, needing another blood meal, deposits the larvae on the skin of the dog. The larvae screw themselves into the skin, then into the tissues, and stay there for two to four months. WHILE THE LARVAE ARE IN THE TISSUE IS THE ONLY TIME MACROCYCLIC LACTONES, SUCH AS IVERMECTIN, MILBEMYCIN, SELAMECTIN OR MOXIDECTIN (THE DRUG THAT PREVENTS HEART WORMS), CAN KILL THE LARVAE. If one dose of prevention is missed, the next dose can prevent the disease. However, if two doses are missed, it opens up a greater chance for the disease.

CONTINUING: The larvae grow while in the tissue. Locating a small vein, the small worms move into the blood stream where they locate in the right side of the heart, grow into adult worms that produce offspring. This whole process takes about 9 months. Heartworms, 5 to 12 inches in length, usually start in the right side of the heart but as they multiply, will migrate into other chambers, the pulmonary arteries causing inflammation and moving into the lower part of the lungs. Usually symptoms of the disease are barely detectable with signs such as a slight cough. As the disease progresses, a combination of problems resulting from the dysfunction of the lungs, heart, liver and kidneys occur. Dogs that are not exercised strenuously may not have apparent signs of the disease until there are a large number of heartworms in the heart and vessels.

IN THE MEAN TIME: A blood test made by a veterinarian is the only way to determine whether or not your dog has heartworm disease. Since microfilariae generally appear in the blood within 9 months after an infection occurs, mild cases of the disease can and should be detected and treated long before any symptoms are evident. This means a dog should be tested regularly by a veterinarian for the disease.

It takes as much as nine months for heartworms to develop but during that time preventatives can stop the disease from continuing.

A DOG WITH HEARTWORMS: All but the most severe cases can be successfully treated. The goal of treatment is to kill all adult worms with an adulticide and all microfilariae with a microfilaricide and accomplishing this with a minimum of harmful effects from drugs and tolerable degree of complications created by the dying heartworms. Dogs with mild symptoms with a limited number of heartworms present have the easiest road to recovery. Dogs with a greater number of worms have a greater chance that complications might arise during treatment. All dogs should be thoroughly examined prior to treatment.

Killing Adult Heartworms: There is one organic arsenical compound, Melarsomine dihydrochloride, approved by the FDA to eliminate adult heartworms. It has demonstrated a higher level of effectiveness and safety than other adult heartworm treatments previously available. The primary post-adulticide complication is the development of severe pulmonary thromboembolism. This results from the obstruction of blood flow through pulmonary arteries due to the presence of dead heartworms and lesions in the arteries and capillaries of the lungs. If heartworm adulticide treatment is effective, some degree of pulmonary thromboembolism will occur. Clinically signs may include fever, cough, hemoptysis and potentially sudden death. It is vitally important that the dog is kept quiet, allowing minimal activity post treatment so the body can eliminate the dead worms. Following treatment, confirmation of the efficacy of adulticide should be verified.

Eliminating Microfilariae: A few weeks following the treatment for adult heartworms, the microfilariae that are circulating in the blood must be eliminated. The most effective drug for this purpose is the macrocyclic lactone drug (ML), the active ingredient in commonly used heartworm preventives. Although their usage as microfilaricides has not been approved by the FDA, they are widely used by veterinarians as there are no approved microfilaricidal drugs currently available. Although circulating microfilariae usually can be eliminated within a few weeks by the administration of the ML-type drugs, the most widely used microfilaricidal treatment is to simply administer macrocyclic lactone preventives as usual. Microfilariae will be cleared slowly over a period of about six to nine months.

MACROCYCLIC LACTONE (ML): While treatment of heartworm disease is usually successful, prevention is far safer and economical. Macrocyclic Lactones are highly safe and effective parasiticides used in preventing heartworm infections when used in a timely manner. For greater compliance, the American Heartworm Society recommends giving a preventative every month, year round. That also eliminates the worry that heartworm preventative is not given long enough into the fall months or too late into the summer months. Options for use include daily and monthly tablets

and chewables, monthly topicals and a six-month injectable product. Each of the macrocyclic lactones brands can have additional intestinal parasite or external parasite activity, which could be the determining factor that a veterinarian uses to recommend a particular product for a certain region or an individual situation.

Ivermectin – Ivermectin (Heartgard plus by Merial, Iverhart plus, and Iverhart MAX by Virbac and Tri-Hart plus by Schering-Plough) was the first in this family of drugs to be approved for preventing heartworm infection. An infection with larvae as long as two months prior to the initiation of ivermectin treatment will be blocked from development.

Milbemycin – Milbemycin oxime (Interceptor & Sentinel by Novartis) has benefits, which are similar to ivermectin.

Selamectin – Selamectin (Revolution by Pfizer) is applied topically to prevent heartworm disease.

Moxidectin – Moxidectin (Advantage Multi by Bayer) is available in a topical formulation, in combination with a flea control product, imidacloprid. Moxidectin is also available as a six-month injectable product for dogs (ProHart 6 (moxidectin) Sustained Release Injectable for Dogs, by Ft Dodge Animal Health).

<http://www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources/heartworm.html>

<http://www-rci.rutgers.edu/~insects/hartw.htm>

<http://bakerinstitute.vet.cornell.edu/animalhealth/page.php?id+1096>

The following is written by Dr. Larry Letche, BFCA member and BFCA Health Committee consultant.

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Various Forms of Heartworm Preventatives

By Larry Letche DVM

- A. Interceptor- This is a once a month chewable tablet that prevents Heartworms, Roundworms, Whipworms and Hookworms. This product is safe in all ages of dogs and can be started as early as 8 weeks of age. It has also been proven to be safe in pregnant and lactating bitches and it does not affect sperm counts in breeding males. The only problem with this product is that it is not currently on the market due to difficulties at the manufacturer. The FDA stopped production at Novartis due to a number of human drugs that it produced. All of the issues have been corrected and production has started again but with human drugs first. Last word is that Interceptor will be back on the market later this year.
- B. Sentinal- This is a combination of heartworm preventative and flea control known as Program. This is also a once a month chewable tablet. As with Interceptor it is currently unavailable at this time. With the addition of the flea preventative it can have some side affects if given at a larger dose in lactating and pregnant bitches.
- C. Heartgard- A once a month chewable tablet that prevents heartworms, roundworms and hookworms. It does not prevent or treat whipworms. It has been used the longest and is safe for puppies, pregnant and lactating bitches and stud dogs. This is the best alternative to interceptor.
- D. Iverhart Plus & Tri-Heart Plus- These two products are the same as Heartgard Plus but manufactured by different companies. The only difference is cost.
- E. Iverhart Max- This product includes drugs to kill tapeworms. It has not been tested on pregnant and lactating bitches. There is caution

for the use of this product in stud dogs as it may cause testicular hyperplasia which can affect fertility.

- F. Revolution- This topical agent prevents heartworms and helps to control fleas and ticks. It is applied once a month. There is currently no information on the package insert concerning safety in pregnant and lactating bitches or stud dogs.
- G. Advantage Multi- Also a topical agent that is applied monthly for the prevention of heartworms and the control of fleas. It also eliminates roundworms and hookworms. There is currently no information on the label concerning pregnant and lactating bitches or stud dogs.
- H. Pro-hart- This is a six month injectable heartworm preventative that must be administered by a licensed and trained Veterinarian. It is also used to control hookworms. A dog must be over 6 months of age to get this product. It was taken off the market by the FDA a few years ago due to severe reactions. The labeling warns of anaphylactic reactions, possible digestive bleeding and neurological side effects. No information is provided concerning breeding dogs, pregnant and lactating bitches or stud dogs.