

Dachshund Breed Conference

29th November 2009

Health Plans



Health and Welfare Sub-Committee

- Anne Moore (Chair & KC Health Co-ordinator)
- Valerie Skinner
- Lesley McNaughton
- Judy Squires

- Others take the lead on specific issues, as needed



Purpose of the H&W Sub-committee

- To develop policy on health and welfare of Dachshunds, including the prevention of ill-health, the promotion of fit and healthy lifestyles and the reduction of health problems; and make recommendations as necessary, to the Breed Council.



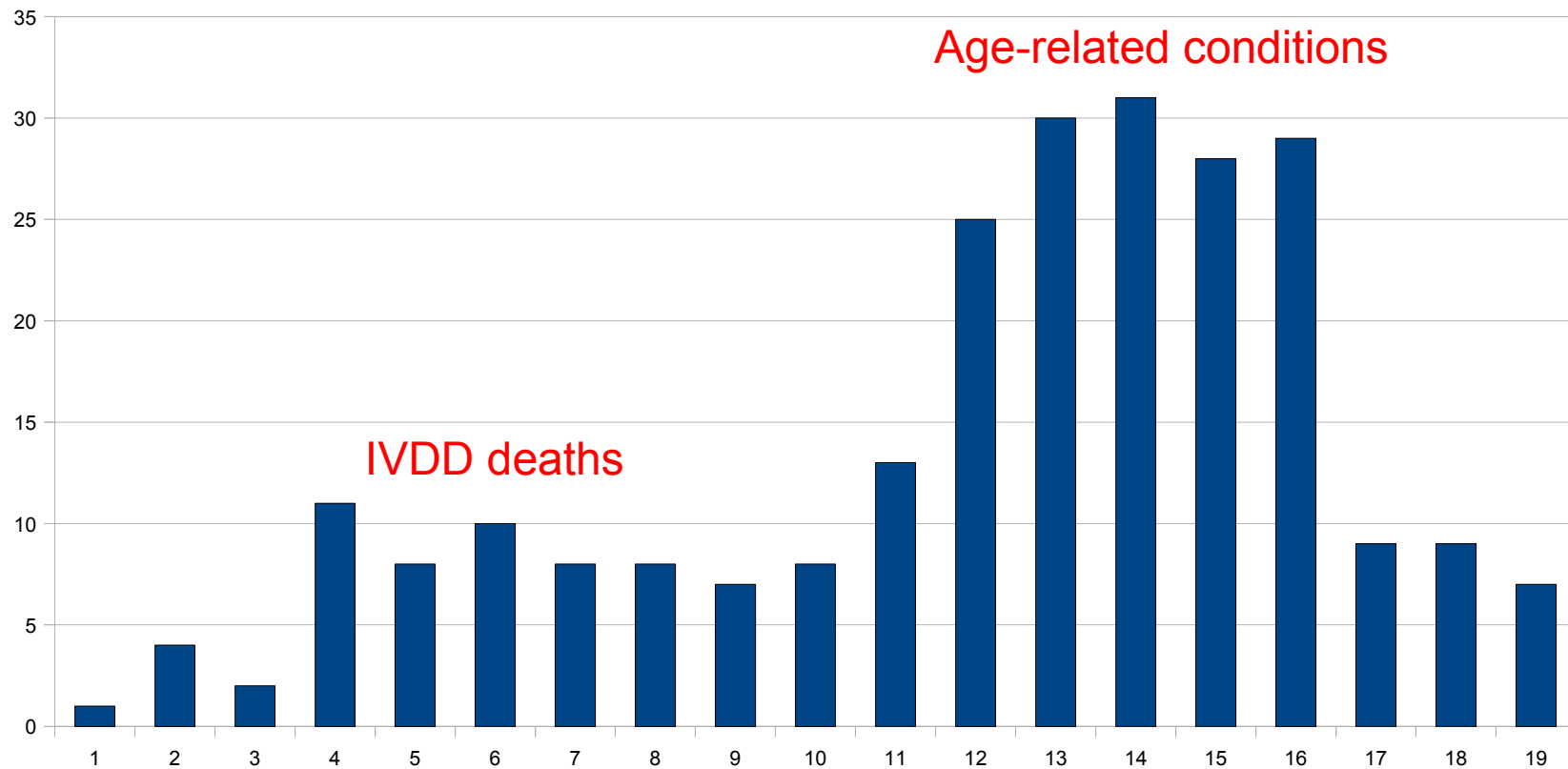
KC Breed Health Survey 2004

- 509 live dogs, 245 deaths
- 19% response rate
- Median age of death = 12 years, 8 months



Age of Death (245 dogs)

KC Health Survey 2004



Mean age of death = 11.6 years



Our current priorities

- IVDD (in all 6)
- Lafora's in MWHD
- Cord1 Retinal Degeneration in MLHD/MSHD
- Heart disease in WHD
- Monitoring:
 - Diabetes, Epilepsy



IVDD

- Dachshunds have a condition known as CHONDRODYSTROPHY - “chondro” means cartilage and “dystrophy” means disorder
- Between 1 in 4 and 1 in 5 Dachshunds will have some degree of disc related problems in their lifetimes
- The age of incidence for chondrodystrophoid breeds is highest between three and seven years
- IVDD is the most significant health issue in Dachshunds
- The latest research demonstrates an inherited component to the problem and therefore implies that it can be reduced by selective breeding



Intervertebral Disc Disease

Bill Oxley MA VetMB CertSAS MRCVS
(Resident in Orthopaedics and Spinal
Surgery at the Willows Veterinary Centre)



Lafora's Disease

- The Wirehaired Dachshund Club recently presented its proposals for implementing a UK-wide DNA screening programme for Lafora's Disease, a form of epilepsy that is believed to affect approximately 5% of Miniature Wirehaired Dachshunds.
- Further details of testing arrangements, locations and costs will follow.



Cord1 Retinal Degeneration

- 5 years into a formal DNA screening programme for MLHDs
 - Evidence of a reduction in Affected dogs
- 2 years into a DNA screening programme for MSHDs
 - Formal KC Scheme established in 2009
- Well-established relationship with researchers at the Animal Health Trust



DNA Screening and Retinal Degeneration

Dr. Cathryn Mellersh
(Animal Health Trust)
and Keiko Miyadera DVM
(University of Cambridge)



Heart Disease in WHD

- 3 years of monitoring at WHDC shows
- “On the basis of the available evidence it would appear unlikely that there is evidence of any prominent congenital cardiac disorder and that degenerative valvular disease is present at roughly the same incidence as in most small breeds”
- “Instituting any type of heart scheme is unnecessary and unlikely to reap many rewards”



Planning and Tracking Progress

	Evidence	Communication & Education	Involvement of external Stakeholders	Health Planning	Testing & Screening	Health & Welfare Outcomes
Level 5: Improving	<i>Research results are updated and published</i>	<i>Research updates are communicated, as necessary</i>	<i>Progress is reviewed formally with KC and researchers</i>	<i>Health Plan is reviewed annually (or every 2 years if "stable")</i>	<i>Clinical and/or DNA testing is mandatory for KC Registration</i>	<i>Demonstrably reduced occurrences</i>
Level 4: Quantitatively Managed	<i>Research results are published and shared among the Breed Council/ Clubs</i>	<i>Research and recommendations are communicated to vets, breeders & puppy buyers</i>	<i>KC is requested to make testing "mandatory"</i>	<i>Health Plan is reviewed annually</i>	<i>Clinical and /or DNA testing is available and used by most breeders</i>	<i>Breeders can make fully informed choices and there is some evidence of improvement</i>
Level 3: Defined	<i>Structured evidence gathering and research is in place</i>	<i>Recommended good practices are communicated to breeders and puppy buyers</i>	<i>External research groups are engaged; Funding is sought, if necessary</i>	<i>Health Plan is in place</i>	<i>Clinical testing is widely available and used by most breeders</i>	<i>Breeders can make informed choices based on clinical tests</i>
Level 2: Managed	<i>Evidence is requested from breeders & owners</i>	<i>Concerns are communicated via Breed Council/ Club newsletters & websites</i>	<i>Approaches are made to KC and potential researchers</i>	<i>Ownership is accepted by Breed Council; Lead Club(s) appointed</i>	<i>Clinical testing is initiated and used by a few breeders</i>	<i>None</i>
Level 1: Initial	<i>Anecdotal & rumours only</i>	<i>Breeders are "unaware" or "keeping it quiet"</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Breed Clubs & Council are made aware</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>



Examples of actions taken (1)

- Heart testing in WHD (at 2006/7/9 WHDC Show)
- Clinical eye testing in WHD and MWHD (at 2008 WHDC Show)
- Production of information leaflets on H&W issues (PRA, Double-Dapple, IVDD)
- Inclusion of H&W issues in breed seminars (at least 4 in the past 2 years)
- Information & articles published in Breed Club newsletters
- Information published on the Breed Council website (launched in November 2008)
- Update of an information sheet for issue at Discover Dogs (November 2008)



Examples of actions taken (2)

- Review of the Breed Standard and proposals made to the KC (October 2008)
- Worked with the KC to issue letters of advice on cord1 PRA to **everyone** who has registered a MLHD in the past five years (2009)
- Agreed a cut-off point when the KC will no longer register cord1 Affected MLHDs (@70% adoption of testing)
- Formalised cord1 testing as an official KC Scheme for MSHDs (2009)
- Agreed with the KC that, dapple-to-dapple matings will no longer be permitted (2009)
- Will be issuing an Annual Breed Health Report



DNA Testing

- “... we are relying far too much on DNA tests to bail us out of the trouble in which pedigree dogs find themselves...”
- “DNA tests appeared to offer the hope that you can fix problems without changing, fundamentally, the way we breed dogs.”
- “I like the idea of Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) because they have the potential to look at the whole dog in the context of the whole breed.”

