

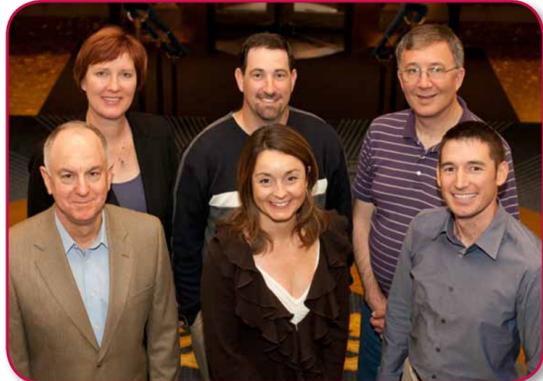
Cardiac Education Group Meets

Group Plans Website Expansion, Outreach to Veterinarians

The Cardiac Education Group met in Chicago in April and covered a broad agenda of topics, focusing on how the group will provide educational resources and information on the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease in dogs and cats.

Topics addressed at the April meeting included:

- Production and distribution of literature about the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease in dogs and cats
- Expanding the tools and information available on the CEG website (www.cardiaceducationgroup.org)
- Increasing outreach efforts to key associations within the veterinary medical community
- Structuring events that will provide cardiologist education opportunities to veterinarians



Members of the CEG Board are (back row, left to right): Dr. Rebecca Stepien, Dr. Alan Spier and Dr. Michael Luethy. Front row, left to right: Dr. John Bonagura, Dr. Sonya Gordon and Dr. Whit Church.

"The Cardiac Education Group has a wealth of knowledge to share, and we want to identify the most effective channels through which we can reach veterinarians," explains Dr. John Bonagura, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM, professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at The Ohio State University. "People consume media content in many new and different ways today, and we want to make sure our information is relevant and accessible."

The CEG is comprised of six independent veterinary cardiologists from both academia and private practice. Founding members of the Cardiac Education Group include: Dr. John Bonagura, Dr. Whit Church, Dr. Sonya Gordon, Dr. Rebecca Stepien, Dr. Michael Luethy and Dr. Alan Spier.

Currently, the Cardiac Education Group is funded through non-directed educational grants from Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., and IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. ■

CEG Members:

Dr. John D. Bonagura, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM

Dr. Whit M. Church, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM

Dr. Sonya G. Gordon, DVM, DVSc, Diplomate ACVIM

Dr. Michael W. Luethy, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM

Dr. Alan W. Spier, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM

Dr. Rebecca L. Stepien, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM

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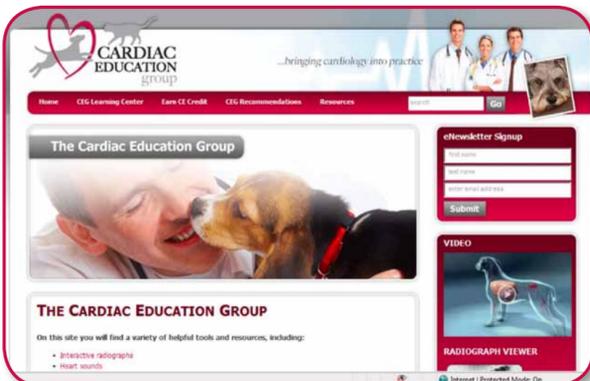
New Tools, Information Now Available on the CEG Website

A key repository for information and learning tools provided by the CEG is the organization's website, located at www.cardiaceducationgroup.org. In the past months there have been several new items and functions added to the site, and many more to come!

"The CEG is evaluating the Web site constantly and adding new functions and educational tools to the site," explains Dr. John Bonagura, DVM, CEG Board president. "Our goal is that the site will become a veterinarian's preferred resource for information about how to diagnose and treat heart disease in dogs and cats."

Some of the new features of the site include:

- New "Circulations: Conversations With a Cardiologist" articles
- An expanded library of links to online resources
- An updated handout on "The ABCDs of Canine Cardiology"
- New "Heart Sounds" files
- A new, downloadable *Frequently Asked Questions* document



The new CEG website contains a variety of useful learning tools on the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease in dogs and cats.

And more updates are coming soon! For more information, please visit: www.cardiaceducationgroup.org. ■

Cardiac Corner

- Heart disease is more likely to affect smaller dogs, while dilated cardiomyopathy is more likely to affect large or giant breed dogs.*
- The most common heart disease found in cats is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), which causes thickening of the heart muscle.*
- Some breeds are more likely to develop heart disease. For a complete list of affected breeds, visit www.yourdogshheart.com or www.yourcatshheart.com.
- Visit www.cardiaceducationgroup.org today for updated circulations articles, heart sounds and new radiographs available in our radiograph viewer.
- Take the Million Heart Challenge today! Visit www.vetmedin.com/millionheartchallenge to do your part to help support canine heart health research and for your chance to win a vacation worth \$3,500.

*References:

Atkins C, Bonagura J, Ettinger S, et al. Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of canine chronic valvular heart disease. *J Vet Intern Med.* 2009;23(6):1142-1150.

Fries R, Heaney HM, Meurs KM. Prevalence of the myosin-binding protein C mutation in Maine Coon cats. *J Vet Intern Med.* 2008;22(4):893-896.

Common Misconceptions About Congestive Heart Failure Series

Myth #2

Dogs with heart failure are always presented with cough, and coughing dogs with heart murmurs have chronic heart failure (CHF).

Although cough is often the clinical sign that induces the owner to bring their dog into the office, it is not always a sign of heart failure. Not all dogs with heart failure cough, and not all dogs that cough have heart failure.

When dogs have diseases that are associated with left heart failure (mitral valve regurgitation or dilated cardiomyopathy), the animals will typically have a heart murmur first, then cardiac enlargement that leads to cough, then in some patients, eventually, congestive heart failure. Conversely, diseases other than cardiac disease may cause cough, including bacterial infection, pulmonary parasites or inflammatory disease.

Here is an important tip about cough: if you think the animal is coughing because it has infectious lung disease (such as Bordetella bronchiseptica infection) and you give it a good broad-spectrum antibiotic as a presumptive therapy but the animal continues to cough, more diagnostic testing is indicated rather than just a change of antibiotics.

This is a common problem – trying different antibiotics instead of considering a different diagnosis. If a good, broad-spectrum antibiotic doesn't relieve cough in a patient thought to have a bacterial respiratory infection, the dog may have heart disease or some other lung disease that does not respond to antibiotics as a cause of the cough. ■

Mobile Heart Health Tour Update

The Mobile Heart Health Tour visited with more than 500 dogs and their owners during the August leg of the Tour recently. The Tour began in 2009 to educate pet owners about the prevalence of heart disease in dogs by providing their dogs with free heart health screenings across the nation.

The Tour made several stops in the northeast in August, including:

- Friday, August 19: Bark Park on Governor Street in Ridgefield, Conn.
- Saturday, August 20: Dexter Dog Park in Providence, R.I.
- Sunday, August 21: Peters Park Dog Run in Boston, Mass.

"Screening is critically important to help diagnose and treat heart disease in our dogs," says Tour cardiologist Dr. Andrea Lantis. "It's been a tremendous experience participating in the Mobile Heart Health Tour and helping educate dog owners about how to help their pets live longer, healthier lives."

To date, cardiologists on the tour have performed more than 10,000 free heart health screenings for dogs, from Philadelphia, Penn. to Sacramento, Calif. ■



Dr. Barret Bulmer, a cardiologist on the Mobile Heart Health Tour, consults with a Boston pet owner about warning signs for canine heart disease.

iPad Winners Announced!

The CEG is pleased to announce the winners of our first-ever iPad giveaway – available exclusively to subscribers of *The Beat* newsletter! The winners are:

- **Dr. Christopher Church, DVM:** Dr. Church works at the Cheyenne Pet Clinic in Cheyenne, Wyo. He is a University of Wyoming alumnus and graduated from the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.
- **Dr. Ted Cohn, DVM:** Dr. Cohn attended veterinary school at Tuskegee University in Alabama and now works at the University

Hills Animal Hospital in Denver, Colo. He also serves on the executive board of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

- **Dr. Heather Duncan, DVM:** Dr. Duncan is with the Carolinas Animal Hospital and Dental Clinic. Dr. Duncan attended the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine and completed a veterinary dentistry and oral surgery residency at the Animal Dental Center of Baltimore in Annapolis, Md.

Congratulations to our winners! ■

Get to Know yourdogshheart.com via Social Media

A great source of information on canine heart health for pet owners is www.yourdogshheart.com. And now your clients can find useful online information and get daily updates on canine heart health by interacting with yourdogshheart.com on both Twitter and Facebook! Please share this information and these links with your colleagues and clients:

- Join us on the Your Dog's Heart Facebook page. You can get information about the website, post on our Facebook wall, etc. And please be sure to "like" Your Dog's Heart on Facebook!
- Join us on Twitter too! Visit @yourdogshheart and follow us!



The YourDogsHeart Facebook page already has more than 1,000 "likes"! Visit our page and encourage your clients to do the same!

Dogs Not the Only Winners in the Million Heart Challenge

Now you and your dog owner clients can do something to help dogs everywhere, and perhaps reward yourselves with a free vacation! The online Million Heart Challenge will help fund new research for canine heart disease – and just by entering, you and your clients could win a free vacation.

Entering the Million Heart Challenge is simple and free. As soon as one million visitors click on the website, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. (BIVI), will donate \$15,000 to the American College of Internal Veterinary Medicine (ACVIM) to support independent cardiology research. BIVI will also give away two vacations – one to a pet owner and one to a veterinary professional.

Participating in the Million Heart Challenge requires only a few minutes and computer clicks:

- First, visit the website www.vetmedin.com/millionheartchallenge.
- Second, click on the "Show Your Heart" button on the home page. Each click is one step closer to the goal.

- Third, share the challenge with friends to enter the vacation sweepstakes. (Be sure to read the complete sweepstakes rules on the website.)

For more information about congestive heart failure and other heart diseases, please visit www.yourdogshheart.com. ■



Encourage your clients to enter the Million Heart Challenge, and be sure to enter yourself! You could win a free vacation!