

DBC News

December 2011

Dachshund Breed Council



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Lafora Disease Screening – update from Centogene (17th Dec. 2011)

Centogene have now completed their investigative work to understand the technical difficulties in differentiating Clear from Carrier results. They have confirmed that the quality of DNA available in the cheek swab samples is not an issue in carrying out a successful test. However, they believe that the quantity of DNA available is relatively low. As a consequence, the low proportion of DNA in these samples means that the presence of other proteins interferes with the separation of the Lafora Clear and Carrier components.

Centogene are now working on ways to increase the quantity of usable DNA in the samples. An alternative would be to use blood samples, but we have agreed that this is not a desirable option, at this stage (as it would mean additional expense for MWHD owners).

The current timetable is as follows:

- Centogene will complete their work on increasing the quantity of available DNA before Christmas
- The original cohort of 46 samples will be re-tested
- The additional samples (approx. 200) will be tested
- Results will be reported to the WHDC by January 16th

Lafora Disease Screening Programme

Most people will be aware that Nora Price (laforatesting@mypostoffice.co.uk) has been acting as Coordinator for the Lafora Screening Programme, on behalf of the Wirehaired Dachshund Club. From December 1st, she is joined by Sue Holt (Waldmeister MW), who will be helping the team with the management and analysis of results. Sue has already begun work on the identification of Carriers based on existing known “Affected” test results.

Full disclosure of the test results and details of tested dogs' Sire/Dam is a condition of consent when opting to use the WHDC's subsidised test and was also one of the requirements of the KC Charitable Trust when they made their grant to the Club. The WHDC website will have a summary of the results received from Centogene.

On behalf of the Breed Council we want to thank Nora and those helping “behind the scenes” for all their time and effort they have committed to the Lafora Programme. Sometimes, it must feel like a thankless task, particularly when they seem to get nothing but criticism. But, without them, there would be no Screening Programme at all.

We have tried to keep everyone informed of the situation through our regular Newsletters and all our updates have been reported in Breed Notes in the dog press.

Finally, a plea for help. If you know of a MWHD owner who does not receive this Newsletter, please forward it to them, or print off a copy to give to them. If they do have internet access, get them to

subscribe to the Newsletter by signing-up on the Breed Council's website:
<http://dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk>

It's a Dachs Life! – Breed Survey 2012

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

Our 2012 Breed Health Survey. Dachs-Life 2012 goes live on January 1st 2012 and runs until 31st March 2012.

Download the Survey [here](#).

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

Our thanks to The Scottish Dachshund Club for handing out copies with their Show Schedules and to the Dachshund Club who included copies in their Newsletter.

Professor Jeff Sampson

Towards the end of 2011, Professor Jeff Sampson, the KC's genetics advisor retired. We have worked closely with Jeff since the early days when PRA was identified in MLHDs and he has worked tirelessly to support so many breeds during his time at the KC. We wish him well in his retirement and will miss his help and advice.

Code of Ethics and Breeding

The Breed Council reviews the litters listed in the KC's Breed Records Supplement each Quarter. From time to time, we identify litters that have been bred outside the guidance in our Code of Ethics. Generally, these are breeders who are not members of Breed Clubs. It is therefore very helpful if Breed Club members can help communicate our Code of Ethics whenever they are approached for a Stud Dog, or a puppy. The relevant clauses are as follows:

I will discourage indiscriminate breeding, bearing in mind always the welfare of the bitch as a primary consideration and the long-term welfare of any puppies bred by me.

I will not breed from any stock that has, or may carry, any serious hereditary faults. In particular I will not allow any dog to be used at stud if he has, or could carry; serious hereditary faults and I will be very selective of the bitches on which he is used. If health screening/testing is available for any hereditary disease/illness carried by my breed, I will ensure all my breeding stock is tested.

I will not knowingly mate 2 dapples together.

I will not allow any of my dogs to be used irresponsibly at stud.

I will not breed irresponsibly:-

(a) from any bitch less than one year of age at the time of mating and only if she is considered mature enough to raise a litter of puppies.

(b) from any dam which is 8 years or over at the date of whelping unless I obtain Kennel Club permission.

(c) from any dam which has whelped 5 or more litters

(d) more than one litter in a twelve-month period per bitch (except with veterinary advice)

No bitch to be mated who has had 2 caesarean sections (as this may indicate possible whelping difficulties).

No bitch more than 4 weeks in whelp should be imported, exported or exhibited.

You can find our Code of Ethics [here](#) and guidance on it [here](#).

Annual Health Report

The Breed Council's Annual Health Report will be published early in January. You will be able to download a copy [here](#) (and copies of our 2009 and 2010 Reports). The Report will review our work over the past twelve months, summarise progress and achievements, and define our health priorities for 2012.

Judging Regulations

With effect from 1st January 2012 the KC has added the following Regulation for judges:

F(1)21o Where a dog has been withdrawn at the request or suggestion of a judge, the judge must make a report to the Show secretary at the first opportunity at the show. The Secretary must forward these details to the Kennel Club within 7 days of the close of the show.

This amendment emphasises the responsibilities of judges in relation to health and welfare, when judging. Judges may exclude any dog from the ring if it is considered not in a fit state for exhibition owing to savage disposition or suffering from any visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare. In assessing dogs, judges must penalise any features or exaggerations which they consider would be detrimental to the soundness, health or well being of the dog. All dogs must be able to see, breathe, walk and be free from pain, irritation or discomfort.

Merry Christmas

It only remains for us to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We'd like to thank everyone for supporting the work of the Breed Council: there are so many people on Club Committees and individual breeders and exhibitors that are actively contributing to help improve things in the world of Dachshunds.

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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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