

Dachshund Breed Council Newsletter



This month...

Lafora Testing – Breed Council AGM – Lafora Fundraising – Mentoring Scheme – Free Distichiasis Screening – IVDD Project – Dachshunds doing good - On the Internet

Lafora Test arrangements announced



**Lafora
Disease**

The WHDC announced the arrangements for the next round of Lafora screening following confirmation from the Canadian Lab that the full test to identify Clear, Carrier and affected dogs can now be offered.

The news from Canada came on the same day as more than 40 dogs participated in a screening session in the Midlands which means the owners of these dogs can now opt to have the full test if they prefer, rather than the previous Affected/Not-affected one.

The Lafora Sub-committee is happy to answer any questions about the test, but asks that you should read the full [announcement on the WHDC website](#) first.

There are funds still available to help subsidise the cost of the test, but the full cost is significantly higher at £225/dog than for previous tests. Clearly, this means that the number of tests that can have a subsidy will be lower, but it is still hoped that a further 200 dogs can receive subsidised tests. It is disappointing to hear that some owners are asking for subsidised tests for dogs that have already received a definitive result and others are asking to substitute different dogs for a full test and expecting these to be subsidised as well. The policy on eligibility for a subsidy is stated in the [WHDC announcement](#) and owners asking for a “special case” to be made for them would simply be reducing the subsidy available for everyone else and reducing the number of dogs to whom a subsidy can be offered.

Please contact Sue Holt (Susan.Holt@talktalk.net) or Nora Price (laforatesting@mypostoffice.co.uk) to book a place on the next screening day which is planned for 10th July.

An updated [Lafora Factsheet](#) is now available, together with a revised [FAQ list](#).

Breed Council Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Breed Council took place after the Council meeting on 21st April.. Lesley Brown was re-elected as Secretary for a further three year term.

The Treasurer presented the accounts and reported a current balance of £2,222 in the Health Fund. Council members expressed their thanks to everyone who has donated so generously over the past year.

The Minutes of Council meetings are available on the [website](#).

**May
2013**

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



481 people have [signed-up on-line](#) to receive our Newsletter.

Lafora Fundraising

Supporters and owners of dogs affected by Lafora have been busy raising funds and have raised over £800 which will be split equally between research into the condition by the Canadian team and the Dachshund Breed Council's Health Fund.



Contributions have come both from cash donations sent as a thank you for information and support, and from selling delightful hand-knitted scarves knitted by Pat Debley and a good friend. Scarves have been sold via Vets treating the disease, www.laforadogs.org.uk, the Dachshund Forum and various other social networking sites. One of Pat's three dogs was diagnosed with Lafora several years ago and Pat has worked hard to keep the impact of the condition to a minimum, although she has had

to live with seeing her dog gradually deteriorating, and she and her husband have to plan with military precision every time they leave the house as Daisy is now upset by any change in routine. In the last couple of months Pat had two very bad pieces of news and she has written a moving article for the Laforadogs website.

Grateful thanks go to Pat, Gill and all their fund-raisers.

The Lafora Sub-committee has agreed that Test Forms will now include an invitation to add a donation of £10.00 or more to a new fund being set up by the Laforadogs group, raising money towards providing support for owners of affected dogs. Any donors can opt to have their name/kennel name enrolled on a 'Lafora Pioneers' roll of honour on the Laforadogs website which will be linked to the WHDC database and other websites.

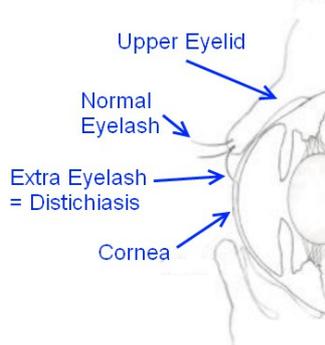
Could you be a Dachshund Breed Mentor?

The [Mentoring Scheme](#) has been in existence for a number of years and has been revised to provide even more benefit to individuals who choose to be mentored. The scheme is entirely voluntary, however, Mentees who show particular promise will be highlighted on the Breed Council Judging List and are more likely to be asked to judge at Breed Club Open Shows.

Helen Geeson coordinates the scheme on behalf of the Breed Council and would particularly like to hear from people who feel they could contribute as Mentors. Please e-mail helen@abydachs.co.uk

Free Distichiasis Screening at Houndshow 2013

Distichiasis



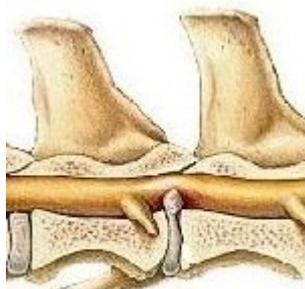
Free Distichiasis examinations of Miniature Longhaired Dachshunds will be available at the Houndshow on August 3rd, organised by the Miniature Dachshund Club.

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



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 awaiting a brief project summary from the AHT and a sample submission form. As soon as these are available, we will announce further details.

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

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.

We will need to raise significant funding for this study, so all donations to our [Health Fund](#) will be gratefully received and we will be asking for a donation of £10 to cover the cost of swab kits from anyone able to contribute an "Affected" sample.

Dachshunds doing good



About 140 Dachshunds and their owners raised nearly £3000 for the Last Chance Animal Rescue by turning out for a walk in Painshill Park, Surrey on April 27th.

The [Giant Dachshund Walk](#) was organised by Mini Wire owner Anna Richardson who managed to get some great sponsorship and prizes from [Husse](#) and [Doggy Bags Bakery](#).

Gill Key and Emma Newman, our two Pet Advisors on the Health Sub-committee, were there and Gill was busy updating Mini Wire owners on the latest Lafora screening news.

On the internet

[It's what's up front that counts](#) - Patricia Trotter on front construction and gait

[The perils of fault judging](#) – Dan Harrison

[Common skin problems in dogs](#) – slideshow

[Why large breeds of dog age more quickly and die younger](#)

www.dachshundhealth.org.uk www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

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