

# THE SCOTTIE GUARDIAN

## Quarterly Newsletter of the STCA's Health Trust Fund

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Scottie Guardian*, the quarterly e-newsletter of the STCA's Health Trust Fund. We plan to provide interesting and useful health information, presented in a format we hope you will find easy to navigate and fun to read!



In this and future issues, you can look forward to:

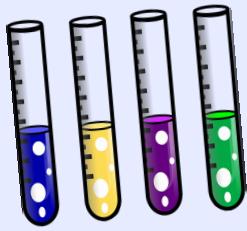
- Articles on topics of interest to all Scottie owners, on all aspects of healthy living;
- Updates on HTF supported research projects;
- Links to webinars, videos, and other health resources;
- A section called *Glad You Asked!* dedicated to answering your submitted questions;
- News on upcoming HTF hosted health clinics, fund raisers and seminars.

Thanks to the skills of our Editor and newest HTF Trustee, Fran Sanden, we are sure that you will enjoy our little newsletter with a big mission: to bring the latest and best health info to you for your Scottie.

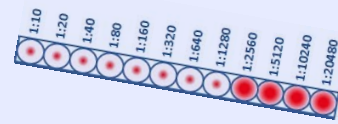
Let us know what you think!

Marcia Dawson, Chairman  
[hijinkscot@gmail.com](mailto:hijinkscot@gmail.com)

Be sure to visit the STCA webpage at [www.stca.biz](http://www.stca.biz) for more details on Health and the Health Trust Fund pages, including links to the ScottiePhile library and HTF donation pages.



# Titers



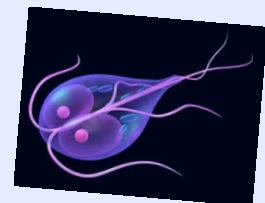
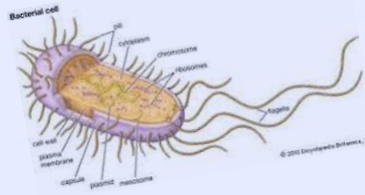
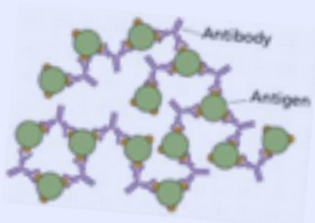
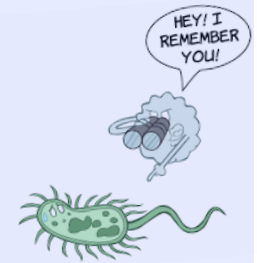
Some pet owners, concerned about over vaccinating their dogs or cats, are choosing to have their vet run antibody titers instead. Is this a good idea?

*What is a titer, anyway?*

A titer measures the concentration of antibodies circulating in your pet's blood.

*OK, what is an antibody?*

An antibody is a protein produced by cells of our immune system. When we get sick with the flu or an infection, our bodies respond by mounting an immune response to the invading virus or bacteria. The immune system recognizes the germs as "foreign", and our immune cells then produce antibodies which destroy the invader. And, other cells of the immune system remember the invader's profile and will respond to a new infection many months or even years later. These Memory Cells produce antibodies into the circulation only when called into action, so a titer will not detect them.



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### *How does this relate to vaccines?*

Here is a typical scenario: You take your Scottie puppy to the vet for his puppy shots. These are the important core vaccines that protect against life threatening diseases such as Distemper, Parvovirus, and Rabies. The vaccines contain the actual viral or bacterial particles to stimulate the immune response, but these particles are also altered so they cannot actually produce disease. The immune system gets to work, creating antibodies against the foreign invader (the vaccine, in this case), and the puppy is then protected against the disease. Puppies typically have a series of vaccines 3-4 weeks apart, to ensure a strong response, followed by an annual booster.

### *So, where do titers come in?*

Researchers have been studying just how long protective immunity lasts after vaccination. It has been determined that in some cases, dogs are protected for several years after their initial vaccinations, and so it may not be necessary to revaccinate as often we used to. One way to determine if your pet has protective immunity is for your vet to draw a blood sample and run a titer.

### *What if the titer is high?*

If the titer is high enough to be protective, you do not need to vaccinate your pet.

### *What if the titer is low?*

A low titer tells you that there is a decreased level of circulating antibodies in the blood. Does this mean the dog is not protected? Not necessarily. There could be a very competent level of protection in the hidden Memory Cells that will emerge when needed. But to be safe, revaccination will probably be recommended by your vet.



# Pet Vaccination Schedule

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), and the AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKCCHF), the following chart represents the current recommended protocol for Core Vaccines (those which all dogs should have).

Vaccine- Core	Schedule- Puppy	***Booster-Adult
Distemper	**At 6-8 weeks, 9-11 weeks, and 13-16 weeks (every 3-4 weeks past 16 weeks)	1 year after last puppy shot; then every 3 years, or titer
*Parvovirus	Same as above	Same as above
Adenovirus	Same as above	Same as above
Rabies	3 months (20 weeks or older if allowable by local authorities)	1 year after puppy dose, then 1 or 3 years as mandated by local authorities

Non-Core Vaccines are Leptospirosis, Coronavirus, Lyme, Bordatella bronchiceptica (kennel cough), and Canine Influenza virus. Discuss the need, schedule and frequency of these vaccines with your veterinarian, taking into account where you live, your travel plans, and what activities you are involved in with your dog. Any dog going to a boarding facility will need proof of specific vaccines.

\*All modified live, high titer/low passage Parvovirus (CPV) vaccines currently on the market today, including the NeoPar vaccine, are equally protective against CPV-a and CPV-b and are more effective at “breaking through” the residual maternal derived immunity than earlier generation Parvo vaccines.

\*\* Vaccination earlier than 6 weeks of age, with any make of vaccine, may not be as effective in pups with strong residual maternal antibody levels. Also, vaccination any sooner than 2 weeks after the previous vaccine may not give the puppy’s immune system time to respond properly.

\*\*\* Booster Vaccines should be split by 3-4 weeks and not administered all at the same time

NOTE: Individual puppies in any litter, for a variety of reasons, may not mount a proper immune response to the first vaccination at 6 or 7 weeks of age. Scrupulous hygiene and limited outside exposure must be exercised to protect a litter of pups against possible Parvo infection until at least the second set of vaccines has been administered.

# RESEARCH

## *News and Updates*



The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) periodically shares updates from the principal investigators of HTF supported research grants. In this issue of *the Guardian*, we will summarize the update from Mary Nabity, DVM, PhD at Texas A&M Agrilife Research facility.

Chronic kidney failure is an insidious and debilitating disease, common in many dogs. Our Scotties are no exception, and the HTF is proud to support an important project that has the potential to help all dogs. Dr. Nabity's research centers around the need for early detection of kidney damage in the dog, ultimately leading to chronic kidney failure. Dr. Nabity states that "improvements in tests to detect kidney damage at an earlier stage would allow veterinarians to provide dogs with appropriate treatments in a more timely fashion to slow disease progression and improve quality and length of life." To this end Dr. Nabity is looking at MicroRNA's, tiny molecules that regulate gene expression and serve as biomarkers in diseases such as kidney disease in humans. Dr. Nabity and her team have

identified several promising MicroRNA's in dogs and are evaluating them for use as noninvasive markers of kidney damage and of progression of renal failure.

Read more about Dr. Nabity's research and her findings at the following link:

AKCCHF Grant 02066:  
Identification of Novel  
Biomarkers and Therapeutic  
Targets for Chronic Kidney  
Disease.  
[http://  
support.caninehealthfoundation.o  
rg/site/DocServer/  
AKC\\_CHF\\_2066\\_EY5\\_Summary.p  
df?docID=419](http://support.caninehealthfoundation.org/site/DocServer/AKC_CHF_2066_EY5_Summary.pdf?docID=419)



*Dr. Nabity*

## GLAD YOU ASKED!!



This column will appear in each issue of the newsletter. You ask the question and we'll attempt to answer it.

**Q: Do I need an AKC DNA profile on my Scottie to enter him in the CHIC Registry?**

**A:** No, you do not need an AKC DNA profile to enter your Scottie in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) open health registry. You do need to get a permanent form of identification on your dog such as a microchip or a tattoo, and you need to fulfill a list of required and optional testing (see link below).

However, there is a situation where you do need a DNA profile on your Scottie, and that is to get a "Clear by Parentage" for vWD: For the purposes of CHIC listing, a Scottie can be designated vWD Clear by Parentage only if ALL of the conditions below are satisfied:

1. Sire and Dam and Pup(s) are all AKC DNA profiled;
2. Sire and Dam are both VetGen vWD Tested Clear and results are registered with OFA;
3. "The Clear by Parentage" designation will be granted for the first generation only at this time. The vWD DNA test therefore must be run for the third (the next) generation.

*For more information on the current CHIC Health testing Requirements for Scotties, go to the following link:*  
<https://www.ofa.org/recommended-tests?breed=ST&var=>



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## From Your Editor's Desk

So, for Christmas, I gave her an anxiety jacket and, you know what, it worked! I understand that before I was born (2014) Mom and Dad had a pup that freaked out, too, so they gave him an anxiety jacket and it calmed him right down. So, I recommend one if you've got an anxious pup.

Ragin (a.k.a. Lamb Chop)

Hi! Let me introduce myself. I'm Gallica's Ragin of Raspberry Mountain and I'm your newsletter editor. My goal in this column is to introduce you to some healthy items I have found and either have experience with or have researched on the Internet. For example, you've all heard of an anxiety jacket. Well, my next door neighbor is a wee Yorkshire terrier who is just a maniac during a thunder storm. She also freaks out when she hears a loud noise. Now, when I say freaks out, I mean she chews wall corners and moulding. Yikes!



**The Scottish Terrier Club of America's Health Trust fund is a 501c3 organization established in 1994 for the purpose of supporting research to benefit all Scotties, investigating and monitoring health issues in the breed using registries, databases and health surveys, and communicating important new health information and research findings to all Scottie owners. All donations made to the HTF are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.**