



STCA Health Committee
Linda Orsborn, Chair; Debbie Smith, Linda St. James

January 4, 2006

Dear President Hansen, STCA Board and All Devoted Scottish Terrier Fanciers

Today at 6:00 AM the STCA Health Committee announces that Jerold Bell, DVM will publish the CA affected database in March of 2006.

The CA Database will be housed on the STCA website in a new section of the website called "STCA Grand Central." Grand Central was created to centralize all information on selected topics of interest to the Scottie fancy. The CA database will be found under the topic of "CA Central."

We ask that you all go to www.stca.biz/GrandCentral and read through the new format. You will note that information will be added over the next two weeks to make CA Central a one-stop destination for information on Cerebellar Abiotrophy in the Scottish Terrier.

On November 18, 2005 the STCA Board voted to establish a Health Committee to implement and maintain a database listing for CA affected Scottish Terriers. The format and background information was to be in place by the end of December 2005.

On December 12, 2005 press releases were sent to all regional clubs representatives, regional club newsletter editors and regional club webmasters. Scottiephile was provided with a new downloadable letter and information packet. The packet contains four articles. These articles will help prepare the fancy to use the CA database.

In the near future Dr. Bell will communicate directly to the Scottish Terrier community. In the mean time we ask that you become familiar with the following: the database will become a tool to slow the spread of CA in the Scottish Terrier population until a DNA test is available. The actual DNA test is still the ultimate goal. Breeders need to understand that purebred dog breeding programs should produce quality dogs. This means breeders should strive to maintain quality desirable breed traits and to also reduce genetic defects within the breed. The combination of maintaining quality and reducing genetic defects takes time and understanding and most importantly **education**. The unnecessary elimination of large numbers of dogs from the genetic breeding pool because they have CA in their background could adversely affect the future of the breed.

Dr. Bell will work with the STCA Health Committee to educate breeders and owners on how to use the CA database. Understanding how to breed Scotties with a higher risk of CA to Scotties with a lower risk of CA and eventually replacing the higher risk dogs is essential to the long term health of the breed

Dr. Bell is assembling legal permissions and pedigrees for release. He is preparing an article for Bagpiper 1. We anticipate hearing directly from Dr. Bell. We will have continued distribution of educational materials to regional clubs and through CA Central and press releases.

Sincerely,

The STCA Health Committee