

DBC News

April 2012



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Breed Conference April 22nd

We still have tickets available for our Breed Conference on April 22nd at Acton Trussell, near Stafford.

Learn about:

- ⤴ What you can do to help improve Dachshund health
- ⤴ Genetics for Dachshund breeders
- ⤴ Eye diseases and epilepsy

Cost: £20 per person, including refreshments and lunch

The speakers:

- ⤴ Dr. Ron James, Kennel Club
- ⤴ Hannah Stephenson, Liverpool University
- ⤴ Helen Geeson, Breed Council Health & Welfare Sub-committee
- ⤴ Philippa Robinson, KarltonIndex
- ⤴ Claudia Busse, Animal Health Trust
- ⤴ Elsa Beltran, Animal Health Trust

Download a **Booking Form** [here](#).

Lafora Disease



We are now waiting for Dr. Berge Minassian's Canadian lab to complete the analysis of the matching sets of blood and saliva samples submitted towards the end of March. The Lafora Sub-committee has met to agree the options for the next stage of the screening programme depending on the outcomes of this current work.

At the moment, we don't know what the cost would be of future tests, but we hope to be able to maintain the Carrier test cost of £80 per owner.

As soon as the Canadian work is completed, details of the next phase of the screening programme will be announced by the WHDC and through the Breed Council.

We would also like to record our thanks to the Kennel Club Charitable Trust who have just given us a second stage grant to continue to support the programme.

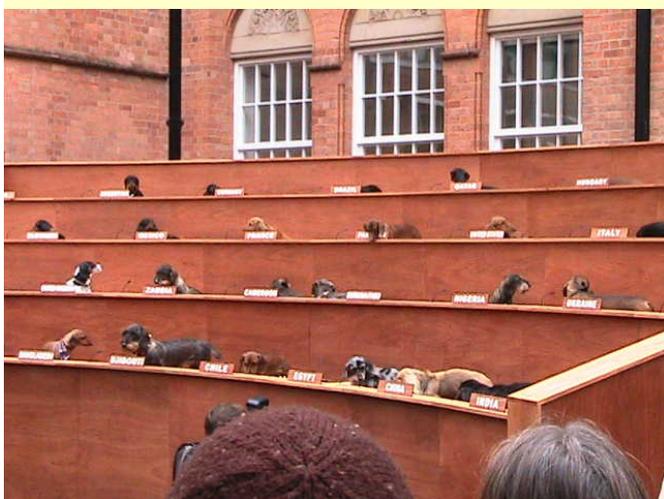
If you don't know what Lafora Disease looks like, or its impact, you can now view various video clips on the Laforadogs.org website.

Great Joint DA - donations and seminar

The Great Joint DA has once again made generous donations from its show surplus and this year has chosen the Breed Council's Health Fund and the AHT Small Animal Centre. In the past 4 years the GJDA has donated £1350 to canine charities, including £500 towards Lafora research. The Breed Council would like to express its thanks for this support.

We are also advised that the GJDA plans to run a seminar in the Autumn of 2012; date and venue to be confirmed.

Dachshund UN



Bennett Miller, an Australian artist, staged the Dachshund United Nations outside the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham on 31st March. He described it as a large-scale architectural installation and a performance work that examines the role of the UN as a risk management organisation. A scale replica of a former UN office in Geneva was constructed by Miller and this played host to a meeting of the UN's Commission on Human Rights at which the world's politicians were Dachshunds!

Originally, Bennett expected to be able to find willing Dachshund owners from around the West Midlands, but such was the interest that, on the day, there were dogs from right across England.

Bennett had previously staged the Dachshund UN in Melbourne and Perth, Australia and hopes to repeat the exercise elsewhere in the UK.

Dozens of Dachshunds took part and drew a big crowd who were amazed at the sight of so many Dachshunds in one place. This was a brilliant celebration of everything that is great about Dachshunds; they all got on with each other and made everyone smile.

There are photos and videos [here](#).

Judging the Dachshund – a Health perspective



The Breed Council's Health and Welfare Sub-committee has issued a [short guide for Dachshund judges](#) which highlights aspects of the Breed Standard where judges should be aware of potential health and welfare issues.

The conformation of the Dachshund needs to be understood in context in order to assess any risks of exaggeration. The short-leg gene is a naturally occurring modification to the genetic make-up of the dog which appeared about ten thousand years ago. Short legs particularly suited these dogs for certain types of hunting and the Dachshund breeds evolved from them.

Those of us who live with Dachshunds know that they are generally healthy, long-lived and active dogs who, despite their conformation, will happily take as much exercise as their owner is

willing to give them. As a breed community we keep the health status of the breed under constant surveillance and we are committed to taking action, on the basis of evidence, to ensure the breed's health is not compromised as a consequence of exaggeration.

The show ring should be a place where we are proud to demonstrate how fit, healthy and temperamentally sound they are and "Fit for Purpose".

[This guide for judges](#) should be read in conjunction with the Breed Standard to explain what they should expect to find when examining a healthy Dachshund in the show ring. It's very simple!

- ⤴ They should be good tempered – we don't want nervous or aggressive dogs
- ⤴ Height at the withers should be half the length of the body, measured from breastbone to rear of thigh – we don't want excessive length
- ⤴ Enough ground clearance to allow free movement – we don't want excessively deep chests or short legs

Neither the Breed Council, nor the Kennel Club expects judges to apply the knowledge or level of diagnosis that a vet would be capable of. We do expect judges to be knowledgeable about the anatomy and sound movement of the Dachshund and, as experienced dog owners, to be able to recognise potential health and welfare issues in the ring AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.

PDE2

In our March Newsletter we reported that a brief piece on the positive work being done by the Dachshund Breed Council had been omitted from the final, screened version of PDE2.

We've subsequently had an e-mail from Jemima Harrison saying the mention of Dachshund Breed Council's work on health improvement got cut late in the editing process for PDE2 due to lack of space. Look out for it in the DVD.

It's a Dachs Life! – Breed Survey 2012 – Submit your results now please!

The Breed Council's Dachs-Life 2012 Health Survey finished on 31st March, so it's time to submit your results. Click on the image link below to enter your results online. Remember, the Breed Council needs you to record data for all your healthy dogs as well as any that have had health problems over the past three months.

Welcome to the online data entry pages for Dachs-Life 2012



By submitting your results on-line you will save the Breed Council's Health and Welfare Sub-committee time for data entry and they will be able to get an initial analysis and report out sooner. All data will remain strictly confidential and the analysis on dogs will be reported completely anonymously.

Data entry will close at midnight on 15th April 2012.

On-line Data Entry Form now available:

<http://kwiksurveys.com/?u=DachsLife2012>

STOP PRESS! We have received nearly 1100 surveys already.

Two old, but still relevant, articles on attitudes to breed health...

OMERTA: The Breeders' Code of Silence. My dog's got no faults and couldn't possibly be passing on genetic disease! <http://t.co/UsXeF3cz>

If we fail to cure the Ostrich Syndrome, we are putting at risk the breed we all claim to love. Article from 1994. <http://t.co/YMnQxaMg>

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E-mail: secretary@dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

Website: <http://www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk>

Health Website: <http://www.dachshundhealth.org.uk>

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