

Dachshund Breed Council Newsletter



This month...

Epilepsy Webinar - Thermal Imaging Research - Fundraising - Dogs in motion - Distichiasis Screening - Survey: Open Shows - IVDD DNA research - On the Internet

Canine Epilepsy Webinar

In a recent webinar which is now available to view online, Neurology Specialist Dr Laurent Garosi explained what epilepsy is and what it isn't! He showed case videos to illustrate some conditions that can be confused with epilepsy. Dr Garosi discussed the treatment of epilepsy in dogs. He explained when medical treatment should be started and what to do if fits aren't being controlled. He also discussed the various drugs that are available for use in dogs, including the newly approved Pexion which is claimed to have fewer side-effects than other treatments.

Our Dachs-Life 2012 health survey identified epilepsy in Mini Long Dachshunds as being a statistically significant issue with a prevalence of 4%, compared with the other 5 varieties.

Watch the [webinar here](#).

Download the 2012 Breed Conference [AHT presentation on epilepsy here](#).

If you have a dog that has been diagnosed with epilepsy, please [submit a report to our Health Database here](#).

You can also [sign-up to watch their next webinar](#) "Risky discs" which is about back disease.

Thermal Imaging of Dachshund backs

There will be a further opportunity for owners of Smooth and Mini Smooth Dachshunds to take part in our Thermal Imaging research programme. Anna Schumann will be attending the Southern Dachshund Association's Open Show at Pirbright, near Guildford, on 16th June.

This is purely for research purposes and is not a "test". The imaging is free of charge and we are particularly keen to see any dogs whose backs were imaged in January, to identify any changes.

You can download a Registration Form [here](#).

June

2013

If you have been sent a copy of this, but aren't on our mailing list, please click the image link below.



497 people have signed-up on-line to receive our Newsletter.

Fundraising for Health Projects

Over the past few years it has become increasingly obvious that, as a breed, we need to have access to funds to support and enable our health improvement plans. In 2010, the Wirehaired Dachshund Club generously subsidised the Lafora Screening programme so that MWHD breeders could take advantage of the available test. In 2011 we approached all the Breed Clubs, the Wirehaired Dachshund Trust and the Kennel Club Charitable Trust for donations to support the roll-out of a UK Lafora Screening Programme. Collectively, they have committed over £35,000 to this programme and we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

The Breed Council agreed to set up its own Health Fund at its October 2011 Council meeting and made an initial donation of £500 from its reserves. Thanks to the Dachshund Club and the generosity of exhibitors at their show in November 2011, we added a further £460 to the newly established fund. The Dachshund Club has continued to support the Fund by organising its "Loose Change Challenge" in 2012-13.

We were also delighted when Helga Klausgraber raised £320 with "[Lottie's walk for life](#)" in March 2013, which also raised £680 for the AHT. Last month's [Newsletter](#) reported on some further Lafora fundraising, by MW owner Pat Debley.

In 2012 the Fund made donations to the Dick White Charitable Foundation for their support in running a Health Seminar and to the WHDC Lafora Research Fund. By April 2013, the Health Fund had a balance of £2,200 and during 2013 expects to make donations towards two areas of research:

- Distichiasis in Miniature Longhaired Dachshunds, in conjunction with the AHT and Professor Sheila Cripsin
- Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone Disease), which is known to have a high prevalence in some European countries

These two programmes are designed to investigate the prevalence of these two conditions in UK Dachshunds.

We know that research into Back Disease (IVDD) to be conducted by the Animal Health Trust will require significant funding – possibly up to £20,000. So, having our own Health Fund will open up more opportunities for Dachshund owners to support the work of the Breed Council and help us target our resources in line with our Health Improvement Plans.

If you would like to raise funds for us, or send a donation, cheques should be made payable to:

"Dachshund Breed Council Health Fund"

Please send all donations to the Treasurer: Mrs Katherine Herrington, 5 Linden Close, Huntington, York YO32 9RQ.

If you wish to have your donation directed towards a particular area of our work, please let us know that as well.

Thank you for supporting the Dachshund Breed Council.

9 Check-points for dogs in motion

The US [Dachshund History Project](#) regularly adds new articles and photographs and in its "Education" Section has reproduced an article from "The American Dachshund" (1969) with these 9 points on movement:

Rule 1: When observing the dog from the side view, look for up and down motion at the withers.

Rule 2: Look for bouncing hair on long-coated breeds.

Rule 3: Look for reach when observing the side view.

Rule 4: Look for padding (not paddling).

Rule 5: Look for a dip in the back (a depression immediately behind the shoulder blades).

Rule 6: When the dog is coming straight on, look for paddling: i.e. similar to that of a canoe paddle in motion.

Rule 7: When the dog is coming straight on, look for the centre of the shoulder blade moving up and down, or for a rolling motion.

Rule 8: If the handler is moving his dog on a tight lead or hustling him along make him use a loose lead with the dog going at a moderate trot.

Rule 9: When the dog is moving away, look for straightness of motion and cowhocks.

Read the full article at the [Dachshund History Project](#).

There's probably also a Rule 0 which some judges need to read first: "If a dog is limping, it is lame". It's odd how this is always visible from the ringside, but seems to elude many judges!

Free Distichiasis Screening for MLHDs at Houndshow 2013

Free Distichiasis examinations of Miniature Longhaired Dachshunds will be available at the Houndshow on August 3rd, organised by the Miniature Dachshund Club.

The background to this research project, supported by the Breed Council, is [here](#).

Please download and complete a Distichiasis Form for each of your dogs and bring this to the show, along with each dog's REGISTRATION DOCUMENT and two copies of its PEDIGREE.

For more information contact Judy Squires or Dawn Norton.

DNA Research into Back Disease

The Breed Council's IVDD research project with the Animal Health Trust now needs to collect DNA samples from "Affected" dogs.

We are looking for dogs of any variety in the age range 4-8 that have undergone back surgery for herniated discs in the lumbar spine.

If you have a Dachshund who could help in this research, please contact Gina Salisbury who is coordinating the sample collection on behalf of the Health Subcommittee. E-mail: gina.salisbury@btinternet.com Tel: 01425 476826

The research will follow-up on work already done in Scandinavia which has identified an area of Chromosome 12 which appears to correlate with disc calcifications. It may therefore be possible to use this as a risk indicator.

In order to help cover costs, we will be asking for a donation of £10 to cover the cost of swab kits from anyone able to contribute an "Affected" sample.

Survey: The future of Open Shows

The Kennel Club is supporting a project, run by the Dog Union, investigating the future of Open Shows and how these shows can be supported to ensure their continued success.

The Dog Union is conducting a survey which seeks to gather the views of as many exhibitors as possible, through a survey on their website at www.dogunion.org.uk, and the Kennel Club is encouraging exhibitors to take a few moments to have their say.

On the internet

[Dog years: the Calculator](#)

[The genetics of canine coat colour](#)

[Spayed or neutered dogs live longer](#)

[DNA testing is not health testing: there is no DNA test for "stupid"](#)

www.dachshundhealth.org.uk

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