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**Committee consultants: Anne Jones**

**IN THIS ISSUE:** **Summer 2015**  
**Update on Bichon Bladder Stone Research by Dr. Eva Furrow**  
**Morbidity/Mortality Reports from National Specialties by Nancy McDonald**  
**CHIC & CHIC 5 Star Awards Report by Paula Hendricks**

### **Update on Bladder Stone Study**

The study is going well. See our publicly available paper on urinary calcium levels in Bichons and a couple other breeds with and without stones: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jvim.12527/abstract>

Regarding the genetic efforts, we have found one interesting mutation, but it is primarily in Miniature Schnauzers and needs further verification.

The exciting news is that we now have whole genome next generation sequence for two Bichons, and I just started the process of analyzing it. It is a huge amount of data, and I am very hopeful that we will uncover a mutation. I am using my discretionary research funds to keep the research going for now, but we did apply for another Morris Animal Foundation grant to help complete this research.

Here are some specific details about our findings so far:

We have performed studies on the genetic basis of calcium oxalate stones in the Miniature Schnauzer and the Bichon Frise. To date, we have identified regions that are highly significantly associated with stone risk on chromosomes 6, 37, and 15. The chromosome 6 and 37 regions are associated with risk in the Miniature Schnauzer. We have found a missense mutation in the chromosome 6 region and are in the process of testing it further to confirm its role in stone disease. We have only found non-coding variants in the chromosome 37 region, and it is unclear if one of them alters gene function or if we need to expand our search to a wider region of chromosome 37. The region on chromosome 15 appears to be the major determinant of stone risk in the Bichon Frise. Based on initial testing, there is a genetic pattern in this region found in 80-90% of Bichons with a history of stones compared to only 10% of those without stones. The chromosome 15 region is also associated with stone risk in Miniature Schnauzers, but it is less common in this breed (present in 20% of Schnauzers with stones and <5% of those without). The whole genome sequencing data is currently being analyzed for mutations in the chromosome 15 region.

As always, we are extremely grateful for all the support you have provided for this research. Please continue to touch base, as I cannot wait for the day where I get to confidently report one or more mutations to you!

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## **Morbidity/Mortality Reports from National Specialties 2014 and 2015**

### **Nancy McDonald**

In 2014 and 2015, BFCA members were asked to let the Health Committee know how Bichons were faring with their health by reporting illnesses and deaths. In 2014 twenty reports were received and twenty-four in 2015. It is clear that Bichon people take really good care of their dogs.

Some reports were expected, the 17 to 18 year old dogs dying of system failure. Some were very saddening such as the young dog dying tragically of immune-mediated-hemolytic-anemia. Others brightened the day when reported that struvite crystals were dissolved and disappeared.

The average age of deaths in the past two year's reports is 13.30 years. Sudden death syndrome (autopsy could not determine cause) of a three year old was the youngest. The oldest was an eighteen year old.

The average of neutering is 3.75 years which is no surprise considering these reports are mostly from breeders. At this time there seems to be no connection to the age of neutering and any disease. The report of the death of an eighteen year old also reported it was neutered at six months.

Thank you to all who participated in these reports. When deciding where to allocate health funds, these reports give your health committee a look into what is happening in the health aspect of Bichon lives enabling better decisions on what research to support.

### **2015 M/M Report from National Specialty**

Age incidence	Age death	Age neutered	Sex	Health Incidence	Health status
date-1/14/14	unknown	unknown	F	meningoencephalitis, placed on immune suppressants; never stabilized; lost eye sight; injured eye, it ulcerated and was about to rupture. Due to immune problems, surgery could not be done.	
16 years	16 ½ years	no	M	Total system failure	

15 years	16 years	11 years	M	Probable congestive heart failure	
15 yrs 9 mos	15yrs 9 mos	6 years	F	Diagnosed with lymphoma @ age 15 yrs 8 mos. Euthanized 4+ weeks later.	
14 years	14 years	8 years	M	Old age, kidney failure	
14 years	14 years	5 years	F	Cancer; previously had spleen removed - benign	
13 ½ years	13 ½ years	5 years	F	Developed pulmonary hypertension @ age 12 yrs. Controlled with meds. Injured back that flared occasionally. Finally back pain became excruciating and she was euthanized.	
13 years	15 years	8 years	F	Enlarged heart	
13 years	13 years	yes, unknown	M	Adopted rescue @ age 10. Blind, diabetic; developed dementia and was euthanized.	
unknown	13 years	1 year	F	Cancer of lung, cataracts, vitreous degeneration, bladder stones	
3 weeks	13 years	1 year	F	At three weeks, litter developed ringworm and was on ivermectin for 2 months. Died of lymphoma.	
13 years	13 years	4 years	F	Kidney failure, gall bladder disease, removal of cataracts (vitreous degeneration).	
12 ½	12 ½	8 month	M	Cancerous anal tumor; acute pain while eliminating; euthanized.	
12 years	12 years	2 ½ years	F	Seizures	
12 years	12 years	1 ½ years	M	Nasal cancer, bladder stones	
12 years	12 years	1 ½ years	F	membranes in nostril collapsed. No cancer found.	
11 ½ years	11 ½ years	11 ½ years	M	Peritoneal hormonal thinning of wall near the colon/anus.	
10 years	11 years	No	M	Enlarged lymph node on right shoulder. Continued to grow until his death at age 11 years.	
10 years	10 years	yes, unknown	M	A rescue dog originally purchased from a pet store. Began having seizures resulting in respiratory/cardiac arrest with unsuccessful resuscitation.	
8 years, 9 years	9 ½ years	6 month	F	Diabetes in 2008, splenic adenocarcinoma in 2009; died in 1/ 2010	
9 years	9 years	6 ½ years	M	Brain tumor with minor seizures. Deteriorated for 6 - 8 weeks resulting in a coma and he was euthanized.	

9 years	Living (13 years in 2015)	9 mos	M	Diagnosed with Addison's disease following an Addisonian crisis. Placed on prednisone. He is doing well.	He is doing well.
8 ½ years	Living (9 years in 2015)	no	M	Bloody urine; urinalysis showed struvite crystal; Dies to Urinary SO Kibble and wet food combination. Apple cider vinegar in drinking water. After one month count was down with only a few crystals found. Two months in count was down further and no crystals. He continues on the urinary SO diet and is doing well.	He is doing well
5 years	5 years	1 year	F	Immune mediated hemolytic anemia.	

### 2014 M/M Report from National Specialty

Age incidence	Age death	Age neutered	Sex	Health incidence	Health status
16 years	18 years	8 years	F	Heart failure Bladder stone	Cause of death Bladder stone @ age 16 years, lived to be 18 years
	17.5 years	7 years	M	Kidney failure	Cause of death
	17 years	8 years	F	Kidney failure	Cause of death
	17 years	6 mos	F	Heart failure	Cause of death
	18 years	6 mos	F	Liver cancer	Cause of death
	14.5	3 years	M	Heart failure	Cause of death
13 years (?)	13 years (?)	4 years	F	Crohn's disease	Still living in 2014
	12 years	4 years	M	Leukemia	Cause of death
	12 years	6 years	F	diabetes, could not assimilate insulin	Cause of death: euthanasia, 5 mos
12 years		4 years	F	Hypertension	Continuing
	11.5 Years	3 years	F	Kidney failure	Diagnosed at 11 years
11 years	11	4 years	F	Mammary Cancer	

	years				
	10 years	2 years	M	Lymphoma	Death
10 years		7 years	F	Kidney, bladder stones and one in ureter	A shunt was placed around ureter. Doing fine.
9 years			M	Chronic hepatitis; autoimmune	
9 years		7 years	F	Breast cancer	breast removed; doing fine
3.5 years			F	Meningoencephalitis; etiology unknown.	Now on prednisone and lefleeminine (sp). Slowly tapering off prednisone but will be on immunosuppressant until Jan. 2015 or perhaps life. Vision impaired (first to go and last to return). She has returned vision in her right eye, but the left eye has some mixed pupil reflex.
3 years	3 years		M	Sudden death syndrome.	Necropsy and full pathology done on heart. Results are normal.
20 mos			M	Acute liver Failure	4 days intensive care. Probably something poisonous. Possibilities include bully stick, sugarless gum (not sure if he had the gum), Ivermectin Max. He still needs one more bulld check in order to rule out inherited liver disease. He could not be biopsied or surgically checked at the time as he lost all blood clotting ability.
17 mos			F	Acute hemorrhagic gastro enteritis. Caused by overdose of Rimadyl. Vet Rx'd too big a dose (25mg).	At age 13 years she is still alive.
6 mos			M	Autoimmune pemphigus	Doing OK

## CHIC 5 STAR AWARDS

The BFCA health committee initiated the CHIC 5 Star Award in 2010 in conjunction with our CHIC certifications. The award reflects quality, as in a 5 star hotel, and commends the efforts of breeders who augment health testing of their Bichons prior to breeding with at least 5 tests.

To qualify for the CHIC 5 Star Award, the Bichon Frise must have:

1. At least one owner who is a BFCA member.
2. A CHIC number that indicates 3 tests (eyes, hips, and patellas) are completed but not necessarily passed. See the CHIC web site for more information:  
<http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/bichon.html>
3. Passed eye certification (CERF or OFA CAER) and patella OFA certification within 1 year of the date of the application.
4. Passed OFA or PennHIP requirements that rule out hip dysplasia.
5. Passed 2 other tests listed in the BFCA optional tests on the CHIC web site:
  - DNA registered with AKC
  - Legg-calve-perthes disease OFA
  - Cardiac disease OFA
  - Urinalysis to assess for infection, diabetes, bladder stone crystals
  - Bile acid blood test for liver shunt
  - Standard veterinary blood panel including:
    - CBC (complete blood count): WBC, RBC, hemoglobin
    - Electrolytes, BUN, Creatinine (to assess kidney function)
    - Blood glucose level (to rule out diabetes)
    - Liver enzymes (to rule out liver disease)
    - Pancreas enzymes (to rule out pancreas disease)

Therefore, the Bichon Frise must pass 5 health tests (includes DNA registration with AKC) to receive this award. Just like the CHIC certification, once a Bichon receives the award it cannot be revoked. Each issue of the BFCA Health Times will include an ongoing list of recipients of this award, and a certificate will be sent to the owner.

Mail or email the application <http://www.bichonhealth.org/Catalog/PDF/CHIC-5-STAR-AWARD-APPLICATION.pdf> to Paula Hendricks [bibelotbichons@gmail.com](mailto:bibelotbichons@gmail.com)

July 22, 2015

## **New CHIC 5 Star Awards Issued 2014-2015**

\* Denotes BFCA members

She Bichons Elizabeth Taylor	Sharon E. Hunkins*	2/15/14
She Bichons Sundance Kid	Sharon E. Hunkins* & Dale Schwab	2/25/14
She Bichons Gary Cooper	Debra Gibb* and Sharon Hunkins*	7/3/14
She Bichons Betsy Ross	Sandy Fishell & Sharon E. Hunkins*	11/19/14
Meryell Defying Gravity	Mayno Blandling*	11/19/14
Dorrian's Hunk of Burnin' Love	Michelle Brosdal* and Carol Konik*	1/8/15
Beaujola's Royal Conspiracy	Marsi Harvey* & Lois Morrow*	3/6/15
Doriann's Poetic Justice	Michelle Brosdal* and Carol Konik*	4/9/15
Doriann's Gentlemen Prefer Blondes	Michelle Brosdal* and Carol Konik*	4/11/15
Phantom Victoire Claus's Rudolph's Better Half	Mollie Fletcher* and Diana Bugos	4/24/15
Doriann's Here's Looking At You, Kid	Michelle Brosdal* and Carol Konik*	7/21/15
Victoire McNelson's Beau Jangles Gemstone	Heather McKay, Scott Nelson, Vickie Halstead*	7/21/15

## Total CHIC 5 Star Award Recipients 2009-2015

The BFCA Health Committee has issued CHIC 5 Star Awards to the following Bichons since its inception in 2009. This ongoing list will be posted in each issue of The Health Times:

\* Denotes BFCA members

Allure's U Chenoa Joe  
Beaujola's Royal Conspiracy

Lisa Des Camps\*, Katherine Dillon\*  
Marsi Harvey\*, Lois Morrow\*

Bella Diamella Sunday Surprize  
Camps\*

Stephanie Uva\*, Katherine Dillon\*, Lisa Des

Bibelot's Destiny Awaits  
Bibelot's Purple Heart O'Mine

Paula Hendricks\*, Gina Pantely  
Matt & Paula Abbott\*

Bibelot's Sugar Plum Dancer  
Bibelot's Witchful Thinking

Matt & Paula Abbott\*  
Paula Hendricks\*, Janet Jamison\*

Bijone's Mon Cheri Music of the Nite  
Shaffer

Susan Brockett\*, Barbara Shaffer, Nicole

Craigdale Chip Off The Rock  
Crème's Brandy Alexanderia

Chery Blair\*, Patricia Dale Hunter\*  
Carol Haines\*

Crème's Fool's Rush In

Carol Haines\*

Doriann's Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

Michelle Brosdal\* and Carol Konik\*

Doriann's Here's Looking At You, Kid

Michelle Brosdal\* and Carol Konik\*

Dorrian's Hunk of Burnin' Love

Michelle Brosdal\* and Carol Konik\*

Doriann's Poetic Justice

Michelle Brosdal\* and Carol Konik\*

Doriann's Saks Hollywood Bombshell

Michelle Brosdal\* and Carol Konick\*

Doriann's Tennessee Gentleman Jack

Michelle Brosdal\* and Carol Konick\*

Doriann's The Duke of Prelude

Michelle Brosdal\* and Carol Konick\*

Hollyhock She Returns

Debra Gibb\*, Linda Rowe\*, Diana McFarlane\*

Jabree's BellefleurLa Jolie

Nita & Mark Gryan\*

Jabree's Jack of Hearts

Nita & Mark Gryan\*

Jasme Raggedy Ann

Mayno Blanding\*

Knollwood's Henry

Susan & Dean Anneser\*

Luvit's A Rolex Yacht-Master At Dalnavert

Linda Ross\*, Bernice & Brian Lucas\*

Luvit's A rolex Daytona At Dalnavert

Linda Ross\*, Bernice & Brian Lucas\*

Luvit's Dalnavert Olympic Omegamania

Jill SanFilippo, Linda Ross\*, Bernice & Brian  
Lucas\*, Diana McFarlane\*, Sharon Hunkins\*

Merryell Absolutely Spellbound

Mayno Blanding\*

Merryell Defying Gravity

Mayno Blanding\*

Merrymaker's Living Doll

Cindy Morey\*

Merrymaker's Southern Charm of Bibelot

Cindy Morey\*

Miabella Dancing Queen

Sheryl Kapella\*

Miabella Head Over Heels

Sheryl Kapella\*

MyBliss Dandy Devil Wears White

Myra Wotton\*, Jan & Alan Shetzer\*

MyBliss Expertly Engineered

Myra Wotton\*

MyBliss Galaway's Irish Imp

Nancy Noonan\*

MyBliss Petite Coquette

Loretta McDonald\*

MyBliss Sport Edition At Bella

Stephanie Uva\*, Myra Wotton\*

Paray Parasol of Knollwood

Susan & Dean Anneser

Paray's Secret Encounter

Susan & Dean Anneser

Phantom Victoire Claus's Rudolph's Better Half

Mollie Fletcher\* and Diana Bugos

Saks Hamelot Little Drummer Boy

Sandra & Kieth Hanson\*

Saks Winning Card  
 She Bichons Betsy Ross  
 She Bichons Elizabeth Taylor  
 She Bichons Gary Cooper  
 She Bichons Sundance Kid  
 Victoire Cheers to Austin  
 Victoire Diamond Rio Citrine  
 Victoire Gerie No Lemon Gemstone  
 Victoire Juniper's Hot Tamale  
 Victoire L'Amour Champagne Lace  
 Victoire McNelson's Beau Jangles Gemstone  
 Victoire Melodie's Bleu Reign  
 Victoire Phantom's Devil in Disguise  
 Victoire's Norwegian Red  
 White Shadow Galaway Hide N'Seek

Sandra & Kieth Hanson\*  
 Sandy Fishell, Sharon Hunkins\*  
 Sharon Hunkins\*  
 Debra Gibb\*, Sharon Hunkins\*  
 Sharon Hunkins\*, Dale Schwab  
 Vickie Halstead\*  
 David & Darlene Scheiris, Vickie Halstead\*  
 Vickie Halstead\*, Mary Wangsness  
 Vickie Halstead\*, Jolee Hanson\*  
 Jan Strom, Vickie Halstead\*  
 Heather McKay, Scott Nelson, Vickie Halstead\*  
 Melody Michel\*, Vickie Halstead\*  
 Diana Bugos, Vickie Halstead\*  
 Vickie Halstead\*  
 Nancy Noonan\*

4/9/2015

## **CHIC REPORT 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2015**

### **SUMMARY OF TOTAL CHIC NUMBERS AND UPDATES FOR BFCA TO DATE**

ORIGINAL QUALIFIERS	362	July 2007
TOTAL QUALIFIERS	875	Dec 2014
NEW 1 <sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2015 QUALIFIERS	30	April 2015
<b>TOTAL NEW QUALIFIERS</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>April 2015</b>
ORIGINAL UPDATES	52	July 2007
TOTAL UPDATES	367	Dec 2014
NEW 1 <sup>ST</sup> QUARTER UPDATES	15	April 2015
<b>TOTAL UPDATES</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>April 2015</b>

8/2/15

## **CHIC REPORT 2<sup>ND</sup> Quarter 2015**

ORIGINAL QUALIFIERS	362	July 2007
TOTAL QUALIFIERS	905	April 2014
NEW 2 <sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2015 QUALIFIERS	<u>23</u>	<u>July 2015</u>
<b>TOTAL NEW QUALIFIERS</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
ORIGINAL UPDATES	52	July 2007
TOTAL UPDATES	382	April 2014
NEW 2 <sup>ND</sup> QUARTER UPDATES	<u>34</u>	<u>July 2015</u>
<b>TOTAL UPDATES</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>JULY 2015</b>