



Seward County Kennel Club

A CLUB FOR PERSONS INTERESTED IN DOGS AND THE SPORT OF DOGS.

OFFICERS

President

Tabitha Dvorak (402) 803-0435
tnttfts@gmail.com

Vice President

Cindy Hill (206) 715-9995
cnolte2@yahoo.com

Secretary

Morgan Ehlers (402) 366-2783
mcrowd08@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Bristol (402) 366-2659
mbristol618@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Diane Nitz 402-646-0027
hpyk9s@yahoo.com

Kathy Jackson (402) 560-6066
kj60028@windstream.net

Linda Soukup (402) 545-2186
waynels@yahoo.com

Kayla Thomas (785) 250-3422
kaykenthomas@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Linda Soukup (402) 545-2186
waynels@yahoo.com

BREEDER REFERRAL

Tabitha Dvorak (402) 803-0435
tnttfts@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Cindy Hill (206) 715-9995
cnolte2@yahoo.com

Information for the newsletter, including brags, needs to be submitted by the first week of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Please email submissions to the editor.

GETTING CLOSER TO THE CAUSE OF LEGG-CALVE-PERTHES DISEASE



In this X-ray image of a West Highland White Terrier (left), both femoral heads have degenerated due to Legg-Calve-Perthes disease. Image courtesy of Dr. Rory Todhunter

Legg-Calve-Perthes disease is a rare but devastating condition causing hip pain and lameness. Its cause is currently unknown, so Dr. Rory Todhunter is searching the canine genome for mutations that might be involved. The Cornell Richard P. Riney Canine Health Center is funding this work, which may one day lead to a genetic test that will prevent future dogs from being born with the disease.

Legg-Calve-Perthes disease typically shows up in small dog breeds, striking when dogs are just months old. It occurs when the ball at the top of the femur loses its blood supply and breaks down inside the hip joint. The only solutions are an invasive surgery to remove the ball of the femur—or a total hip replacement—which is expensive and traumatic for the dog.

The condition occasionally affects humans, but the trigger causing the blood loss and degeneration remains a mystery despite years of research. Some have proposed that a clotting disorder or a prior injury may be to blame.

“It’s a bit of a blind alley,” said Todhunter, who is an orthopedic surgeon and professor of surgery at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. “By the time we see the problem, the disease has progressed to the stage where you have a clinical problem,

LCP continued on page 3.

NEXT MEETING March 16, 2023

Seward Civic Center 616 Bradford St, Seward, NE 68434

No Special Program - General Meeting 7:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

Seward County Kennel Club
 October 16, 2023
 Seward Civic Center

Due to inclement weather, the February meeting was canceled.

The proposed slate for Officers and Board Members is:

- President - Tabitha Dvorak
- Vice President - Cindy Hill
- Secretary - Morgan Ehlers
- Treasurer - Mary Bristol
- Board Members - Diane Nitz, Kathy Jackson, Kayla Thomas, Linda Soukup

The proposed slate is approved by acclamation.



MEET THE BREED: THE BORZOI



Among the most impressively beautiful of all dogs, the aristocratic Borzoi is cherished for his calm, agreeable temperament. In full stride, he is a princely package of strength, grace, and glamour flying by at 35 to 40 miles per hour. Borzoi are large, elegant sighthounds. A mature male stands at least 28 inches at the shoulder and weighs 75 to 105 pounds. Females will be smaller. Beneath the luxurious silky coat, Borzoi construction follows the ancient Greyhound template. One known as the Russian Wolfhound, Borzoi were bred to be swift and tough enough to pursue and pin their ferocious lupine quarry. In their quiet, catlike way they can be stubborn, and training is best accomplished with patience, consistency, and good humor. Affectionate family dogs, Borzoi are nonetheless a bit too dignified to wholeheartedly enjoy a lot of roughhousing. The sight of a cat or squirrel on the run will quickly stir

their pursuit instinct, and fenced-in running room is a must.

History

During the centuries of Romanov rule in Russia, wolf hunting was an all-consuming passion of the Russian aristocracy. Nobles would stage ritualized hunts—festivals, really—on their vast estates, with their guests, horses, and hounds ferried in on special hunt trains. It wasn't unusual for a hundred Borzoi and just as many servants to be employed in these extravagant affairs, which traditionally concluded with a great feast at the manor house.

“It is difficult today to even imagine the grand scale and magnificence to which the gentle Borzoi is heir,” wrote a breed historian.

continued on page 3.

LCP continued from front page.

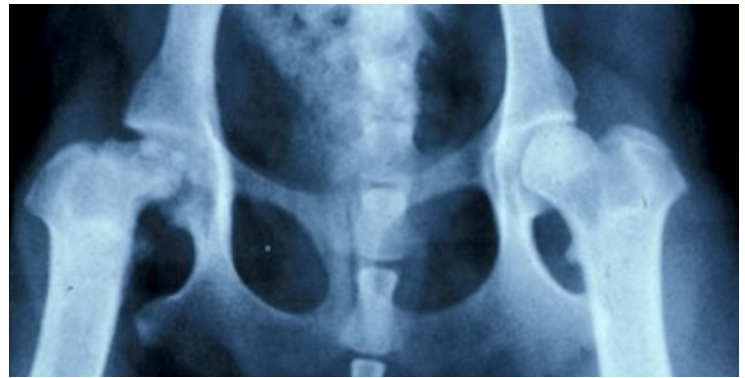
so whatever triggered it a few months before might not be there anymore.”

Previously, Todhunter and his collaborator, Dr. Jessica Hayward, a research associate in Biomedical Sciences at Cornell who specializes in canine genetics, searched canine genomes to find genes that contribute to the disease. They located a region on canine chromosome 6 that appears to be related. Their analysis included DNA from 85 small and mixed-breed dogs with Legg-Calve-Perthes disease and 102 healthy dogs provided by a colleague at Clemson University.

Now, with the additional funding from the Cornell Riney Canine Health Center, Todhunter and Hayward hope to narrow in on the exact mutation or mutations on chromosome 6 that put dogs at risk of developing the condition. They will almost double the number of dog genomes in their analysis through samples provided by a colleague at the University of Helsinki.

If the work is successful, then a genetic test can be developed to screen dogs who are carriers for the disease. This type of test could help breeders make better breeding decisions, resulting in fewer affected dogs.

The results may also provide hints to which genes in



One hip joint is affected by Legg-Calve-Perthes disease in this x-ray of a West Highland White Terrier. Credit: Images courtesy of Dr. Rory Todhunter

humans contribute to Legg-Calve-Perthes disease, or to a common mechanism responsible for triggering the condition in both species.

Todhunter says it is challenging to find federal funding for canine research unless the dogs serve primarily as a model for human disease. He appreciates the Cornell Riney Canine Health Center’s support to continue this work, which focuses purely on improving the health and wellbeing of our canine companions.

Patricia Waldron. October 19, 2021, www.vet.cornell.edu/news/20211019/getting-closer-cause-legg-calve-perthes-disease



BORZOI continued from page 2.

“Before 1861, and to a lesser extent after that time up to the Russian Revolution in 1917, the time, effort, and money expended on these ‘hunts,’ as they were called, is surely unequaled in the development of any breed.” Russia’s great novelist Leo Tolstoy, himself a devoted Borzoi fan, immortalized one of these grand spectacles in his *War and Peace*.

With the Revolution came the wholesale slaughter of the Romanov family, their nobles, and their aristocratic hounds. This was a disaster that set back Russian breeding of Borzoi and other national breeds for much of the 20th century. If not for the Borzoi’s devotees abroad, the breed might have gone extinct.

In the years leading up to the Revolution, dog fanciers in England and America had begun the importation of Borzoi to their shores. These early imports ensured the breed’s survival. In the English-speaking world, the breed name was Russian Wolfhound. In America this changed in 1936, when after a long and spirited debate pro and con among the U.S. breed fancy, the breed was officially rechristened the Borzoi, from the Russian borzyi, meaning “swift.”

By all accounts, this noble breed of haughty looks and sterling temperament is little changed from the hounds Tolstoy described so movingly in his writings.

akc.org



Seward County Kennel Club

Cindy Hill
1477 Thorne St
Syracuse, NE 68446