

# DBC NEWS

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

December 2008

## Breed Health Plans

The Breed Council and Clubs received the Health Plan documentation from the Kennel Club at the end of the first week in December. We received:

- An amended Breed Standard
- A summary of health conditions reported in Dachshunds

Each Club now has to nominate a Health Coordinator and the Breed Council has to do the same. A further part of the Health Plan is to examine genetic diversity, but this will only happen after health issues have been agreed and prioritised.

## Amended Breed Standard

The Breed Council had previously submitted its proposals for the Breed Standard and, by and large, these have been accepted. The revised standard will become fully effective in January 2009 as an “interim” Breed Standard, pending further feedback and consultation through to June 2009.

### ***The changes are as follows:***

[Amendments underlined, deletions in brackets]

**General Appearance** Moderately long and low with no exaggeration, compact, well muscled body, with enough ground clearance to allow free movement. Heights at the withers should be half the length of the body, measured from breastbone to the rear of thigh. Bold, defiant carriage of head and intelligent expression.

**Characteristics** Intelligent, lively, courageous to the point of rashness, obedient. Especially suited to going to ground because of low build, very strong forequarters and forelegs. Long, strong jaw and immense power of bite and hold. Excellent nose, persevering hunter and tracker. Essential that functional build is retained to ensure working ability.

**Body** Moderately long and full muscled. [Delete ‘back level’]. Sloping shoulders, back reasonably level, blending harmoniously between withers and slightly arched loin. Loin short and strong. Breast bone strong, and so prominent that a depression appears on either side of it in front. When viewed from front, thorax full and oval; when viewed from side or above, full volumed, so allowing by its ample capacity complete development of heart and lungs. Well ribbed up, underline gradually merging into line of abdomen. Body sufficiently clear of ground to allow free movement.

**Hindquarters** Rump full, broad and strong, pliant muscles. Croup long, full, robustly muscled, only slightly sloping towards tail. Pelvis strong, set obliquely and not too short.

## In This Issue

- **Breed Health Plans**
- **Breed Standard**
- **Health Conditions**
- **A2/A3 Assessments**
- **Website**

Upper thigh set at right angles to pelvis, strong and of good length. Lower thigh short, set at right angles to upper thigh and well muscled. Legs when seen behind set well apart, straight, and parallel. [Delete - Hind dewclaws undesirable].

**Colour** All colours permitted but [delete '(except in dapples which should be evenly marked all over)'] no white permissible, save for a small patch on chest which is permitted but not desirable. The dapple pattern is expressed as lighter coloured areas contrasting with the darker base. Neither the light nor the dark colour should predominate. Double dapple (where varying amounts of white occurs all over the body in addition to the dapple pattern) is unacceptable. Nose and nails black in all colours except chocolate/tan and chocolate/dapple [delete 'where brown permitted'].

[No change to other clauses]

The Breed Council will be preparing some notes for breeders, exhibitors and judges to explain the rationale for these changes.

## Health Conditions

The KC has provided a summary of health conditions reported in Dachshunds from the 2004 Health Survey, from Agria Pet Insurance claims data and from a search of the published scientific literature. While the lists include some fairly obscure conditions that many owners will not have come across, they fail to include Retinal Degeneration (cord1 PRA) in MSHD and MLHD.

Breed Clubs have to provide the KC with their views on the priority conditions for each variety by 30<sup>th</sup> December.

The conditions currently prioritised by the Breed Council are:

- Retinal Degeneration (PRA)
- IVDD (Back Disease)

- Epilepsy (including Lafora's in MW)
- Diabetes
- Heart Disease

Anyone wishing to highlight other health priorities should speak with one of the Health & Welfare Sub-committee ASAP (Anne Moore, Lesley McNaughton, Val Skinner, Judy Squires).

## A2/A3 Assessments

The Breed Council will be reviewing the Clubs' approach to assessments for the A3 and A2 Lists at its next meeting (May).

In the meantime anyone wishing to be assessed should continue to follow the existing system:

- Contact any of the Breed Club secretaries and ask that Club to sponsor your assessments (you will need to supply a current CV)
- The sponsoring Club will make arrangements for you to be assessed, either at a show where you are judging, or at a Seminar/Mock Class
- The sponsoring Club can also arrange for you to sit the written paper

The Breed Council does not currently arrange assessments.

We have an opportunity to arrange either an educational event or assessments in conjunction with the Dachshund Club's Open Show on 28 Feb. 2009. The Dachshund Club has kindly offered the spare space in the Sports Connexion Hall to the Breed Council.

Please e-mail:

[secretary@dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk](mailto:secretary@dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk) if you have some ideas on what you would like us to organise.

## Website

[www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk](http://www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk)