

# DBC NEWS

A news update from the **D**achshund **B**reed **C**ouncil

April 2009

## No news is good news?

We didn't issue Newsletters in February or March, so it's time for a brief update on what's been happening and what's planned.

Most of February and early March, up to Crufts, seemed to be dominated by the need to deal with "fact free" articles appearing in the press and on the internet. The "Size Zero Dachshunds" hype quickly spread and was widely reproduced across the internet in online media such as the LA Times and numerous internet discussion groups. Club Secretaries and Breed Council Officers spent considerable time responding to media enquiries, trying to put the facts straight. However, as with "that programme", the facts often don't merit news headlines or sensible coverage.

## The Bateson Enquiry into Dog Breeding

The Dachshund Breed Council has just submitted its response to the Bateson Enquiry. This was drafted by our Health & Welfare Sub-committee and has been reviewed by all 19 Clubs. We have answered it from the perspective of health conditions affecting Dachshunds only and have made a major emphasis on the H&W issues associated with Puppy Farmers (producing not only pedigree dogs, but also designer cross-breeds).

The questionnaire is, as suggested by several people writing in in Dog World, poorly designed. It has been suggested that, unless your responses are worded very carefully, it would be perfectly possible to arrive at

completely the wrong conclusions despite your best intentions.

We took the view that it is a cop out for any Club/Council not to submit a response just because the questionnaire might not be written the way we'd prefer. The enquiry needs well thought through responses from people (clubs and individuals) who have something sensible to say, supported by evidence.

We were able to draw on some of the evidence we had compiled for the APGAW (Parliamentary) review, which we submitted in January.

Individuals who wish to respond have until 15<sup>th</sup> May to do so. Details at [www.dogbreedinginquiry.com](http://www.dogbreedinginquiry.com)

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## cord1 in MLHD

Following unanimous agreement among the Breed Clubs in September 2008 we wrote to the KC asking them to make cord1 testing of Mini Longs mandatory and to stop the registration of “cord1 Affected” dogs.

So far, they have declined to support our request and we will be considering how best to pursue this matter.

KC responses have suggested we should be encouraging people to join the Accredited Breeder Scheme (ABS) where the use of available health screening tests is a requirement. However, we feel it is illogical to promote a two-tier system where it is apparently alright for non-ABS members to breed without regard for health screening. Equally, we find it hard to understand how ABS members who do screen for cord1 are still allowed to register “Affected” dogs.

There seems to be a huge number of articles and letters in the dog press, from many different breeds, all saying health screening should be mandatory.

Watch this space (but don't hold your breath)...

## Breed Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Breed Council takes place on May 10<sup>th</sup>, followed by its first AGM. Agenda items for the main Council meeting include:

- A final opportunity to discuss and agree the interim Breed Standard together with our plans for education to support it
- Code of Ethics – confirmation of the Dachshund-specific items added to the KC's General Code of Ethics
- Proposed amendments to Judging List Criteria for the A3, B and C Lists

- Health Plan updates for all the conditions being prioritised by the Council:

- cord1 Retinal Degeneration
- Epilepsy, including Lafora's
- Diabetes
- IVDD

- Weighing of Miniatures – update on Club and Council policy
- A review of the A2 Assessment process to improve the quality of assessments

Minutes of the meetings will be published on the Breed Council's website and we will summarise the key decisions in a Newsletter.

## The AGM Season

We are well into the AGM Season for many Breed Clubs and, with the many issues currently facing pedigree dogs and Dachshunds, these present essential opportunities for individual members to get their views across to Committees (and vice versa). All too often though, AGMs are attended only by the Committee and a very small number of other Club members.

Whether this is an indication that members are happy with the way their Club is being run, or a result of apathy, is unclear. However, if you don't take the opportunity to attend and participate, don't complain later when there's a policy change announced that you don't agree with.

The recent publicity surrounding the Cavalier Club's AGM should sound alarm bells for other Clubs. None of us want to be in the headlines, particularly over health and welfare issues.