

SPRING 2022



VOLUME TWO

— the Boxer Bark —

HEALTH NEWSLETTER of the Pacific Northwest Boxer Club



UPCOMING HEALTH CLINICS – May through July 2022

Thursday May 19th — Spinone Club of America

Location: Lebanon OR 97355, Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Inn
Times: 10am till 3pm — All Breed Clinic

OFA eye exams by Dr. Paul Scherlie, DVM, DACVO
\$35 per dog for SCOA members, \$40 for non-members

OFA cardiology exams by Dr. William Rausch, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)
\$40 / dog for SCOA members, \$45 for non-members

Contact: moodie.karen@gmail.com; text 603-667-5089

Sign up for the clinics at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A9A929AAFCC43-health1>

Sunday June 5th — Quail Run Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and Cavaliers of the West

Location: Pleasant Hill OR 97455, 35561 Westminster Street
Times: 9:00 am until finished — All Breed Clinic

Heart Auscultation, Gabrielle Wallace, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology), \$45.00

Heart Echo, Gabrielle Wallace, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology), \$250.00

Eye Exam, Sarah Maxwell, DVM, DACVO, \$40.00

Contact: cavladym@mindspring.com or 541.726.3850

Saturday June 18th and Sunday 19th

Eastern Idaho Dog Show: Pocatello Kennel Club

Location: Blackfoot ID 83221, Eastern Idaho State Fairgrounds
Times: 10am-4pm — All Breed Clinic

OFA Thyroid (Dr. Julia Alpert) \$125

Eye CAER (Dr. Amy Knollinger) \$45

Patella (Dr. Julia Alpert) \$25

Cardiac by Auscultation (Dr. Julia Alpert) \$25

Contact: Contact Dr. Julia Alpert at nashquema@yahoo.com

Sunday June 26th — Willamette Valley Samoyed Fanciers

Location: Canby OR 97013, Clackamas County Fairgrounds
Times: 9am-4pm Sunday only — All Breed Clinic

(Heart) Echo, Auscultation

Contact: Kaye Sawyer, mystsams@inceptions.net

Sat July 9 & Sun July 10 — Western Washington Cluster

Location: Puyallup WA 98371, Western WA Fairgrounds ShowPlex
Times: TO BE ANNOUNCED — All Breed Clinic

Costs to be advised, costs at January cluster were:

CARDIAC SCREENING

Auscultation: Dr. J.A. Woodfield

Echocardiogram: Dr. J.A. Woodfield

CERF CLINIC

Genetic Eye Screen: Dr. Paul Scherlie

The BoxerBark will post complete details on clinics at the Western Washington Cluster in the Summer issue.



What Is It About Boxers & Their Gum Problems?

Article submitted by Lillian Jesse,
member-Pacific Northwest Boxer Club.
Direct: boxerbrains@comcast.net

*HERE'S THE SMALL PRINT UP
FRONT: I am not a veterinarian. The
information presented in this article is
a compilation of information gathered
from reliable text and online sources,
and from my 35+ years of experience as a Boxer owner (I have owned
nine Boxers over the years since the early 1980s). I have also had the
pleasure of being involved with other people's Boxers and Boxer rescue
for 25+ years, and I am thankful and happy to have been able to help
hundreds of Boxers and their humans.*

*Ultimately, your personal veterinarian and you remain the foremost
"experts" concerning your Boxer's health and well-being. This presentation
offers information only and should not be construed as providing either
diagnosis or recommendations/endorsement for treatment of any health
or medical condition.*

MOST COMMON PROBLEMS

Plaque & Tartar

Plaque: soft deposit on teeth consisting of large amounts of bacteria, food particles, proteins and cellular debris. Excessive, built-up plaque bacteria can lead to gingivitis and tooth abscesses and can also enter the bloodstream and colonize in heart valves and/or the liver. **Tartar:** hard, yellowish deposit on teeth consisting of mineral salts, food and other debris (from plaque) that has hardened over time; tartar cannot be brushed off; it has a rough surface that attracts the buildup of even more debris and food particles.

Gingivitis & Periodontitis

Gingivitis: Inflamed, bleeding gums, bad breath; average onset about 2 years of age. **Periodontitis:** destructive inflammation of gums and the structures that surround and support the tooth; teeth become loose; pockets form; average onset about 4–6 years of age if gingivitis is not addressed at earlier age.

Gingival Hyperplasia

Benign overgrowth of gums. May grow large enough to completely cover the surfaces of teeth. Most commonly responsible for senior boxers looking like they have no teeth on their most-forefront lower jaw (the tiny teeth are totally engulfed by the gum overgrowth).

Epulis (bulbous, polyp-looking)

A common **tumor** of the gum, *usually* benign, but sometimes not. Three types: **Fibromatous** (originates from the fibrous connective tissue; usually benign); **Ossifying** (originates from fibrous and bone tissues; could be or become malignant—osteosarcoma); **Acanthomatous** (originates from the periodontal ligament, the tissue that holds the tooth in the jaw; benign BUT also aggressive and invasive into surrounding gum and underlying bone, which would destroy bone structure).



CAUSES

Plaque & Tartar: lack of preventative maintenance.

Gingivitis: accumulation of bacterial plaque that leads to infection and inflammation of gums.

Periodontitis: untreated gingivitis that results in buildup of tartar and plaque, leading to loosening of gums and developing of pockets at base of tooth, allowing plaque bacteria to access and destroy the structures that surround and support the tooth.

Gingival Hyperplasia/Epulis: breed predisposition (familial gingival hypertrophy); drug/medication-induced (calcium antagonist-types such as cyclosporine); or idiopathic (unknown causes).

SYMPTOMS/DIAGNOSIS

Plaque, Tartar, Gingivitis, Periodontitis: Visual presence of inflamed, bleeding gums, yellowish build-up of tartar on teeth, impacted hair and debris caught between gums and teeth; chronic bad breath; excessive drooling; reluctance to eat, especially kibble; sometimes even facial swelling. X-rays will reveal how much damage is being done below the gum line.

Gingival Hyperplasia: Presence of gum overgrowth encroaching or already overgrown over tops of teeth/molars.

Epulis: Presence of polyp-looking growth at the base/gumline of teeth. A biopsy of the epulis is recommended to determine specific type of epulis, which will then determine appropriate removal method. (Note on biopsies for Epulis: Another reason a biopsy is recommended is to rule out the possibility of other types of oral tumors/cancers.)

TREATMENT

Gingivitis, Periodontitis, Plaque, Tartar: Thorough teeth cleaning by a vet; implement regular preventative maintenance.

Gingival Hyperplasia: Surgical removal by scalpel excision or electrosurgery/laser (gingivectomy).

Epulis: Surgical removal for Fibromatous and Ossifying epulis. For Acanthomatous epulis, surgical removal of growth and, in some cases, partial mandibulectomy (removal of lower jaw or maxillectomy (removal of upper jaw); radiation is another treatment option for selected cases when the lesion is small. (A note about Acanthomatous Epulis: I personally have encountered only one case of this type of epulis so far, which occurred in a senior non-Boxer dog (Belgian Shepherd 'Tervuren'). The growth of the singular epulis from first appearance was *extremely* rapid (48 hours). The owner opted for removal of half of the lower jaw; a decision she deeply regretted.

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Recommendations for Health Screening of Boxers in Breeding Program

Source: ABC Health & Research Committee
americanboxerclub.org/health-screening.html

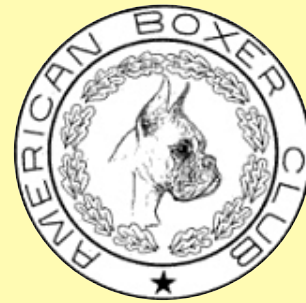
The American Boxer Club recommends these tests only apply to dogs in an active breeding program and each dog must be identified with a microchip.

Use and interpretation of tests should be in consultation with your veterinarian or veterinary specialist. These guidelines will be updated as further knowledge is gained.

SPECIAL NOTE ON HEART DISEASE...

Heart disease can be inherited or it can be caused by bacterial, viral or parasitic agents that are NOT inherited. The damage appears the same in some cases. A screening program can help determine the origin.

All hearts should be auscultated at each veterinary visit. This is particularly important prior to any surgery, including ear cropping. If a murmur is detected the dog should be evaluated to determine the cause and significance of the murmur. Murmurs may be innocent ("flow" murmurs) or may be an indication of structural heart disease such as aortic stenosis, sub aortic stenosis, septal defects or defects of the mitral, tricuspid or pulmonic valves. Echo with Doppler measurements can accurately find and diagnose the origin of murmurs which cannot always be heard or reliably pinpointed by auscultation alone.



The American Boxer Club (ABC) is the national parent club dedicated to the well-being of the Boxer breed. ABC is also responsible for the written Breed Standard—a description of the ideal Boxer. ABC encourages interested Boxer lovers to join any of its more than 50 member clubs throughout the U.S. *The Pacific Northwest Boxer Club is an ABC member club.*

Visit the ABC website at:
americanboxerclub.org

Condition	Test Used	Minimum Age	Frequency	Reported As
HIP/ELBOW DYSPLASIA	Radiograph Radiograph	2 years 6 mos.	Once Once	OFA# or PennHip%
HYPOTHYROIDISM	Thyroid Panel ²	2 years	Annually for Breeding	date tested ³
AORTIC VALVE DISEASE	Auscultation/Doppler ¹	None	None	date tested ³
AORTIC STENOSIS / SUBAORTIC STENOSIS	Auscultation & Doppler Echocardiogram ¹	24 mos.	Once by Echo	date tested ³
BOXER CARDIOMYOPATHY ¹	Holter Monitor	12 mos.	Annually for Breeding	date tested ³
ARVC ONLY	DNA	None	Once	A/A, A/N, N/N*
DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY	DNA	None	Once	A/A, A/N, N/N*

¹ Maximum flow values have recently been reevaluated and raised to 2.4 IF there is no evidence of structural causes. The cardiologist should determine if the flow value for an individual Boxer is of concern. Current information is that AS/SAS may develop upon sexual maturity in dogs that were previously tested clear, thus the new recommendation for 24 mos. minimum age. Boxer Cardiomyopathy is a complex condition that is still under study.

² Thyroid panel must include the following tests: TGAA (Thyroglobulin auto antibodies), Total T4AA, Free T4AA (by equilibrium dialysis), cTSH. (Optional tests include T3 and free T3)

³ Because these results can change over time, or because the age at testing may be significant, it is essential to list the date of the most recent test in each case. There are no normal values for some of the recommended tests, and there can be differing opinions between experts in the field.

* A/A: Affected, A/N: Carrier, N/N: Negative



What is the CHIC Certification Program?

Source: Orthopedic Foundation for Animals
ofa.org/about/chic-program

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) created the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) by partnering with participating parent clubs to research and maintain information on the health issues prevalent in specific breeds. OFA has established a recommended protocol for breed-specific health screenings. Dogs tested in accordance with that protocol are recognized with a CHIC number and certification.

OFA recognizes that the more information stored and accessible in its databases, the better it will be for every breed and breeder. A dog achieves CHIC Certification if it has been screened for every disease recommended by the parent club for that breed *and* those results are publicly available in the database.

CHIC PROGRAM BENEFITS

The CHIC Program offers benefits to breeders, buyers, parent clubs, and researchers.

For breeders, CHIC provides a reliable source of information regarding dogs they may use in their breeding programs. Breeders can analyze the pedigrees of a proposed breeding for health strengths and weaknesses as well as the traditional analysis of conformation, type, and performance strengths and weaknesses.

For buyers, the CHIC program provides accurate information about the results of a breeder's health testing. For diseases that are limited to phenotypic evaluations, there are no guarantees. However, the probability that an animal will develop an inherited disease is reduced when its ancestry has tested normal. Further, as more DNA tests become available and the results are entered, the OFA database will be able to establish whether progeny will be clear, carriers, or affected.

For parent clubs considering the establishment of health databases on their own, the CHIC Program provides the answer with no upfront investment required by the club. The CHIC infrastructure

is supplied and maintained by the OFA. The data is maintained in a secure environment by trained staff. The services are not subject to the time, technology, and resource constraints that parent clubs might face on their own. This frees parent clubs to focus on their core strengths of identifying health concerns, educating their membership, and encouraging participation in the CHIC Program through the OFA.

For researchers, the OFA database, and specifically those dogs that have achieved CHIC Certification, provide confidential and accurate aggregate information on multiple generations of dogs. This information will also be useful for epidemiological studies enhancing our knowledge of health issues affecting all breeds of dogs.

In addition, **for everyone interested in canine health issues**, the OFA database, and specifically those dogs that have achieved CHIC Certification, are tools to monitor disease prevalence and measure progress.

OFA-CHIC HEALTH TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR BOXERS

The American Boxer Club-ABC's Health Committee worked with CHIC to finalize the following testing requirements for CHIC Certification of Boxers:

HIP DYSPLASIA (one of the following)

OFA Evaluation or PennHIP Evaluation registered with OFA

AUTOIMMUNE THYROIDITIS

OFA evaluation from an approved laboratory

CARDIAC EVALUATION

Advanced Cardiac Exam—must also include Holter

DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY (DM)

DNA-based DM test from an approved lab—results registered with OFA

ARRHYTHMOGENIC RIGHT VENTRICULAR CARDIOMYOPATHY (ARVC)

DNA-based ARVC test from an approved lab—results registered with OFA

NOTE

A CHIC requirement across all participating breeds is that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo in order to qualify for a CHIC number.

Next issue: *Summer!*

We're always interested in topics you want to see.

Contact editor
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All issues of
the Boxer Bark
are available on PNBC's website
pacificnorthwestboxerclub.com