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Study of Caudal Cervical Spondylomyelopathy Using the CT Scan

Thank You

During the past 18 months many clubs have provided generous financial support to the School and to VHUP. These funds have enabled us to purchase much needed equipment, provide financial aid to our students, study specific diseases, and help many of our small animal patients.

We thank the following clubs:

Airedale Terrier Club of Greater Philadelphia, PA.
Allentown Dog Training Club, PA.
American Irish Setter Foundation.
American Shetland Sheepdog Association.
Bayshore Companion Dog Club, NJ.
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America.
Berks County Kennel Club, PA.
Bryn Mawr Kennel Club, PA.
Bucks County Kennel Club, PA.
Bucks Mont Owner Handlers Association, PA.
Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia, PA.
Burlington County Kennel Club, N.J.
Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, DC.
Centennial Shetland Sheepdog Club of Greater Denver, CO.
Central Illinois Shetland Sheepdog Club, IL.
Central Penn Collie Club, PA.
Chambersburg Area Kennel Club, PA.
Chcsapeake Kennel Club, MD.
Chester Valley Kennel Club, PA.
Chicagoland Shetland Sheepdog Club, IL.
Clarksville Kennel Club, TN.
Collie Club of America.
Collie Club of Northern New Jersey.
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America.
Delaware County Kennel Club, PA.
Delaware Valley Yorkshire Terrier Club, PA.
Devon Dog Show Association, PA.
District Area Sighthound Association, DC.
Doberman Pinscher Club of Connecticut and New York.
Dog Owners Educational League, NJ.
Elm City Kennel Club, CT.

Garden State Siberian Husky Club, N.J.
Giant Schnauzer Club of America.
Great Barrington Kennel Club, CT.
Greater Lancaster Feline Fanciers, PA.
Great Milwaukee Shetland Sheepdog Club, WI.
Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association, PA.
Greater Venice Florida Dog Club, FL.
Greyhound Club of America.
Harrisburg Kennel Club, PA.
Hyattsville Dog Training Club, MD.
Interlocking Shetland Sheepdog Club, IL.
Irish Wolfhound Club of Delaware Valley, PA.
Irish Wolfhound Club of Greater New York.
Jack Russell Terrier Club of America.
Kanadasaga Kennel Club, NY.
Kennel Club of Beverly Hills, CA.
Kennel Club of Buffalo, NY.
Kennel Club of Philadelphia, PA.
Kennel Club of Texarkana, TX.
Lancaster Kennel Club, PA.
Langley Kennel Club, VA.
Laurel Highlands Kennel Association, PA.
Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, PA.
Liberty Trail Cat Fanciers, NJ.
Lochland Shetland Sheepdog Club, MN.
Long Island Kennel Club, NY.
Longshore Southport Kennel Club, CT.
Lower Bucks County Dog Training Club, PA.
Luzerne Dog Training Club, PA.
Maltese Club of Greater Miami, FL.
Manatee Kennel Club, FL.
Maryland Cocker Spaniel Club.
Meadowbrook Cocker Spaniel Club, CT.
Mid-Hudson Kennel Club, NY.
Mid-Susquehanna Valley Kennel Club, PA.
Mispillion Kennel Club, DE.
National Capital Kennel Club, DC.
New Jersey Boxer Club.
New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club.
Newfoundland Club of America.
Norwich and Norfolk Terrier Club.
Nova Scotia Collie and Shetland Sheepdog Club.
Old English Sheepdog Club of America.

Penn Ridge Kennel Club, PA.
Pensacola Dog Fanciers, FL.
Penn Treaty Kennel Club, PA.
Plainfield Kennel Club, NJ.
Potomac Valley Standard Schnauzer Club, MD.
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the USA.
Rockland County Kennel Club, NY.
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club.
Sand and Sea Kennel Club, NJ.
Sara Bay Kennel Club, Inc., FL.
Schooley's Mountain Kennel Club, N.J.
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Des Moines, IA.
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Georgia.
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Houston, TX.
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Miami, FL.
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Mid-Miami, FL.
Shetland Sheepdog Club of PA/NJ/DE.
Shetland Sheepdog Club of St. Louis, MO.
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Southern California.
Shi Tzu Fanciers of Greater Miami, FL.
Siberian Husky Club of Delaware Valley, PA.
Shoreline Shetland Sheepdog Club, TX.
Somerset County Dog Obedience Club, NJ.
Somerset Hills Kennel Club, NJ.
Southern Florida Miniature Schnauzer Club.
Southern New Jersey Cocker Spaniel Club.
Suburban Dog Training Club, PA.
Tampa Bay Area Shetland Sheepdog Club, FL.
Tidewater Kennel Club of Virginia.
Union County Kennel Club, NJ.
Upper Marlboro Kennel Club, MD.
Virginia Beach Kennel Club, VA.
Wallkill Kennel Club, NY.
Watchung Mountain Poodle Club, NJ.
Waterland Retriever Club, PA.
Western Michigan Shetland Sheepdog Club, MI.
Wilmington Kennel Club, DE.

Editor's note: The above list was compiled from our records covering the period of July 1984 through December 1985. As it takes time for a gift to be entered into our system, it is possible that clubs which gave in December may not appear on the list. We apologize. These organizations will appear on our next acknowledgement.

Study of Caudal Cervical Spondylomyelopathy Using the CT Scan

A number of dog breeds are affected by Caudal Spondylomyelopathy, commonly called "Wobbler Syndrome." The disorder is most frequently seen in Doberman pinschers and great Danes. Two surgeons here at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine are conducting a pilot study to determine the value of Computed Tomography (CT) scans to increase our understanding of this disorder. Dr. Nicholas J. H. Sharp, a visiting surgeon from the University of Liverpool, England, and Dr. Gail K. Smith, Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery here at the School, have received a small internal grant to help conduct the investigation.

"These funds will enable us to study five Doberman pinschers both before and after they undergo surgery for the condition," said Dr. Sharp. The disease commonly affects middle-aged Dobermans between four and eight years of age, and males appear slightly more susceptible. Dr. Sharp explained that in affected animals the spinal cord is compressed in the neck as a consequence of unstable vertebrae. "Most of these dogs at first show only slight signs," he said. "Their gait may be slightly different, but as the disease progresses, they will become increas-

ingly more uncoordinated. Most dogs are not in pain, although they may become suddenly paralyzed. This is frequently seen when a disc gives way, prolapsing into the neural canal and damaging the spinal cord."

"Treatment is the stabilization of the affected bones in the neck," said Dr. Sharp. "There are many techniques but none are considered ideal." In this study the two surgeons will evaluate the animal by doing a myelogram, this being an x-ray taken where the spinal cord has been outlined with an opaque dye. In addition, a CT scan will be performed which permits a view of the affected vertebrae in cross-section, showing the compression of the spinal cord more clearly than the radiograph. After these two tests, one of the standard surgeries will be performed. "Generally we decompress the disk and then fuse the vertebrae to stabilize the area." The animal will be examined later in the recovery period again employing a myelogram and a CT scan.

"By looking at the condition prior to and after surgical treatment, we hope to ascertain whether the procedure accomplished the goal of reducing the pressure on the cord and stabilizing the affected area of the neck," Dr. Sharp said. "The CT scan allows us a really close and detailed look in a way not used before in this condition and very rarely at all in the dog's spine."

Both surgeons would like to see Doberman

pinschers with Caudal Cervical Spondylomyelopathy for this study. There will be no charge for the CT Scan, and it is hoped to be able to obtain more funding to extend the study beyond the present limit of five dogs. Information about the project can be obtained by contacting Dr. Smith or Dr. Sharp at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 3850 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6008.

Dedication

The cottage adjacent to the Allam House at New Bolton Center was dedicated as Hill Cottage on Dec. 6, 1985, in memory of John J. Hill, III.

Mr. Hill, a dedicated horseman, was master of Nantmeal Hunt Farm, a member of the Radnor Hunt, and vice president of The Devon Horse Show. He was a member of The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture and the Quaker City Farmers, and a great friend of the School, particularly New Bolton Center.



Mrs. John J. Hill, III, Mrs. D. Rory MacDonald and Mr. John J. Hill, IV, at the dedication of Hill Cottage at New Bolton Center.