

Board Minutes 2/2/18

Monthly board meeting
Staffordshire Terrier Club of America

February 2, 2018

Meeting called to order at 5:45 PST

Roll call: Monique Bertrand; Brenda Martz; Brenda Tatro; John O'Hanlon; BJ Whitlow; Frances Conner

Absent: Ed Thomason, Al Bincarousky, and Kim Rudzik

Minutes from prior meeting: Minutes are in review by the board. The president asked that they are reviewed for approval by the Wed. following this board meeting

Corrections:

Approved or with corrections

The body of the minutes should contain a separate paragraph for each subject matter, and should show:

the wording in which each motion was adopted or otherwise disposed of (with the facts as to whether the motion may have been debated or amended before disposition being mentioned only parenthetically); and

b) the disposition of the motion, including—if it was temporarily disposed of —any primary and secondary amendments and all adhering secondary motions that were then pending;

secondary motions that were not lost or withdrawn, in cases where it is necessary to record them for completeness or clarity—for example, motions to Recess or to Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn (among the privileged motions), or motions to Suspend the Rules or grant a Request to Be Excused from a Duty (among the incidental motions), generally only alluding to the adoption of such motions, however, as ". . . the matter having been advanced in the agenda on motion of . . ." or ". . . a ballot vote having been ordered, the tellers . . .";

the complete substance of oral committee reports that are given;

all notices of motions; and

all points of order and appeals, whether sustained or lost, together with the reasons given by the chair for his or her ruling.

Presidents Report: 2018 National Specialty Judge Ken McDermott will not be judging the National this year. Cindy Vogels has agreed to judge the 2018 National. Once we have confirmation that the 2019 National will be held in Conroe Texas, a letter inviting 2019 selected judge Ms. Patricia Anne Keenan will be sent. We need to secure sites for 2020, 2021, and 2022. Letters to judges should be going out after the membership has voted so we will be able to secure the first judge voted on by the membership.

Treasury's Report:

The CPA I contacted has been stringing me around. I no longer want to deal with the guy, as I am familiar with this type of CPA, from my years as an auditor. The friends I have who are CPA's all work for an entity that frowns on their doing "outside" CPA work. It happens I know the controller for a large health-care network, Kathy Chittenden (she's an agility judge and runs a Farm (with her husband), where a large amount of the income actually comes from dog related activities (agility trials and dog- training). Anyhow, since the BOD accepted the accountant that Carrie used during her last year in office (an H & R Block employee), I'd like to enjoin Kathy Chittenden, to audit our books and get this done. It will be cost effective, and as she is a controller, she supervises audits of the corporation she works for. Kathy is quite brilliant and has already agreed to do this for me. As the CBL s are so poorly written, I figure I have some wiggle room in this matter.

Besides, we are under 2 indirect audit reviews by the Tax preparing firm and the IRS and the fact that I submit Treasurer's reports on a monthly basis along with an Annual Financial Report to the BOD.

Letter to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to review the audit of the club's books

Right Space Storage: As it is apparent, we will be keeping our club archives material at Right Space Storage, for the foreseeable future. I would like permission to simply make a yearly payment to them and thereby reduce the cost for the club.

Motion was made to make payment to the Right Space Storage annually instead of monthly.

Motion carried and approved

Motion was made to accept the Treasury's Report by Monique Bertrand

Motion carried and approved

Secretaries Report: No report provided

Recording Secretary: Absent January Meeting Minutes will be reviewed and corrections made at the March 9 2018 Meeting.

Committee Reports:

Health Committee: Discussion on the following, submitted by the committee:

As requested, here is an outline of the process we discussed which on average takes 4-6 months but is of course dependent on several variables, including working on the MOU between CHF and the Staffordshire Terrier Club of America, getting items from the investigator, and the CHF grant review process itself.

Now that you have passed the Letter of Intent for Drs. Johnson and O'Brien to your board, your club can determine if you'd like to move forward with an MOU given the intended work and budget. If your board is in favor of moving forward then:

- MOU drafted for signature by CHF and STCA
- CHF solicits full proposal from the PI and when received [the proposal](#) goes through the CHF grant review process

- Once fully approved after CHF process, the organization will be invoiced per terms agreed upon in MOU
- CHF manages grant requirements and scientific progress reports and facilitates communications to STCA

Below is the proposal:

01/10/2018

Dear Andrea Fiumefreddo,

This letter of intent is provided in response to a request from the Staffordshire Terrier Club of America to investigate an emerging hereditary disease in the breed. We have diagnosed juvenile onset laryngeal paralysis and polyneuropathy (JLPP) in an American Staffordshire Terrier at the University of Missouri, and we have assisted in diagnosing four other cases of the disease in the breed. If funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, we would begin by collecting additional data to better clarify the phenotype and by acquiring additional DNA samples from affected American Staffordshire Terrier and their relatives. When announcing the study to the club, we will encourage members to contact us if their dog is showing clinical signs of JLPP. We will then arrange to examine the affected dog and perform additional diagnostic tests including electrodiagnostic test of muscle and nerve function as well as muscle and nerve biopsies to be evaluated by Dr. Diane Shelton at the University of California, Davis. If it is not feasible to bring the dog to the Veterinary Health Center in Missouri, we will work with a veterinary neurologist in the area to gather the necessary data.

In addition, we will initiate a research effort to identify the molecular genetic cause for the specific type of JLPP that affects American Staffordshire Terriers (AmStaf-JLPP). Furthermore, if our efforts to identify the cause for the AmStaf-JLPP are successful, we intend to devise and validate a DNA-based blood and/or buccal-swab test that identifies dogs that are affected with AmStaf-JLPP and distinguishes them from dogs that are asymptomatic carriers of the AmStaf-JLPP mutation, and from genetically normal dogs that do not carry the AmStaf-JLPP mutation. We expect this test to prove useful as a diagnostic tool and to allow American Staffordshire Terriers breeders to avoid future litters containing puppies destined to develop AmStaf-JLPP. Finally, if we successfully identify the molecular genetic cause for AmStaf-JLPP, we intend to publish our results in the referred scientific literature so that our findings will be available to the scrutiny of other scientists and so that testing laboratories around the world will have an opportunity to offer tests for AmStaf-JLPP at competitive prices.

As preliminary data, we have DNA samples from 38 American Staffordshire Terriers in our DNA repository. According to our records, 5 of the available DNA samples are from dogs affected with AmStaf-JLPP. Most of the rest of the American Staffordshire Terrier DNA samples are presumed to be from dogs that are not affected with AmStaf-JLPP. For almost all of these samples, we have contact information for the dog's owners and/or veterinarians so that we can verify the health status of the donors of the DNA samples to be used in our intended study. We have previously identified a mutation in the *RAB3GAP1* gene as the cause for juvenile laryngeal paralysis and polyneuropathy in Black Russian Terrier and Rottweilers.^{1,2} We have tested 3 of the affected American Staffordshire Terriers for this *RAB3GAP1* mutation. All 3-tested normal. A group of Swiss researchers lead by Dr. Tosso Leeb has identified retrotransposon insertion in *RAB3GAP1* as the cause for juvenile laryngeal paralysis and polyneuropathy in a group of unregistered sled dogs referred to as Alaskan

Huskies.³ We have not been testing for this *RAB3GAP1* insertion, and to our knowledge this *RAB3GAP1* insertion has not been identified in American Staffordshire Terriers. Nonetheless, before we submit the full proposal, we want to make sure that the Alaskan Husky *RAB3GAP1* mutation is not responsible for the disease in American Staffordshire Terriers. The primers needed to test for the insertion have been ordered and the results of the test will be included in the full proposal. In the unlikely event that the Alaskan Husky mutation also causes the disease in American Staffordshire Terriers we will notify the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation that we no longer intend to submit a grant application to study this disease. In addition, we will submit a brief communication to report this result to the scientific community and offer a DNA test for the Alaskan Husky *RAB3GAP1* mutation to owners and breeders of American Staffordshire Terriers.

Our strategy for discovery of the causal mutation will involve the generation of whole genome sequences from two American Staffordshire Terriers affected with AmStaf-JLPP and the chromosomal mapping of the AmStaf-JLPP locus by genome wide association study (GWAS). If possible, the DNA samples chosen for whole genome sequencing will be from dogs that have been thoroughly examined by a Board Certified Veterinary Neurologist. Ideally the dogs will both exhibit typical disease phenotypes but not be closely related. The chosen DNA samples will be submitted for library construction and whole genome sequencing either at the University of Missouri DNA Core Facility or the McDonnell Genome Institute at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri. Both cost and turnaround time will be considered when choosing the sequencing laboratory. We will order PCR free paired-end libraries with a 550 bp average insert size and request 30-fold average coverage for the sequence. Our post-sequencing data analysis pipeline and strategy for identifying causal variant candidates will be similar those that have worked in the past.¹ Genotyping assays will be devised to test for the presence and zygosity of potentially causal variant alleles in our DNA samples from clinically normal American Staffordshire Terriers and those with AmStaf-JLPP.

Simultaneously with the generation of the whole genome sequences, we will attempt to map the chromosomal location of the DNA variant responsible for AmStaf-JLPP by GWAS. For this we will submit a portion of the DNA from each of our affected American Staffordshire Terriers along with DNA from twice as many clinically normal breed members to Neogen Genomics for genotyping with the Illumina CanineHD BeadChips. The resulting genotypes will be analyzed with the Golden Helix SNP & Variation Suite with a recessive model.

We are requesting budget of \$15,000 minus 8% for indirect costs. This will provide for (1) the costs associated with a physical examination and clinical testing of future affected dogs, (2) the costs associated with library construction and whole genome sequencing, (3) the costs for genotyping with the Illumina CanineHD BeadChips, (4) the costs for computer time, storage fees, and software license fees associated with the analysis of NextGen sequence and SNPchip data, (5) the costs for testing the causality of candidate mutations and for verifying the validity and accuracy of DNA test, and (6) the salary and benefits for a laboratory technician. It does not include salaries for Drs. Johnson and O'Brien which will be cost shared by the University.

References

1. Mhlanga-Mutangadura T, Johnson GS, Schnabel RD, et al. A mutation in the Warburg syndrome gene, *RAB3GAP1*, causes a similar syndrome with polyneuropathy and neuronal vacuolation in Black Russian Terrier dogs. *Neurobiol Dis* 2015;86:75-85.

2. Mhlanga-Mutangadura T, Johnson GS, Ashwini A, et al. A Homozygous RAB3GAP1:c.743delC Mutation in Rottweilers with Neuronal Vacuolation and Spinocerebellar Degeneration. J Vet Intern Med 2016;30:813-818.
3. Wiedmer M, Oevermann A, Borer-Germann SE, et al. A RAB3GAP1 SINE Insertion in Alaskan Huskies with Polyneuropathy, Ocular Abnormalities, and Neuronal Vacuolation (POANV) Resembling Human Warburg Micro Syndrome 1 (WARBM1). G3 (Bethesda) 2015;6:255-262.

Information provided by Andrea R Fiumefreddo, MS, Director of Programs, AKC Canine Health Foundation

The Health Committee is requesting suggestions from the board to do a fund raiser for this project. They do not want to deplete the funds we have in our AKC CHF DAF and the health treasury.

Information provided by Andrea R Fiumefreddo, MS, Director of Programs, AKC Canine Health Foundation

Below is the report from the Health Committee regarding the research project proposal above

Juvenile Laryngeal Paralysis and Polyneuropathy (JLPP)

JLPP is a fatal hereditary degenerative neurological disease that affects puppies after weaning age, with symptoms usually appearing at about 3-4 months old. It begins with difficulty breathing which causes choking, aspiration, and possible pneumonia. It progresses to the hind limbs causing difficulty getting up, and wobbly gait and eventually spreads to the front limbs. There are a few breeds affected with this disease and among them are the Black Russian Terrier and Rottweiler. For these 2 breeds the trait is autosomal recessive and a test has been developed.

For a detailed description of the disease see this link on the Black Russian Terrier site:

www.brtca.org/juvenile-laryngeal-paralysis-and-polyneurpathy.html

Also visit the University of Missouri web page www.caninegeneticdiseases.net

The Health Committee just recently received some disturbing news that some people in the breed have been experiencing this disease in their AmStaff over the past few years. We were contacted by a person who has had firsthand experience with a few of her dogs affected with the disease. Her investigation led her to find out that there were many other cases in the breed but it was not being discussed. Finding out about the genetic test developed by the research team at the University of Missouri Veterinary School, she contacted them and submitted samples. It was determined that the AmStaff mutation was different from that of the BRT and Rottweiler. Through social media and word of mouth, she was able to discover that there were a good number of cases, most sharing similar lineage, both here in the US and overseas as well.

I am extremely grateful that we were given this information. As it was a difficult beginning when we started the ataxia project, the membership came together and helped our researcher Dr. Olby develop a test. We can do it again with everyone's help.

I have been in contact with Liz Hansen of the University of Missouri veterinary research team headed by Dr. Dennis O'Brien. Dr. O'Brien was instrumental in working with Dr. Olby on our ataxia research. Some of you may remember that he came to the National while the project was active and he gave a presentation on ataxia. The above link on the Black Russian Terrier Club of America website will also take you to a very informative video presentation he gave to their club on JLLP. I urge you to watch it and learn about the disease and research process.

Liz Hansen has agreed to work with us on a research project. There are a few samples at their lab but they need many more. We need your help with this. All information including pedigree data will remain confidential. Form and instruction sheet are attached below. Liz will need DNA from affected dogs, clinical report from the veterinarian or neurologist who diagnosed, samples from normal siblings, parents, and grandparents if possible, brief history of clinical signs and disease progression, and necropsy report if available. Genetic technology has improved since our last research project and I am hoping this can have a successful outcome before we are faced with a major widespread problem in our breed.

I have contacted Antagene and Biovet Labs and am waiting to hear if they have any additional information. I have also reached out to Dr. Olby to see if she can be of any assistance. As for funding, I have spoken with AKC Canine Health Foundation and we will work with them and the funding process. As we did with the ataxia project, the committee will help offset costs of necropsies associated with this research.

Contact information for Liz Hansen is ph#573-884-3712, email HansenL@missouri.edu
Her information and mailing address also appears on the attached sample handling page.

Please pass this information on to any AmStaff owner, member or non member, who may be able to help. If you have any questions you can contact the health committee at health@amstaff.org or contact me directly at fbeiser@aol.com , tel#917-887-8760

Thanks,

Faith

Performance Committee:

The Performance Committee is seeking Board approval for a new STCA award. It is modeled after the AKC's Achiever Dog Award. It would be called the STCA Achievement Award and would require a temperament component (TT/CGC), and either titles in three different sports, or a total of 50 points or more based on the Performance worksheet. The Award would be a certificate only, no lapel pin.

The 2018 North Carolina Agility Trial is on track. The applications have been sent to the AKC for event approval. We need a member to take charge of Hospitality, and I have put a call out for volunteers in the next newsletter. This should increase our profits on this trial.

John and I will be attending Meet the Breeds at Westminster in NYC with Cricket & Lilah, along with Kim Rudzik & Louie, and Matt Diamond & Corey. The NY K-9 officer, who has an Am Staff partner will be making an appearance. Pamela Nemec has asked that the Board approve a gift for "Kiah". Possibly a gift card.

The performance committee is going to look into the cost of a lure coursing machine for the club.

AKC Delegates Report:

I plan on attending the March Delegate's meeting, Elections for the AKC Board will be held at this meeting. Once the AKC has sent me the biographies of the candidates, I will forward to the Board so they can instruct me how to vote. The Temperament Test (TT) is now available as a title for our breed.

Public Relations:

Meet the Breed Orlando was a hit with the crowd...we had some help this year and was much appreciated.... Me and Chuck Nelson ran the booth and the #1Barn Hunt Amstaff and her Owner Lorri Griffin and Roper the Service dog helped for both days...
read about it and view pictures here...

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1570635429680226.1073741883.356379411105840&type=1&=86cbec4e9d>

Meet the Breed New York will be February 10, 2018... John O'Hanlon and Jeanette will be coordinating the booth and Matt Diamond on the PR Team coordinated New York's first Amstaff on the K9 team to meet and greet the public...could the club donate something to the officer and K9 Amstaff, a gift card to PetSmart? or chewy? a bullet proof vest? maybe find out what the police officer needs for his dog? what do you think?

World Challenge: Nothing to report on the 2018 World Challenge

Legislation: Nothing to report

Futurity: Only 2 litters so far. Brenda will add information to news letter.

Sportsmanship: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Discussions around where to hold future national specialties. It was asked by a board member if it would be beneficial try to book Purina Farms for a number of years. This would eliminate the need of trying to find locations that can support all the clubs venues. Frances is going to speak with them regarding this.

Discussion was held in regard to the AKC site the picture and description of the American Staffordshire Terrier. Al Bincarousky is looking into this and will get back to the board.

New Business:

Discussion took place to get a \$100.00 Gift card for the NYPD officer and his Amstaff canine partner to show appreciation for attending MTB and the Westminster KC Show.

Motion made to give a gift card in the amount of \$100.00 to the NY K-9 officer for attending the "Meet the Breed Booth at Westminster by Monique Bertrand.

Motion carried and approved

Six new members voted in:

Stewart Deleuw

Miya Brown – Jr membership

Lorri Griffin

Marjorie Crouch

Chad Evans & Jamala Reeves – family membership

Nancy Laguerra & Joseph Laguerra – family membership

The corresponding secretary will be contacting members regarding club dues renewals.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 Eastern time

The next meeting will be held March 9th.

Respectfully submitted

Monique Bertrand