

Canine Cancer Campaign

Denver, Colorado, April 17, 2007: Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) has announced the launch of an unprecedented \$30 million effort to cure canine cancer within a dog's lifetime—the next 10 to 20 years. World-renowned scientists and cancer specialists agree that this MAF-led effort will not only save countless dogs from suffering and premature death, but should also help produce breakthroughs in the prevention, treatment and cures of human cancers—in particular childhood cancers.

MAF has taken the lead to secure financial contributions and manage/administer research grants to many of the world's most prestigious colleges of veterinary medicine, universities, organizations and scientists. As an example, 14 leading veterinary/academic institutions—each members of the National Cancer Institute's Comparative Oncology Trials Consortium (COTC)—will receive funding for canine cancer research. (Please see complete COTC list later in release). Endorsement of this MAF canine cancer initiative has been received from: Children's Oncology Group, Animal Cancer Foundation, and the MIT/Harvard (Broad Institute).

This global cancer cure initiative is attracting major corporate support, including a \$1.1 million donation from Pfizer Inc.—Pfizer Animal Health. In addition to corporate sponsorships, MAF's goal is to get 1 percent of the 44 million dog-owning households in the United States to make a donation of at least \$50 in the name of their present dog(s), pet dogs of the past, and/or on behalf a puppy of the future—for a total of \$22 million.

“Each of our own pet dogs is at risk of suffering the devastating effects of cancer,” states Dr. Patricia N. Olson, CEO and president of MAF. “One in four dogs will die of cancer, and cancer is the number-one cause of disease-related death in dogs over the age of two. Sadly, many of the most popular dog breeds are especially susceptible to developing cancer. Your donation of \$50 or more may very well save your own beloved pet dog from suffering cancer's effects. Here's a chance to directly help the dogs we love.” (See chart of cancer incidence by breed at end of release).

Dr. Olson also explains that while MAF's mission focuses on animal health, the dog has proven to be a crucial player in solving the human-cancer cure puzzle. “This is the ultimate win-win situation,” says Dr. Olson. “As we treat and cure cancer in our pet dogs, we may help alleviate the ravages of cancer among humans. This animal-human bond is simply inspirational.”

Donations can be made by calling toll-free 1-877-DOG CURE (364-2873), or by donating on the web at: www.CureCanineCancer.org or www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org. Media contact for interviews/photos/video and information: Michael Burke: 303-708-3419, mburke@morrisanimalfoundation.org.

Quotes From Key Scientists and Participants:

According to Dr. Stephen Withrow, director of the world's largest animal cancer center at Colorado State University, “Dramatic progress has been made in the last several decades on understanding the causes and treatment of cancer. The release of the canine genome should add even more momentum to this work.” Dr. Withrow also has experience in the interaction between dog and human cancer research.

“Comparative and translational research acknowledges that cancer is cancer regardless of species and that discoveries in either dogs or humans will have rapid acceptance in the other species,” says Dr. Withrow.

“Humans really are the dog’s best friend. For example, surgical and chemotherapeutic techniques in dog bone cancer have helped guide treatment in children and visa versa.”

The National Cancer Institute, the global leader in human cancer research, has included the study of cancer in dogs within its Comparative Oncology Program since 2003 (<http://ccr.nci.nih.gov/resources/cop/>). Headed by Dr. Chand Khanna, the NCI’s Comparative Oncology Program works to integrate the study of cancer biology and therapy in dogs with the broader cancer research community. It is expected that the results of this integration will be a more efficient and better-informed drug-development process.

According to pediatric oncologist Dr. Richard Gorlick, vice chair of the Bone Tumor Committee at the Children’s Oncology Group, whose members treat 90 percent of all children with cancer in the United States and Canada, this canine-human research is invaluable. “Cancer in pet dogs strongly resembles the cancers we see in pediatric patients. If agents are shown to be helpful for pet dogs with certain cancers, it is quite likely that these agents will also be helpful in children with the same cancers. We strongly support MAF’s initiative and believe that results will be ultimately helpful for both children and canine cancer patients.”

More Background/Details on MAF’s Canine Cancer Cure Effort:

MAF hopes to raise the \$30 million from April 2007 through April 2012. This will include funding for:

1. Clinical trials to test new innovative therapies to help save dogs and alleviate dog suffering now.
2. Prevention studies related to genetics and canine genome, incorporating lifetime risk assessment studies.
3. Funding of a tumor tissue bank.
4. Establishment of an endowment to guarantee continued research efforts.

A clinical trial is already under way involving the evaluation of a new treatment for bone cancer in dogs. This clinical trial includes five of the 14 members of the COTC: Colorado State University, Animal Medical Center (New York City), University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Illinois and The Ohio State University.

The Pfizer Animal Health donation has been specifically restricted to the Canine Comparative Oncology and Genetics Consortium (CCOGC), a group of veterinary and medical researchers who have determined that a repository of canine tumor tissues is an essential resource to progress new cancer therapies. This new resource to fight cancer has been named the Pfizer – CCOGC Biospecimen Repository. MAF and the AKC Canine Health Foundation provided the initial funding (\$500,000) to launch this national biospecimen bank.

LIST OF PRESENT COTC MEMBERS–PARTICIPATING COLLEGES OF VETERINARY MEDICINE: Animal Medical Center (New York City), Auburn University, University of California-Davis, Colorado State University, Cornell University, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri-Columbia, North Carolina State University, The Ohio State University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Tennessee, Tufts University, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Morris Animal Foundation Press Release <http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/>

In Their Own Words: From leaders in the animal rights movement.

Do you know the difference between animal rights and animal welfare?

With the massive funding and lobbying force behind HSUS, teams of attorneys, campaign contributions to sympathetic legislators, the ability to entrench their animal rights ideology in universities across America, and enormous outpouring of propaganda to the public through the media - it is imperative that animal owners, legislators and the general public learn to thoroughly examine and understand animal related legislation proposed at all levels of government.

"Even granting that we [humans] face greater harm than laboratory animals presently endure if ... research on these animals is stopped, the animal rights view will not be satisfied with anything less than total abolition." **Tom Regan, *The Case for Animal Rights, 1983***

"I don't approve of the use of animals for any purpose that involves touching them - caging them." **Dr. Neal Barnard, president, Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), *The Daily Californian* (February 9, 1989) quoting Bernard's address to an audience at International House (Berkeley).**

"I find it small wonder that the laboratories aren't all burning to the ground. If I had more guts, I'd light a match." - **Ingrid Newkirk, Founder and President of PETA, quoted in *Chronicle of Higher Education, November 12, 1999***

"Most people in this room understand that slavery is not over in America or the Western world or in the world in general. The animals are today's slaves." **Ingrid Newkirk – Founder and President of PETA, AR 2002 convention speech**

The modern animal rights movement calls for a revolution in the way that humans regard other animals. The revolution's scope is tremendous. The ultimate goal is to recognize nonhuman animals as legal persons with rights of life and liberty, and with absolute immunity from human interests. **Jan. 2007 Essay - *Why the AETA became law. Jerry Friedman – vegan activist***

Is there an “end goal” to the work that you and PETA are doing? “Well, the ultimate end goal would be to put animal exploiters out of business, which would be fabulous. Then I would go to the beach and get a pina colada”. ***Soldiering On: The Satya Interview With Ingrid Newkirk. Nov/Dec 2000***

“In lieu of definitive answers to the emotional lives of fish and in consideration of the negative impacts the aquarium trade is having on wild fish populations and the environment, it would be best if we would learn to appreciate these beautiful animals in their natural habitats, not in our homes.” **Monica Engebretson, Project Director for the Animal Protection Institute (API). SATYA Apr/May 2007**

“Breeders (supposedly reputable) - Anyone still breeding while millions are dying is NOT reputable. They are not “preserving” the species, just preserving their bank account.” **Program Outline-Abuse of Companion Animals, AR Conference 2006: presenter Janet Enoch, Kinship Circle**

Winn Feline Foundation

Announces new study at NCSU

Prevalence and risk factors for venereal Tritrichomonas foetus infection

Jody L. Gookin, DVM, PhD; North Carolina State University; \$12,465

Tritrichomonas foetus (TF) is a flagellated **protozoal parasite** that is recognized as a prevalent cause of feline diarrhea. The infection is very common, especially in multi-cat environments [catteries and shelters]. Treatment is difficult as only one drug has been shown to be effective. However, the drug is expensive, sometimes toxic, and fails to clear the infection in some cats making eradication from a cattery extremely difficult. The same organism responsible for feline diarrhea is also found in cattle where it infects the reproductive tract. Bulls cannot be cleared of the infection, because antibiotics do not effectively reach the infected genitalia. The researcher has noted that male cats are often the ones failing treatment for TF infection, leading them to surmise that TF may also reside in the reproductive tract of cats. They have identified DNA from TF in genitalia from a male cat with TF diarrhea. In this study the research team will examine the reproductive tract of 100 cats undergoing spay or neuter by offering cattery owners free testing for intestinal TF if the researchers receive both a fecal and reproductive tract specimen. Molecular techniques able to detect minute amounts of DNA from TF will be used to look for its presence in reproductive organs and feces. Reproductive tissue will be directly examined for TF organisms. Venereal involvement in feline TF may explain cases of treatment failure and the high prevalence of disease in some breeding programs. It has significant implications for the design of effective treatment and prevention strategies.

Further Questions can be Directed to:

Maria Coccaro – Research Technician, Intestinal Pathogens Research Laboratory

Maria_Coccaro@ncsu.edu (919)513-6365

MSN & Breeding Restrictions Revisited

Despite the fact Mandatory Spay Neuter (MSN) is a failed concept, North Carolina animal advocates continue to stir public opinion and press for county ordinance changes. Most recently a proposal to the Davidson County Commissioners met with defeat. Newly formed Faithful Friends Animal Sanctuary headed by Lexington NC resident, Anne Ingram, has an agenda for MSN included in their future plans for Rowan County. A coalition in Guilford County believes MSN is the end-all solution to unwanted pets in their county.

Why is MSN a bad idea? To begin with MSN targets the wrong people – people who are already responsible and those who wish to breed dogs/cats – even if so-called exemptions are included in the legislation. MSN is a blanket law built on the false premise that reducing the source of animals equals reducing shelter intake. Yet consistently all reports have shown that the lifestyle changes and animal behavior problems are the driving factors for relinquishing animals to shelters.

Passing breeding restrictions costs the public money in the form of administrative fees, burdens animal control to enforce an unpopular law, and takes focus away from needed duties dealing with strays, abandoned animals, cruelty cases, public education, and shelter adoptions.

Breeding restriction laws would limit the options of dog buyers. Options are important to prospective dog owners because it is important for them to choose dogs that will fit in well with their lifestyles in terms of size, grooming requirements, and exercise needs. The fewer choices available to potential owners, the greater chance that their new dogs will not fit in well with their lifestyles and expectations. Restricting breeders of purebred dogs will not make mixed breeds from the shelter more appealing to everyone. An elderly woman living in an apartment looking for a small lap dog, is not going to adopt an 80 pound collie/shepherd mix from the shelter if local breeders are shut down by mandatory spay/neuter laws or excessive breeder permitting.

Enactment of MSN could produce an alarming scenario of declining health care, vaccinations, and medical treatment for pets because owners are afraid to seek veterinary treatment for fear of being reported to local government.

Preserving your right to own, breed and enjoy animals is YOUR responsibility. For more information contact ncraoa@yahoo.com

Behavior/Training Problem? Not Always

By Barbara Axel

- Barney, the Golden Retriever was brought to our classes by a newcomer who enjoyed the beginner classes so much she wanted to try entering him in competition. He was a sweet and compliant dog who performed all the individual exercises well, but always squirmed in place, then got up before the one minute sit was completed.
- Housemates, Jeff, an Old English Sheepdog, and Hal, a German Shepherd Dog had lived together peacefully for months, but suddenly they were fighting.
- Sheba, a Shi Tzu mix was pleasant enough, but would suddenly growl and nip sometimes when people reached to pet her.
- Missy, a small mix that had been adopted from a shelter because she was so quiet, and had remained so for a month with her new owners, was suddenly full of energy and raced around the house, getting into trouble.
- Devil, the dachshund, was entered in advanced obedience competition when suddenly he refused to retrieve his dumbbell. The dog had been an enthusiastic retriever till now. His owner was confused and distraught.

Barney was X-rayed and found to be suffering from hip dysphasia. While we waited for him to grow up enough for an operation to relieve his discomfort we worked with his owner. On our advice and under supervision of her vet, Barney's owner started taking him on short walks that slowly increased in length to build up his muscle mass. In class we substituted two down stays in his group exercises.

Jeff 's owner had enrolled in our beginner class. The dog was handsome and friendly. He seemed to be well groomed till I fitted him for his obedience collar. Underneath the topcoat he was badly matted. His owner had been brushing him daily, but had never backbrushed. She had no idea that she should employ a different grooming technique. She called her breeder and made an appointment to visit her the following week for specific grooming instruction. It was just after that we got the call about the two dogs fighting. We had no clue as to why the fighting started till the next group class. A shaved and shorn Jeff who was shy and frightened came into the room reluctantly. It seemed that when the breeder examined Jeff his coat had been so full of impenetrable mats deep below the surface that it would be too painful to try to remove them. She shaved him and gave the owner explicit grooming instructions using one of her

other dogs as a model. No one had expected Jeff's behavior change. But Jeff, suddenly shorn, did not seem to know who he was and became in turn surly or defensive. We suggested that the new owner buy a temporary coat for her dog and see what might happen. Success! The new temporary coat gave Jeff back his confidence, and the two dogs got along. The store-bought coat was removed once daily as Jeff's owner brushed and backbrushed. Till his magnificent real coat grew in the store-bought coat was worn. All was right with the world once more.

Sheba was examined carefully by her vet and found to have entropion, a common physical abnormality where the eyelashes turn inward and scratch the surface of the eye. When approached from the front there was no problem, but every time Sheba was approached from above and side, she would look upward, see the hand and immediately experience sharp severe pain. Thus she growled and nipped to stop the pain. An operation solved the problem.

Puppy Missy's case was more complex and we had to question her owners thoroughly before we understood the reasons for her behavior.

Her history finally revealed all. She had been weaned early and found in a wooded area with the rest of her litter, but no dam. Though the pups were quickly brought to the shelter she was the only survivor. Kind volunteers raised her as well as they could at the shelter. She was on antibiotics. Her new owners saw her and were captivated, and even though she was still being medicated they took her home. She prospered. Missy was finally well enough to be taken off her medication, and soon her true personality emerged. She was not a calm, quiet little angel, but a high energy normal pup, with one exception. Because she never had the company of dam or littermates her primary and necessary education was sorely lacking. While she was ill and on medication her survival precluded training. Now it began in earnest. Her owners were good students, worked with the orphan pup, and Missy grew up to be a wonderful companion.

Devil seemed all right except for the abandoned retrieve. He was taken to his vet who knew him all his life. A cursory exam showed nothing amiss. "What exactly takes place when he approaches the dumbbell?" his owner was asked. "He races to it, lowers his head to pick it up, shakes his head no, and then returns to me," she answered. The vet examined those ears more carefully. Deep down in one ear there appeared to be an infection starting that did not show up at all. There was no telltale discharge or sweet smell. The dog was medicated for two weeks, and recovered. Once better Devil completed his CDX title in three shows.

What all these dogs had in common is that in every case there was a physical reason that appeared to be a behavior problem. We learned through experience to look for physical causes first when an untoward behavior surfaces. By obtaining a full history of the dog in question, and encouraging a dog owner to bring his pet to his veterinarian for a complete physical diagnosis, many problems can be solved. We leaned not to assume. ■

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws.

Your donations help us with the cost of printing and mailing flyers, brochures, and educational packets.

Permission granted to copy and distribute NCRAOA News and Views in its entirety as is.