

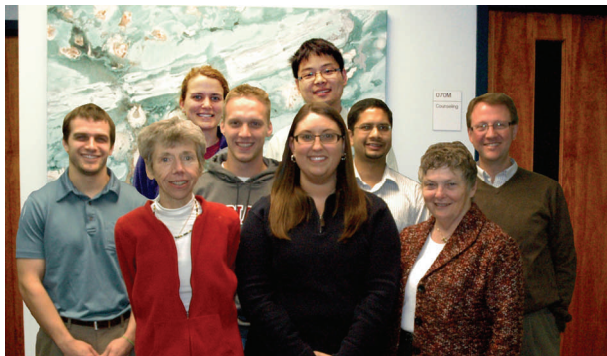
Merry Christmas



2012

.....and happy holidays to all!

I know the first question you are asking is *when will I retire?* I could have retired as early as May 2012. But, I have the best research idea I've ever had and I want to play it out. Our School just changed to a School of Public Health and I want to be part of that too. Besides, the economic outlook of this country is depressing and my "fixed" income has dropped 40%.



The 2012 lab crew.

But, I am truly excited about our research. We have been funded by the Clinical Translational Science Institute at the IU Medical Center to conduct a diabetes treatment study. The purpose of the study is to modify diabetes treatment to prevent heart disease in diabetes.....especially since 80% of the premature death in diabetes is due to heart disease. Most of the studies around the world have failed. All of these

studies believed heart disease was associated with blood sugar. Our premise is heart disease is caused by the spikes in the sugar and the fats after a meal. We chose two treatments that target both of these spikes...a medication and physical activity. Instead of looking at the sugar, we're looking directly at the artery to see how it responds to a high-fat meal and a high-sugar meal before and after treatment. Normally, an artery loses its protective mechanisms within 4-6 hours after a high-fat meal and 2-4 hours after a high-sugar meal. We believe with these treatments, the artery will not lose this protective effect. More of our research is at

<http://iub.edu/~afp/research.html>

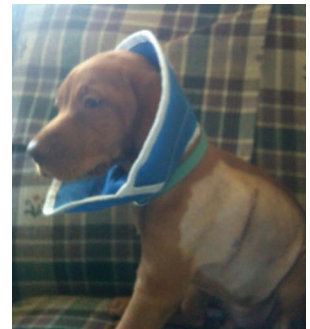


I missed sending a letter out last year. The big event last year was Dart's last litter. Four pups survived....three girls and one boy. The three girls are with great homes in Michigan, Wisconsin and New Jersey. All are in performance homes. Savvy, the girl who went to Wisconsin, has been to dog



shows and field tests. She won a Prize I in NAVHDA Natural Ability in July. Sage, the pup in Michigan has three agility titles with several blue ribbons, already. Vala, the pup in New Jersey has run and placed in field trials.

Wylie, the boy pup, didn't find a new home because he had a congenital anomaly which required heart surgery at 7 weeks old. What happened was: an artery that was supposed to disappear at birth didn't. They call it [Persistent Right Aortic Arch](#). It squashed his esophagus and trachea. When it became time to eat solid food, he couldn't keep solid food down because it got stuck at the level of this obstruction. The surgery took the pressure off his esophagus and trachea, but the damage could not be reversed. He's now my "special needs" dog. The bent trachea makes him sound like Darth Vader when he runs. He has to be fed in the



upright position so that the food will be propelled with gravity to pass the pouch in his esophagus; otherwise the food gets caught in his esophagus. When he was little he had to eat out of a waste basket. ([Click here](#) to see a great video of Wylie & Dart after feeding- when he had to stay in the trash can until the food went down). When he got too big for the waste baskets, I made a crate rack for him so that we could travel. Every meal is still pureed and eaten in the



upright position.

But his feeding limitations have not set him back. He's the most birdie dog I've ever had. Not only have we been hunting, but he's earned a Prize II in NAVHDA with his sister (see picture) and an AKC Junior Hunter title.



Savvy, Dart & Wylie



Dart had a great year in agility.

She's qualified for the AKC National Agility Championships, which will be held in March 2013. Tulsa here we come! [Here is one of her better agility runs](#).

In the meantime, I hope you all have a good Christmas or Chanukah or Yule or Festivus.

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