

Dachshund Breed Council Newsletter



This month...

Fundraising heroes – Health Plan consultation – Lafora FAQs – K9 Backpack – Assured Breeder Scheme – New DNA testing lab – Karlton Index 2013 – On the Internet

Helga and Lottie: Dachshund Fundraising heroes



More than 60 Dachshunds and their humans braved the cold and snow to meet up for Lottie the Dachshund's "walk and race for life" in London on March 23rd. The event was organised by Helga Klausgraber with the aim of raising funds for the Animal Health Trust's cancer research programme and also for the Dachshund Breed Council's Health Fund.

Lottie, one of Helga's Mini Smooths, has just come through a successful programme to treat Rectal Lymphoma which required a combination of surgery and chemotherapy.

Lottie's day out raised £680 for the AHT and a raffle raised a further £330 for the Breed Council's Health Fund.

In a post on Facebook Helga said "I am still in awe of all those that braved the cold and made this event so special. Without them all it would never have been the huge success it was. Thank you all and what a wonderfully supportive community of dachshund loving people we are."

On behalf of the Breed Council, **a huge thank you to everyone who made the day such a success** and we send our best wishes to Lottie for her continuing recovery.

There are already discussions about making this an annual event, possibly taking place across the UK, all on the same day. Let us know what you think.

Breed Health Plan consultation



An introduction to our Breed Health Plan

What is a Breed Health Plan?

A Breed Health Plan summarises all the available data and information we have on the breed today and sets out what we need to do to ensure a healthy future.

Our Health Plan is based on a model developed by the Kennel Club in its guide for Breed Health Coordinators.

Have you [downloaded](#) and read the 1-page summary of our Breed Health Plan?

Don't forget, if you have any comments on our Breed Health Plan, please send them by e-mail them no later than April 13th 2013 to the [Breed Council Chairman](#) AND the [Health Subcommittee Chairman](#).

April
2013

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



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

Lafora FAQs



Lafora Disease

The WHDC Lafora Sub-committee has published an updated list of Frequently Asked Questions which is available [here](#).

If your dog is not tested and you want to breed what can you do?

We are having a testing day on 17th April at Lichfield, Staffordshire where a vet will take blood and we will send it to Canada for Affected/Unaffected testing. This will at least tell you whether or not your dog is Affected. The laboratory will retain the DNA so that when the Carrier test is in place, it can re-test for Carrier status for those that require it. Please contact Sue (Susan.Holt@talktalk.net) or Nora (laforatesting@mypostoffice.co.uk) for a booking form.

K9 Backpack: a new source of help for IVDD

Most people are probably aware of the excellent [Dodgerslist](#) website which offers advice on recognising the signs of, and coping with, back disease in dogs. The Breed Council has copies of their DVD available – [details here](#).



[K9 Backpack](#) is a new website offering support for IVDD and is building up a set of useful [resources](#) and links covering topics such as recognising the signs of back problems. There's not a huge amount of information on their website yet, but they have an active [Facebook page](#) where they are also posting links to [useful articles](#).

Kennel Club achieves UKAS Accreditation for its Assured Breeder Scheme



The KC has announced that it has achieved UKAS Accreditation for its Assured Breeder Scheme which was launched in 2004.

You can read the full [Press Release here](#).

Last month the Kennel Club announced a set of updated rules forming the ABS Standard, which contain all of the compulsory requirements of the scheme. These revised rules retained many of the long-standing requirements of the scheme, but the wording was modified to add clarity about the exact requirements for members to achieve.

The Kennel Club will shortly be announcing a plan to demonstrate the impact that UKAS accreditation will have. As a transitional arrangement, this will include a system for clearly identifying which breeders have been visited under the Kennel Club's new accredited status. There will also be a plan for offering further incentives to Assured Breeders and for covering the inevitable costs of increased inspections.

The Breed Council has discussed the ABS several times and, in 2011, wrote to the KC to say we supported the ABS and would be happy to add the following to

our Code of Ethics: "Members will, when breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum standard the principles, requirements and recommendations as embodied in the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder Scheme".

New UK DNA Testing Laboratory



A new UK DNA testing lab is offering a series of tests, including cord1 PRA for Miniature Dachshunds and DNA parentage profiling.

Animal DNA Diagnostics is based in Cambridge and has an easy to use on-line web-shop to order test kits.

They are currently offering a 10% discount if you enter the code "first50" at the on-line checkout.

UK Dachshund owners now have the option to use three laboratories; the [AHT](#), [Laboklin](#) and [AnimalDNADiagnostics](#).

The world of DNA testing is moving rapidly and new tests are being made available with increasing frequency. There is a cautionary note to be sounded here: just because there are DNA tests available and being quoted as relevant for any given breed doesn't mean we should rush into using them. We also need evidence of prevalence and clinically diagnosed cases. Where we believe there is evidence of a problem, our policy is to carry out a research screening programme. This is, for example, what we did for the NPHP4 PRA mutation which had been found in Scandinavian WHDs. The research confirmed an extremely low mutation frequency in the UK population; too low to justify recommending the DNA test be adopted as a matter of routine.

Dachshund top the Karlton Index 2013

In 2011 it came as a complete surprise to read in Dogs Today magazine that Dachshunds were 'top dogs' in the Karlton Index. We had never heard of the KI, or the work of its originator Philippa Robinson, who wanted to highlight how much, or how little, effort UK breed clubs were putting into improving the health of pedigree dogs.

The [2013 KI report has just been published](#) and Dachshunds have come out at the top again. What is most interesting this time is the fact that so many other breeds have made great strides since 2011 and this reflects the fantastic work being done by them. At last, their efforts are getting some recognition.

Most other breeds are in the same position as Dachshunds; they are putting effort into things like leadership, planning, communication and engagement, but are yet to make much real impact. We have data from 2005 showing reductions in the mutation frequency of cord1 PRA, but we have yet to make progress in reducing our top 2 health priorities: IVDD and Lafora Disease.

We may have come top in the Karlton Index 2013, but let's remember the Breed Council's objective is to improve the health of Dachshunds, not to score points.

Measuring progress in the health of our dogs

The Karlton **INDEX**



Dachshund fertility and whelping



Simon Parsons' "In the Dog House" (Dog World: April 5th 2013) discusses the whelping rates and fertility of a number of breeds, including Dachshunds. His data are taken from **Biology of Reproduction and Modern Reproductive Technology in the Dog** by Catharina Linde Forsberg and Karine Renaud and **The Genetics of the Dog** by Ostrander and Ruvinsky.

Among the figures quoted are:

Breeding

- 91% of Dachshunds mated (in a 12 year period) whelped and this is among the highest fertility quoted.
- 13.3% of Dachshund bitches needed veterinary assistance during whelping (compared with 9.1% in Golden Retrievers – lowest – and 87.5% in Pekingese – highest). In our Dachs-Life 2012 survey it was reported that 3% of bitches suffered from Dystocia (difficulty whelping).
- 6.7% of Dachshund bitches required a caesarian section (compared with Swedish Lapphunds 1.6% and Bulldogs 43%).

In a study of 10,810 litters (224 breeds), the size of the breed and the age of the bitch were the main factors determining litter size by natural matings. Litter size is smaller in bitches aged 1-2, increases up to the age of 3-4 and decreases sharply after 5-6 years.

On the internet

[Predicting genetic disease in your dog](#)

[Are purebred dogs really at risk?](#)

[Dogs are driving our understanding of human genetics](#)

www.dachshundhealth.org.uk

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