

DBC News

November 2011

Dachshund Breed Council



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It's a Dachs Life! – Breed Survey 2012

Please help us find out how healthy and long-lived your Dachshunds are.

In just over a month it will be time start recording the health of your Dachshund(s) for our 2012 Breed Health Survey. Dachs-Life 2012 goes live on January 1st 2012 and runs until 31st March 2012.

What we need Dachshund owners to do

It's very simple! For each of your Dachshunds, we need you to record on a Survey Form any health problems they currently have and any they develop over a three month period (January to March 2012). These should be conditions that have been diagnosed by your Veterinary Surgeon. If your Dachshund is unfortunate enough to die in that period, we'd like to know what the cause was (even if it was just "old age"). We also need you to submit Forms for all your healthy dogs.

What will happen to the survey data?

At the end of the three month survey period, post or e-mail your survey form (one for each Dachshund you own) to us and we will begin the analysis of the data. We are asking you to include the KC Registered name of each Dachshund, but all data will be treated in the strictest confidence and no names of owners, or dogs' details will ever be published. By including your Dachshund's name, we will be able to carry out analysis of pedigrees and, if necessary, come back to you for further information.

Once we have analysed the data, we will publish a full report of our findings and conclusions. The Breed Council will be able to use this data to help focus its Health Plans over the next few years.

Roger Sainsbury BVM&S, MRCVS is Chairman of the Breed Council's Health and Welfare Subcommittee. He said: *"The 2004 Kennel Club Breed Health Survey and our current online survey tool are very useful sources of health data, but with knowledge of the population that the dogs in these surveys come from, the data goes into a different league. This is why we are asking for information on all healthy Dachshunds too – this will allow us to see just how common these conditions really are."*

Download the Survey [here](#).

Survey Forms will also be available at many Breed Club Shows early in the New Year and in Club Newsletters.

Lafora Disease Screening – update from Centogene

Centogene reported at the end of October that they would be conducting further laboratory work in November to refine the Lafora screening test. That development work is underway but we are not yet able to make an announcement on the success of that work.

We have been advised that the trial work should be completed by 10th December and as soon as we have any news, we will let everyone know the outcome. Please bear with us.

PRA cord1 in Mini Wire Dachshunds

The latest KC Breed Record Supplement lists the cord1 DNA test results of Mini Wire Dachshunds and all the results are available on the KC's website [here](#).

The lists show 96 cord1 Clear MWHDs, 16 Carriers and 2 Affected dogs. The cord1 research programme conducted in 2010 found the mutation in 20% of MWHDs and just under 3% were "Affected".

Testing for the cord1 mutation became a **Requirement** under the KC's Assured Breeder Scheme on July 1st 2011, but members have six months grace to come into line with this requirement (i.e. until 1st January 2012). The Requirement was announced on the Breed Council's Health website [here](#).

Testing for the cord1 PRA mutation is now an **ABS Requirement** in all three varieties of Miniature Dachshund.

Health Fund

Thanks to the Dachshund Club and the generosity of exhibitors at their show on Saturday 19th November 2011, we have now added a further £460 to the newly established Breed Council Health Fund. A number of Dachshund models were donated to the Dachshund Club and these were auctioned at the show. We are very grateful to the Dachshund Club for their support and to Jeff Crawford, in particular, who managed the auction.

The Breed Council agreed to set up the Health Fund at its October 2011 Council meeting and made an initial donation of £500 from its reserves. The fund will be used to support breed health improvement projects such as the research programme for a DNA test for back disease.

We hope to be able to offer an online "Donation" facility via our websites but, in the meantime, any cheques (payable to Dachshund Breed Council - Health Fund) can be sent to the Treasurer: Mrs K Herrington, 5 Linden Close, Huntington, York YO3 9RQ.

Breed Seminar and A2 Assessment

The East Yorkshire and West Riding Clubs will jointly be hosting a Breed Seminar and A2 Assessment day on 5th May 2012 in Selby, N. Yorkshire. The speaker at the seminar will be Valerie Skinner (Ritterburg Wires), who will explain the current Breed Standard, conformation and movement, and judges' responsibilities in relation to health and welfare.

The Breed Council's written Assessment Paper can also be taken during the day and a "Pass" is one of the requirements for inclusion on the A2 or A3 Judging Lists.

For those people who have already judged 150 Dachshunds, there will be an opportunity to take an A2/A3 Assessment. This involves judging a "mock class" of Dachshunds and giving a verbal critique to the Assessors who will have already assessed the dogs. Candidates are also required to submit a written critique of the class placings. A "Pass" in the mock class will count as one of the three successful assessments needed for an A2/A3 application.

Anyone who wishes to attend the seminar and/or take the assessment should contact Katherine Herrington for further details. Tel: 01904 761903 or e-mail katherine.herrington@yahoo.co.uk

Information for prospective Dachshund owners

If you've visited our [website](#) recently, you may have noticed we've added two new sections with information for prospective Dachshund owners: [Buying a Dachshund](#) and [Owning a Dachshund](#).

In the "Buying" section there is information on:

- An introduction to Dachshunds (coats, colours, temperaments, health)

- Are you ready for a Dachshund puppy? (checklist for potential owners)
- How to find a responsible breeder (questions to ask and be asked)
- Buying a puppy (what to look for, paperwork and support)
- Buying or rescuing an older Dachshund

In the “Owning” section there is information on:

- Your new puppy
- Health and general care
- Exercise and training

At the recent Earl's Court Discover Dogs the Dachshund booths were packed with people wanting to find out about the breed and, of course, to cuddle a Dachshund. Our new website pages provide a comprehensive set of information to help people find a responsible breeder and a healthy, happy Dachshund. If you get enquiries from prospective Dachshund owners, please direct them to our [website](#).

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E-mail: secretary@dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

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

Health Website: <http://www.uk-dachshund-health-report.org.uk>

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