

DBC NEWS

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

May 2009

Breed Council Update

The Dachshund Breed Council met on 10th May for a Council meeting and its first AGM. Sixteen of the nineteen member Clubs were present, with apologies received from two others.

At the AGM, Katherine Herrington was re-elected as Treasurer and Lovaine Coxon was re-elected as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Ian Seath and Secretary Lesley Brown were not due for re-election this year.

The following are the main points arising from the Council meeting.

Breed Conference

Following the recent revisions to the Breed Standard it was agreed that a Breed Conference will be held to help communicate the changes and current breed health priorities.

The conference will review the changes to the Breed Standard and its impact on breeders and judges. We would particularly like to encourage anyone who awards CCs in Dachshunds to attend this essential event. But, it is equally important that anyone with an interest in breeding or exhibiting Dachshunds should attend.

The conference will take place on November 29th at the KC venue at Stoneleigh. Contact the BC Secretary to reserve a place.

Health and Welfare

The majority of the Council meeting time was devoted to health and welfare matters, with updates on the issues prioritised in our Health

Plan submitted to the KC in December 2008. the key points on each condition are summarised here.

PRA cord1 in MLHDs

The Animal Health Trust provided its latest report which includes the announcement that the KC Charitable Trust is funding research into the causes of the variability in onset of Retinal Degeneration. We hope this will also be of benefit in understanding the condition in MSHDs.

Currently, it is estimated that only 15% of MLHD puppies registered at the KC are from cord1 tested parents. Since the BC meeting we have met with the KC to discuss ways to increase the awareness of the cord1 test among the large number of breeders who are not Breed Club members.

PRA cord1 in MSHDs

The Smooth-haired Dachshund Club proposed that we should ask the KC to make cord1 testing a “formal” scheme and bring it into line with that for MLHDs. This proposal was supported unanimously by all Clubs present and a request has now been made to the KC.

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Lafora's (Epilepsy) in MWHDS

The WHDC will be contacting owners of MWHDS via its newsletter with a view to setting up a screening programme for Lafora's Disease now that the gene has been identified and a test fully developed. If breeders make use of the test there is a clear route to eradicating this distressing condition by preventing any more "Affected" puppies being bred.

Epilepsy in WHDs

A small number of cases of epilepsy in WHD have been reported to the WHDC. Discussions have been held with several research groups but WHDs are not on their current list of priority breeds. We hope to be able to benefit from these research programmes but, at the moment, no specific WHD research is planned.

Diabetes in SHDs

As with Epilepsy mentioned above, we have insufficient evidence of a problem to persuade any of the current research programmes to include SHDs in their work.

Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)

The latest scientific evidence from Scandinavia linking calcification of discs with Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD) was reviewed. It was agreed to amend advice to breeders based on the evidence that this condition is inherited. On the basis of evidence that IVDD (back problems) have an inherited component breeders should consider carefully before breeding from dogs where there is a strong family history of problems (i.e. more than occasional cases caused by obvious trauma).

The effectiveness of the recently introduced Danish X-ray screening programme will also be monitored to see what impact it has on reducing the incidence of back problems.

Weighing of Miniature Dachshunds

The Dachshund Breed Council supports the right of Judges to weigh all Miniature Dachshunds should they so choose and reminds them of their responsibility to use the powers given to them by the KC to act on any health and welfare issues.

Judging List Criteria

B List criteria were amended to require five Stewarding appointments (previously two).

It was also agreed that anyone achieving a Credit on the KC Judges Development Programme would automatically be placed on the B List (Non-specialist).

A2/A3 Assessment Process

The current requirement for three Assessments in order to progress to the A2 or A3 Lists was amended slightly. In future, at least one assessment will need to be completed successfully at either a Seminar, or a "Mock Class". It will no longer be possible to have three assessments carried out at shows. The Clubs felt strongly that the additional rigour associated with a seminar or mock class assessment where assessors also get their hands on the dogs added invaluable quality assurance to the whole process.

Anyone wishing to have an assessment should continue to request one of the Breed Clubs to "sponsor" them and arrange the necessary assessments. The Breed Council does not arrange assessments or provide assessors.

Education and Training

A sub-committee was established to update the Breed Council's available educational resources and to develop proposals for a judges mentoring scheme.

Such a scheme has previously been operated by the Dachshund Club and the Council believed this would be a helpful way to provide support to aspiring judges.