



ISSUE No

BRAINWAVE

ISSUE No

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This newsletter is distributed quarterly to members of

THE PHYLLIS CROFT FOUNDATION FOR CANINE EPILEPSY

BRAINWAVE CHECKED AND APPROVED BY DR PHYLLIS CROFT OBE PHD FRCVS BEFORE PUBLICATION

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PAT TRICKEY

Many of you will be familiar with long serving member Pat Trickey's fund raising activities and her initiative in organising our distinctive Christmas cards. She has used her amazing drive and energy to benefit the PCFCE for many years and the wonderful support she has received from her home village of Colyton is a mark of the high esteem in which she is held.

Fighting Cancer

Despite being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005 it was business as usual with Pat and we were all delighted and relieved when her check ups

showed she was doing well.

Recently however, Pat underwent more tests and after exploratory surgery, she was diagnosed with bowel cancer. As you can imagine, this has been a real shock for Pat although her attitude, as we have come to expect from her, remains positive. She is a fighter but like anyone in the same situation she needs her friends. This is where we all come in.

I once saw a documentary, conducted on scientific lines, which concluded that those people who were prayed for got better sooner and more often than those who were not. You will have your own

opinions on this but what I ask is very simple. If you have a religious belief, please include Pat in your prayers; if you do not have a religious belief please include her in your thoughts or drop her a line at Colydene, Station Road, Colyton, Devon, EX24 6HB.

GET WELL SOON PAT

Not forgetting, of course, those members who are also fighting illness.

CLARE RUSBRIDGE



New Baby for Clare

Clare Rusbridge, one of our veterinary advisors, is (continued on page 4).

EDITORS BITS AND PIECES

As you can probably imagine, I have quite a bit of catching up to do in this issue.

I am conscious that there is a lot of sadness in this edition of **BRAINWAVE**. This undoubtedly reflects the realities of this awful condition but we will be able to rebalance the content soon.

When you receive your renewal letters, do let me have your news. Your contributions will be essential in helping me to resume normal service. **BRAINWAVE** is nothing without its contributors.

Prolonged Recovery Times Your help needed

One of the things I am asked about but find hardest to answer is coping with prolonged recovery after a fit. I was lucky enough not to have to go through this so can only offer possibilities and ideas. I would like to hear from you as I am sure you will have thoughts of your own. In offering the following, I am assuming that you will already have spoken to your vet to see if any fine tuning of, or change in medication might help.

Rescue Remedy

I know we have mentioned this several times before but the best known flower remedy is Rescue Remedy. It combines:

"Star of Bethlehem for trauma and numbness; Rock Rose for terror and panic; Impatiens, for irritability and tension; Cherry Plum for fear of losing control and Clematis for tendency to pass out. It is an ideal remedy to use at the time of an accident or injury shock or stressful situation".
Extracted from **Natural Health**

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE

Ask your vet to refer you for complementary medicine.

A qualified practitioner will be able to offer several alternative therapies:

homeopathy, flower remedies, acupuncture, aromatherapy etc

None of these will harm your dog and can be used alongside conventional therapies

Care for Pets by Richard Allport

In his book, Richard Allport has several remedies for epilepsy:

Aromatherapy

These remedies include well known ones such as lavender

They "will all help reduce fitting".

Flower and Gem Remedies:

including diamond "will all help to prolong periods between fits"

Herbal

I have mentioned Skullcap & Valerian on many occasions in **BRAINWAVE**. Richard says it is especially useful in pets that tend "to be anxious and nervous". Hops are also used (but don't be tempted to give your dog beer to drink – ED).

Homeopathy

Remedies here include Belladonna "to help soothe pets after a fit, especially if pupils are dilated". Several of the remedies here are specific

to the type of fit or symptom.

Using a darkened room

I am not convinced of the usefulness of this advice as an aid to recovery. My dogs were too hyperactive to keep quiet and still but with a different pattern of recovery, it may work for some dogs.

Canine Epilepsy Resources

Canine Epilepsy Resources, (EpiK9 website) probably the most valuable canine epilepsy site to be found on the internet has lots of great information. I have chosen to highlight the following this time:

Herbs for Pets by Mary L. Wulff-Tilford & Gregory L. Tilford

I think members would find this extract particularly interesting and I will seek permission to re-printed it for **BRAINWAVE**.

The authors advocate an entirely holistic approach, covering everything from diet (natural whole foods) to elimination of toxins (including household chemicals) from the environment.

Their supplementation regime includes vitamin B1, for healthy nervous system function and omegas 3 and 6 for the development and maintenance of the nervous system.

Skullcap and Valerian is advocated but they have also reported good effects in combination with oatstraw including less severe fits.

Recommended flower remedies include vervain and chestnut bud for moderating seizures. Advice for rescue remedy was also to rub it on the ears before, during and after fits. This "sometimes helps

moderate the episode and calm the animal".

ICE PACK - A TECHNIQUE TO STOP SEIZURES

I have been asked to reprint this article as it may also be of help in easing recovery symptoms.

This is a surprising technique that anyone can try for easing seizures, published on the "Epi-Guardians Angels" website. The following is written by **Joanne Carson**.

"This article on using an ice pack to stop seizures is about an exciting new technique that has recently been published in a leading veterinarian journal. This technique may be able to help you shorten or even stop your dog's seizure before it begins, and may even help reduce the amount of post-ictal recovery time, and to return your dog to full functioning more quickly.

The technique was tested--both in an ER and a regular veterinary hospital as well as by people in their own homes--on 51 epileptic dogs. In all 51 cases, the technique either stopped the seizure or shortened the usual duration of the seizure, and **in many cases, the post-ictal (after-seizure) recovery time was also shortened**. These results were published in an article by H. C. Gurney, DVM, and Janice Gurney, B.S., M.A. The article is entitled, "A Simple, Effective Technique for Arresting Canine Epileptic Seizures." It appeared in The Journal of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, in the January-March 2004 issue, pages 17-18.

Probably the most exciting part of this discovery is that the technique is not in any way harmful to your dog and it

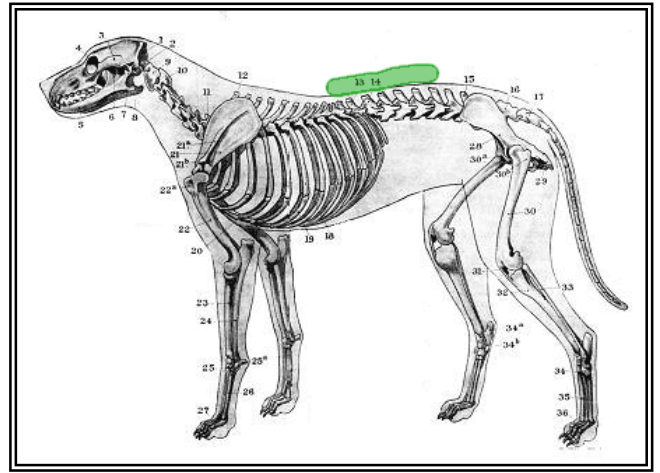
does not involve giving extra medications. It is as simple as applying a bag of ice to the lower midsection of your dog's back (the small of the back), and holding the bag firmly in position until the seizure ends.

The exact area on the back is between the 10th thoracic (chest) and 4th lumbar (lower back) vertebrae (bones in the spine); what this means is that the top of the ice bag should rest just above the middle of your dog's back, following along the spine, and drape down to the lower-midsection of the back. See diagram.

Look for numbers 13 and 14 on the diagram. Number 13 on the diagram is the 13th thoracic (chest) vertebrae (there are 13 total); count back toward the head to number 10: that is your start point for the ice bag. Number 14 on the diagram is the 1st lumbar (lower back) vertebrae (there are 7 total); count toward the tail to number 4: that is your end point for the ice bag.

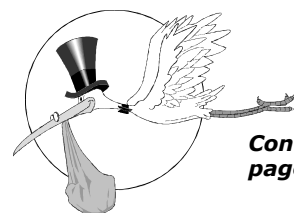
With a properly sized ice bag, you should not have to worry about being too exact: aim for the middle of the back, and the correct area will be covered. Application of ice to other areas of the body (head, neck, legs and other areas of the spine) was not found to be effective. Ice bags on the middle of the back was the only area found to work.

The article reports that the sooner the ice is applied, the better the results. So you should have an ice pack ready and prepared: if you have a



small dog, fill a small-sized (quart) ziplock freezer bag with cubed or crushed ice and keep it in a particular spot in your freezer. When you hear or see a seizure begin, run for the ice or, if you live with another person, have one person run for the ice while the other runs to help the dog. Place the ice bag in the lower midsection of your dog's back and hold it there firmly until the seizure stops. If this technique works as reported, you should not have to wait as long as your dog's usual seizure and you may also see an improvement in the post-ictal period's duration.

The article reports that people who tried using a bag of frozen vegetables instead of ice had less success than those who used ice, so keep a bag of ice ready or a commercial ice pack used to keep soft drinks cold in a cooler. The article also indicated that dogs with cluster seizures are a special case and may need their usual protocols after the seizure, so if your dog is a clusterer, follow your veterinarian's instructions for using valium or write to our website for the rectal and oral valium protocol.



**Continuing from
page one.**

expecting a brother for Jill on 19th March 2007. He will be born by Caesarean section which must mean she is expecting another jaw droppingly large baby. (Jill was over 10lbs). Great news. Congratulations Clare, Mark and Jill.

PhD Thesis

In addition to the demands of a busy and successful career, growing family, world wide lecturing, continuing education, etc Clare has been working on her PhD thesis. She had to defend her thesis at Utrecht University on 15th February and we look forward to hearing that the day went well. The subject was Chiari-like malformation and syringomyelia in Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

Scrumpy's Tumour

You don't often hear of brain tumour's being removed in pets, so Scrumpy the cat's op may be something of a milestone. The op is also remarkable because neurology Specialist Clare is Scrumpy's owner. Here's the story in her own words.

"Scumpy decided to test the skills of her owner by developing serious neurological compromise. Much to her disgust (and, despite her ill health, after several lacerations to her owner and nurses) she had a MRI scan which revealed a large brain tumour. She was not expected to survive the surgery but I am



The Tumour is the blob in the left centre of the picture

glad to say that the tumour was removed and the unwilling patient is now home and after a week is almost back to her normal cantankerous self."

The excised tumour



Scrumpy in recovery

BANDIT COMEAU

Bandit the elkhound as been a much loved and familiar correspondent of **BRAINWAVE** for many years and as his postcard (right) proves he was a real fighter. Shortly after receiving his postcard we heard the very sad news that he had died.

Lisa says: *I write to you with a heavy heart, as we have lost our Bandit. All his medical troubles he survived, but he was taken from us in an accident. We have had recent repairs done to our home and it seems the other day, a gate was left closed but not fully latched. On Thursday morning Bandit went out as usual. He must have pushed against the gate just right and in one final 'hurrahha' ran to the road where a car knocked him down*

BANDIT'S FINAL POSTCARD

As you have guessed, I am alive and well. I turned 14 in August and have not had any new health problems this entire year. I still take lots of medicines to control all my chronic problems, but my biggest troubles are my arthritis and my bad back legs. It takes a long time to get up and steady on my feet but once I get going I can run faster than my mom and dad.

Mom says I am getting 'senile'. I can't hear anymore so I rarely bark. When I do, mom says I've forgotten my old bark and do more of a howling sound. Then when I get too excited I jump around like a puppy and mom yells at me to "slow down before you hurt yourself". And I really try not to but sometimes I make a mess inside the house. Mom says it's all part of being a really old dog.

So, it looks as though I've dodged an awful lot of bullets in my long life - seizures, bromide toxicity, cancer, pancreatitis, liver troubles and a cruciate ligament tear. I'm sure to be around for another snow storm or two. I'll have mom send some pictures.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love

Bandit



Bandit Comeau

and in that instant he was gone. We are broken hearted but also relieved he will not have to endure any suffering. He has had significant cognitive decline, possibly a brain lesion or tumour. It has been difficult to watch his old personality begin to disappear as well as his back legs losing their strength.

We have had many years of wonderful memories of our very special boy. I only hope these memories will help me through the pain I am feeling now. Thank you for your support for so many years.

We will all miss him Lisa. We always looked forward to his postcards. We have some lovely photos of him - he was a real character.

A WORD FROM JO WYNN

Well, Christmas morning with its wrapping paper frenzy and influx of new toys and fleecy blankets for my much loved 'Chinese children', has faded fast. With all the strong emotions that surround Christmas, it is not surprising that our thoughts also turn to all those no longer here to share our joy and excitement. It is three years since our irascible teddy bear Yenta

transited and five since our beloved Blue Boy. It is a bitter sweet mixture, fond memories of balloons, tinsel and big brown eyes and a still deep missing and longing. I look at both Enshi and Tabris, graying round their muzzles and a cold fear grabs my heart. I do feel that the Creator could have sorted life expectancy a little better. Pekinese can live to twenty, Yenta was 19 but it is still not long enough.

We were catapulted into the New Year with my beloved Enshi being rushed to our vet for an emergency operation with the dreaded pyometra. Epileptic dogs can present additional concerns under anaesthetic, so there I was, with the Christmas festivities barely cold, pacing the floor, a nervous wreck and only relaxing when she was home again. Catching the infection early meant she made a swift recovery, and with only one fit, clever girl!

These sudden 'close encounters' with

A POSTCARD FROM BANDIT

One we missed earlier.

Happy Winter! I have already had two big snow storms to play in! I am a very lucky dog! My health is still good, although I now have to take an antibiotic everyday to stop a recurring bladder infection. Now that I am old (13½) I guess I can expect these pesky problems. I'll tell mom to send you some pictures of me - I look great at 50lbs, although mom keeps trying to put some weight back on me. She worries to much, I feel great.

Love

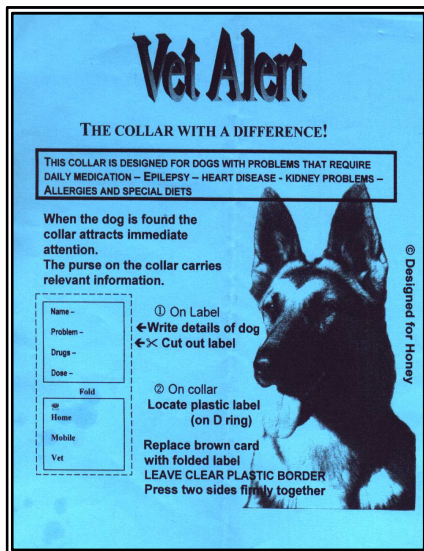
Bandit

ill health, make us reflect how vulnerable we all are and how blessed if we have loved ones, animal or human, safe with us. Even in my distress over Enshi, memories of long lost companions were with me, and all the other times when I have sat in veterinary waiting rooms, or at home anticipating the phone call to say if all is well. A prolonged illness, and we have had our share of those too, can test us and the sufferer with the constant knowledge that at any time we may have to make decisions that fill us with dread.

My beloved Tabris now finds walking difficult. Visits to the

Enshi, Elfin, Lube & Tabris





**THE VET ALERT COLLAR -
PHONE MARY ROUSE ON
01295 711579**

Osteopath help, and I have purchased a pram, (don't laugh) as she still does not want to be left at home when we are out walking. My injured back complains if I carry her, despite her light weight, so with her tucked up in this pram we stroll, and she can enjoy the sights and smells as she's always done. I am aware however that this is borrowing time, that at any point her condition could worsen, or she herself may say, 'enough'.

Even my youngsters have had their moments, we could have lost Elfin when she ate beads from a lamp shade as a puppy, and there was the time that Lube fell in the river and was completely under the water before I spotted his white ruff and hauled him out. Perhaps these episodes are to enable us to realise how very precious life is and that maybe its all a lesson in taking nothing for granted, and valuing each day, what the New Age refers to as 'living in the moment'. We are in a world where nothing seems very secure or safe, and instead of that producing fear perhaps it should encourage us to love to the maximum

whenever we can.

The very cold spells we have had have kept us indoors more than we like. True we have played in the snow, had a weekend break visiting Romney Marsh, where the wind blew so hard we all had trouble staying on our feet. We have watched the wood mice perform acrobats in the garden, fed the birds and excitedly watched snowdrops bloom, but I long for the Spring and bluebell walks and sunshine, and a new beginning.

JO

SEARCH FOR THE EPILEPSY GENE IN THE KEESHOND

Anji Marfleet is the Health Coordinator for the North of England Keeshond Club. She has written to say that a gene had been found for hyperparathyroidism in the Keeshond. Dr Barbara Skelly of the Queens Veterinary School Cambridge had been working to find this gene but was 'pipped' at the post. Now she is going to focus her efforts on epilepsy. Dr Skelly will be collaborating with Richard Goldstein at Cornell University and he and "his group have shown that it is possible to map disease traits rapidly in the Keeshond and that the breed could be one of the few where two major diseases can be controlled through genetic testing and informed breeding".

Barbara Skelly is asking for blood samples from affected Keeshonds. If you have a Keeshond and would like to participate, you can contact Anji at 12 Aspen Court, Emley, Nr Huddersfield, West Yorkshire Tel: 01924 840315 or Mandy Cliffe (see committee for address on back page) who

has a small number of leaflets and details of protocols.

Betty Robertson

Betty Robertson is a long time member whose Dachshund Minky (sadly no longer with us), had an unusual type of epilepsy - Lafora's Disease.

When Betty went to live with her son we did not hear from her for ages but we now know that due to her advanced Parkinson's disease she was admitted to a Nursing Home. Unfortunately, she had a bad fall in January 2006 and shattered her left leg. This has affected her mobility although she is determined to walk again or, at the very least get a battery operated chair to increase her independence.

Despite her problems, a recent letter proved that she had lost none of her vitality and spark and that she is not one to take orders gladly (good on you Betty). Yes, she does get tired but is keeping her carers on their toes. She assures us her brain is still in good working order and typing letters is exercise for her arthritic hands.

If you would like to contact Betty, a former PCFCE local contact, she can be reached care of: 7 Alpine Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 5HG. Her son will forward any letters and cards.

Murphy Lea Moultrie





Alfie Edwards

This cracking little Border Terrier is called Alfie Edwards. When Lesley last wrote, Alfie's medication had been changed to potassium bromide syrup, ideal for smaller dogs, and his fits have reduced to one a fortnight (*fingers crossed*).

As you can see from his photo Alfie has just won a first prize. He won his way out of 'starters' agility at Orsett and also came fifth at Dogs in Need. Lesley says she feels he is doing really well. He was obviously feeling no ill effects from having had a fit earlier in the week.

I think it is great to see our dogs doing what they were bred to do – working and enjoying themselves. Very well done Lesley and Alfie.



Bodil Enoksson with Tesslan (left) and new pup Mymlan

EDUCATIONAL FILM



Korie during a seizure

PCFCE members Roy & Kathy Dvorak made an educational film of their standard Schnauzer Korie and how they coped with her seizures. It is not easy watching but the film is relevant and very helpful.

Korie was badly affected by epilepsy and her dedicated owners wanted to help others gain from their experiences.

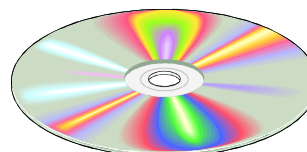
Roy and Kathie kindly gave permission for us to reproduce their film and we were able to make it available on video to members who could not access it via the Dvorak website on the Internet.

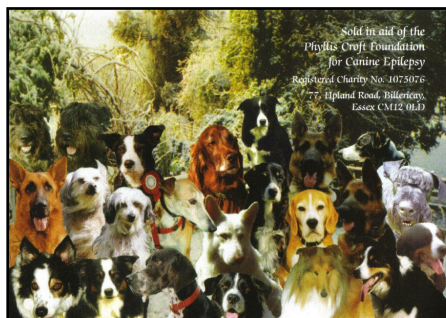
Members can still access the film on the Internet but if anyone would like their own copy we can supply it on disk.

The disk is free, although we do ask for £0.50p to cover postage and packing as it has to go as a large letter these days.

To order your copy, contact Mandy Cliffe on 01296 715 829.

We could of course reproduce our video copies but to get it down to the previous low price of £4.00 we would need to order 30 copies. Let us know if this is what you would like us to do.





SECRETARY'S SAY

Once again Pat Trickey did a superb job with the Christmas cards and within a few days of mailing the forms she was inundated with orders. I think everyone agrees the smaller size is far better and the best card to date. The scanning and format of the card was done professionally this year resulting in higher printing costs but thanks to the volume of sales we made a modest profit. I must also thank you for the generous donations received with orders.

Although feeling very poorly, Pat insisted on organising the design and sales of the cards. We owe her a great deal.

As you will now know, Pat has been diagnosed with bowel cancer. She has had extensive scans and underwent an operation which left her feeling very weak. Pat is adopting a very positive attitude and we shall all be thinking of her. We have sent flowers wishing her a full recovery but I am sure she would appreciate hearing from her friends.

Her address is: Colydene, Station Road, Colyton, Devon. EX24 6HB.

2006 has not been a good year and I, for one, will be glad to see the back of it! However, there is some good news. Clare will be presenting Jill with a brother in the March. Obviously, Clare will be giving all her time to caring for her

new baby and as her lecture is such an integral part of our AGM, we shall not be able to arrange a date before September.

New Acting Treasurer

At a recent Committee Meeting John Cliffe was co-opted onto the Committee. He will be taking on the responsibility of our Acting Treasurer from January 1st. Obviously, John's appointment will have to be approved by our members and also the re-election of the rest of the Committee. It was decided that we would incorporate a form for members' to give approval or otherwise in the renewal notices. This means we can delay the next AGM until Clare is available.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding throughout this difficult year. May we all have a happier, healthier and more peaceful 2007.

EPILEPSY IN THE SHEEPDOG

Sheepdog breeder Hilary Jones wrote about her devastating experiences with epilepsy in the May /June 2006 edition of the International Sheepdog News.

First one of her bitches, Veil, developed epilepsy at the age of 3. It was diagnosed as a tumour of the optic nerve.

Sadly, diagnosis is not an

exact science and later Briar, an aunt of Veil, had a bad fit. The devastating thing is that she was 8 years old and had had a prolific breeding career. Since then, two of Briar's pups have started fitting, as well as one of her granddaughters sired by Briar's son Brat. All these dogs have subsequently been put to sleep. Hilary's response was unequivocal:

"Having to withdraw Brat from stud was a blow as he had tested DNA clear for CEA (Collie Eye Anomaly) and had superb hips. However, I think epilepsy is a far greater misery for both dog and owner than most afflictions."

Hilary now feels *"that this hidden/taboo subject needs airing and that the Society (International Sheepdog Society) should open a register that those of us who are willing could use to record details of any dog with primary epilepsy."*

Both Veil and Briar had lines in their pedigree to the same well known champion stud. Obviously a popular stud can have a much greater influence on a particular breed than any single bitch. When this stud later proves a carrier of a genetic disease, the effects can be devastating as has been demonstrated in breeds such as the GSD.

Any breed can be affected but I wonder what proportion of people will react as responsibly as Hilary? You have to have lived with epilepsy to know how awful it can be. On the other hand, we have to do more to make people aware of what can be done to support the owners of dogs with epilepsy and to help their dogs to live with the condition.

With many thanks to Bodil Enoksson for sending this article to me. **Ed**

PADDY'S STORY – THE FINAL CHAPTER

By David Wales



Many of the longer standing members will remember Paddy Wales, owned by Cheryl and David Wales, who featured in many PCFCE articles and presentations over the years. It is with great sadness therefore that I have to report that Paddy was put to sleep last September after his condition worsened over a number of episodes.

David Wales recalls the contribution Paddy made to the PCFCE over the years:

I remember Paddy's first fit as if it was yesterday even though it was actually 8 years ago. He was just 2 years and 8 months old. It's a haunting experience and one that never leaves you. Paddy had Idiopathic Epilepsy (also known as primary epilepsy), which basically means it has no known cause. Paddy's seizures (he had clusters) changed pattern many times over the years and the number of drug combinations was varied. At one point, Paddy was the only dog on one particular drug in the whole of the country. Sadly, with his condition and recovery worsening, we did the kindest thing for Paddy by putting him to sleep. He was 10 and half years old. In the early years, the PCFCE

provided Cheryl and I with invaluable practical help and support, reassurance and lots of information on the condition. This helped us to come to terms with Paddy's epilepsy and become more informed. In turn, Paddy did his bit to raise the awareness of the PCFCE.

One of the most important things he did was to feature in the PCFCE's submission to the Independent Review of Dispensing. The review was set up to look at all aspects of the veterinary prescription system. Through Paddy's story, the PCFCE were able to put their member's views forward in an attempt to influence the outcome of the review. In some small way, I would like to think that we achieved what we set out to do.

Cheryl and I were very fortunate in that we were able to consult Clare Rusbridge, one of the veterinary advisers to the PCFCE, during Paddy's lifetime. Without Clare's intervention, we have no doubt that Paddy's life would have been cut short. Paddy featured in many of Clare's talks on epilepsy to veterinary professionals, breeders and at our own AGM's. His picture would pop up from time to time although he never made a personal appearance. I also used Paddy's story to highlight the condition and the valuable work of the PCFCE.

We were also able to use Paddy's experiences to raise awareness, through **BRAINWAVE**, of amongst other things the drug Baytril that Paddy had an adverse reaction to. Paddy's experiences not only informed members but

also veterinary professionals alike.

Paddy was able to live a normal, happy life for many years. We were fortunate that we had access to excellent veterinary care in the form of Clare Rusbridge and the team at Stone Lion Veterinary Centre, Wimbledon and the support of the PCFCE. We couldn't have managed without them!

Right up to the end, Paddy's story was never far from the limelight. Just a few months before Paddy was put to sleep, Clare Rusbridge had invited Cheryl and Paddy to be part of a BBC Radio 4's 'Today' programme on canine epilepsy. Unfortunately, the interview was cancelled for technical reasons just before it was due to take place.

We intend to stay members of the PCFCE and continue to support them as best we can. This article, the last in Paddy's story, is a fitting tribute to a wonderful, loving dog.

I know from personal experience that no dog could have been better cared for. Cheryl and David went through so much for Paddy's sake, especially in coping with cluster seizures and emergency hospital admissions. We will always be grateful for their staunch and continuing support of the PCFCE. ED



Buddy May

IN MEMORIAM

Misty Blue

**31 March 1994 –
28 October 2006**



It is with great sadness that I write to say my gentle and loving German Shepherd, Misty Blue, passed away peacefully and unexpectedly in her sleep. She was diagnosed with epilepsy when she was only 16 months old and I am pleased to say she managed to reach a good age of 12 years. She had an average of 1 or 2 fits each month, controlled in part by her many daily doses of tablets. Sometimes her fits would "disappear" for a while, which was great, but they always seemed to return a little worse than before.

During the 10 months prior to her death I can recall her only having one fit. She was getting older, like us all!!, but was not suffering any other ill health, so it was such a shock when she went to sleep as usual guarding the front door and did not wake again. I miss her so very much. Life is empty without her by my side. I have found some comfort in the poem "Rainbow Bridge" by an unknown author. I hope the idea will bring comfort to other owners in the hope that one

Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

day their pets will be waiting for them as I hope my special Misty Blue is waiting there for me.

Laurian Wilson, Woking

We are sorry to hear of the loss of:

Danny Le Brocq

Pauline Le Brocq wrote: *Our lovely German Shepherd Danny was put to sleep last week. It was so sad. If only the drugs would stop the fits but they didn't. We tried; Clare tried; we loved him; he was such a poppet and everything a happy dog should be except he was unfortunate to have epilepsy.*

It was not fair on him; he

loved his life and we gave him all the care he needed".

Pauline told me that Danny was taking phenobarbitone, potassium bromide and the trial drug keppra. I missed this tribute from our last issue – so sorry Pauline – **ED**

Tess Whitworth

Pauline wrote to say she had lost Border Collie Tess. However, she did not feel able to write herself, as she could not come to terms with losing her brave dog yet.

Paddy Alderman

Irene Alderman wrote to say that Border Collie Paddy had been put to sleep having been through a cluster of 34 fits.

Statement of Accounts for year ended 31st December 2005

INCOME

Membership	£2642.20	Honorarium	250.00
Donations	2445.05	AGM expenses	526.26
Books	349.00	W&B expenses	166.38
AGM	159.00	Animal Welfare Course	125.00
Xmas cards	385.00	Vet Seminar expenses	<u>129.83</u>
Wag & Bone Show	175.72	Total	£4741.99
Total	£6155.97		

EXPENDITURE

		Excess of Income over Expenditure	£1413.98
		B/F from 31.12.04	<u>7585.24</u>
		Total	£8999.22
Printing	£1145.55		
Postages	584.18	Current Account balance	
BT Telephone	495.84	@ 31.12.05	
Stationery	254.88	Reserve Account balance	£8999.22
Laptop	759.59	@ 31.12.05	<u>9055.40</u>
Books	304.48	Total	£18054.62

Molly Kelly

17 May 2002 – 15 Mar 2006

Beverley Kelly wrote last year to tell us that her Bearded Collie Molly had died.

Molly was taken ill with pancreatitis and died in the early hours of the following morning in the middle of a massive and unstoppable fit.

While being treated for pancreatitis, caused we believe by her epilepsy medication, some of the medication was withdrawn as she could have nothing orally. Some were given intravenously, but not all were available that way. The vets were faced with the choice of which to treat and considered the pancreatitis more important.

I called the vet on Tuesday evening and they said she was comfortable. They then rang me at 03.30 to say she had passed. When I went to collect her, the nurse explained that she had been OK but then had gone into toxic shock and had

the fatal fit.

The vet rang me later to explain that her little body could not deal with the shock to her system of the pancreatitis on top of everything else she had gone through.

I'm comforted by the fact that she did not suffer overly and that her illness was short.

We have had her cremated and she now rests in the sunniest spot in the garden where she is surrounded by flowers named for her – Allium Molly.

I am bereft. The house is too empty and far too quiet. No more manic Mollie chasing around after her ball. No more long walks across the fields and most importantly, no more cuddles. My arms are empty and my heart aches. She was not with us long enough – she was only 3 years 10 months old.

Nothing can hurt her now. No more fits. No more Ataxia. No more meds. Wherever she is, she is running free, chasing

after more balls than she could ever hope to catch.

Beverley Kelly, Luton

Epilepsy is a risk factor for developing pancreatitis Clare Rusbridge wrote in issue 17:

"There is evidence to suggest that human lipid (i.e. fat) metabolism is altered by carbamazepine, phenytoin and phenobarbitone. Long term phenobarbitone therapy in dogs has been associated with development of high blood cholesterol. In addition dogs on anti-epileptic drugs have increased appetites which makes them more likely to over eat, scavenge, and steal food i.e. increasing the risk of pancreatitis".

Other factors that might cause pancreatitis include high blood fat levels, especially a specific type of fat called triglycerides, obesity, high fat diet (>20% dry matter).

If you would like me to reprint Clare's article next time, please contact Mandy Cliffe.