

DBC News

January 2012

Dachshund Breed Council



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Happy New Year!

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2012 and we wish all our readers a Happy New Year and every success in 2012.

We now have more than 440 people on our mailing list for this Newsletter and 150 of you have signed-up since May 2011 when we put our “Sign-up” Form on the [Breed Council's website](#). Communications is an area where we and the Dachshund Breed Clubs can probably never do enough, but we do work hard to ensure important information is shared openly and in a timely way.

There are several ways other than this Newsletter that you can keep in touch:

- Join our [Facebook page](#), where we already have nearly 700 followers
- Subscribe to our [website](#), by adding your e-mail address and clicking “Follow our updates”

Of course, not everyone has internet access, so please print out a copy of our Newsletter for any of your Dachshund friends who can't receive this electronically.

Annual Health Report for 2011

The Breed Council's third [Annual Health Report](#) has been published and is available as a download from our Health website. Roger Sainsbury, Chairman of the Health and Welfare Sub-committee introduces the report, which covers:

- The role of our Health and Welfare Sub-committee
- Our plans for breed health improvement
- Updates on our priority issues:
 - Back Disease
 - Lafora Disease
 - cord1 PRA
- An overview of other conditions on our “Watch List”
- Our priorities for 2012

Here are 14 facts you'll find in our [Health Report](#) for 2011:

- ♣ One third of the Health Reports submitted on our website are due to back disease
- ♣ More than 500 people visited our Health website in the week after Crufts 2011
- ♣ Within 4 days of asking for DNA swab samples from Dachshunds over twelve years old with no history of back disease we had 25 dogs

- ⤴ More than 200 Mini Wire owners signed-up for Lafora DNA testing in 2011
- ⤴ 10% of Mini Wires have been tested as Affected for Lafora Disease (using both the Canadian and German tests)
- ⤴ Since 2005, 3504 cord1 PRA DNA tests have been carried out by owners of Miniature Dachshunds
- ⤴ The proportion of Mini Longs tested as cord1 Affected has dropped from 18% to 6% since 2005
- ⤴ The proportion of Mini Smooths tested as cord1 Affected has dropped from 27% to 10% since 2007
- ⤴ 1.3% of Wires are estimated to carry the NPHP4 Day Blindness mutation
- ⤴ 3% of Mini Wires are estimated to carry the NPHP4 Day Blindness mutation
- ⤴ 42% of Mini Longs in a research study were found to have Distichiasis
- ⤴ Over the past 20 years, Smooths had an average of 4.6 puppies in each litter and Mini Smooths had 3.4
- ⤴ Over the past 20 years, Longs had an average of 4.8 puppies in each litter and Mini Longs had 3.2
- ⤴ Over the past 20 years, Wires had an average of 5.3 puppies in each litter and Mini Wires had 3.5

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 went 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.

Please complete a Survey Form for each of your Dachshunds – **we need data on healthy dogs** as well as those with health problems. **Forms should be completed during January, February and March and returned in April.**

New Health Website Address

Our Health website has a new, easy to remember, address...

www.dachshundhealth.org.uk

The old address will continue to work, but please update your internet bookmarks and give people the new address if they want to find out the latest information on Dachshund Health and Welfare.

Code of Ethics and Breeding

From 1st January 2012 the Kennel Club will normally register no more than four litters from any one bitch because of concerns that the current legal limit of six litters, which is enshrined in the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, can potentially be detrimental to a bitch's welfare.

Anyone wishing to breed a fifth litter from a bitch will need to present a good and justifiable reason for this which will then be considered by the Kennel Club on a case by case basis.

Our [Code of Ethics](#) has been updated accordingly.

Also, from 1st January, the KC will no longer register any puppies born by caesarean section from any bitch which has previously had two such operations, except for scientifically proven welfare reasons and in such cases normally provided that the application has been made prior to mating. This is already one of the clauses in our Code of Ethics.

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

The guidance on our Code of Ethics makes it clear that, where screening programmes are available, breeders should make use of them and act on the results. For example, dogs tested as Affected or Carriers for cord1 PRA should only be mated to Clear dogs. Where no screening programme exists, in the case of serious conditions such as Epilepsy, Affected dogs should not be bred from.

Lafora Disease

The Wirehaired Dachshund Club has [published a spreadsheet](#) summarising 166 Mini Wire Dachshund Lafora test results, plus a list of those dogs whose results are still awaited. This is a combined list of results from 2010's Canadian tests and 2011's German tests.

The spreadsheet is colour-coded and identifies:

- Those dogs tested as "Affected"
- Dogs tested as "Not Affected" but which could possibly be Carriers
- Dogs that are at least "Carriers" and maybe "Affected", by deduction from the test results.
- Dogs whose test results have not yet been provided by Centogene (the German test lab)

The Club has also posted a summary of the current status of the Screening Programme on its [Lafora News Update page](#).

Further information on the Screening Programme and results are expected from Centogene on January 16th and will be communicated by the WHDC and Breed Council.

CC Allocation

Those of you who read the Kennel Gazette will have seen that our Challenge Certificate allocation for 2014 has not yet been decided by the Kennel Club. They have written to the Breed Council and those Clubs who currently have CCs on offer, to ask for views on how the allocation should be made for 2014.

The matter will be discussed at the next Breed Council meeting (May 6th) and Clubs have been asked to make any proposals prior to the meeting so they can be considered in advance by all Clubs.

Many exhibitors express views on the location and timing of CC allocations, so now is your opportunity to make suggestions to your Breed Club(s) for their committees to consider.

There are no additional CCs being made available to us by the KC, so this is simply an opportunity to review and agree the allocation of the existing sets.

2012 Judging Lists

The Breed Council's Judging Lists for 2012 were published on January 1st and an abbreviated version (without full addresses) is available [here](#).

Judges are reminded that it is a Kennel Club requirement and part of all Judging Contracts that a full written critique should be submitted to the dog press for each appointment. Sadly, once again in 2011 there were a small number of judges who failed to submit critiques and as a consequence their names have been omitted from the 2012 Judging Lists.

If you are judging, we would encourage you to send a copy of your critique to the Secretary of the Society within 6 weeks of your appointment. Breed Clubs can then, if they choose, also publish critiques on their websites. If you have submitted a critique that has not appeared in the dog press, please send a copy to the [Breed Council Secretary](#) so that we do not have to write to you to enquire about missing critiques.

Judges can download a copy of our Guide to Critique-writing [here](#).

Breed Conference 22nd April 2012

The Breed Council will be running a Breed Conference on Sunday 22nd April 2012 at Acton Trussell, near Stafford. Topics on the agenda will be:

- The Dachshund: Fit for Function – what does that mean for breeders, judges and exhibitors?
- Genetics for dog breeders
- Dachshund Coats, Colours and Patterns – an introduction to their genetics
- Breed Health Improvement: are we doing enough?
- Eye Disease in Dachshunds
- Canine Epilepsy

Our panel of speakers include experts from Liverpool University Vet School and the Animal Health Trust, as well as Dachshund Breed Specialists. Full details of the Conference will be published soon, but if you would like to reserve a place, please [e-mail us](#) and we will ensure you receive a Booking Form.

Information for potential Dachshund owners

Our website now has three new items specifically written for prospective Dachshund owners who want to find out how to buy a Dachshund and what they are like to own.

A new, free, (pdf) e-book: [Buying and Owning a Dachshund](#) has 44 pages of advice on how to find a reputable breeder and tips on living with a Dachshund.

There are also two online presentations which you can view or download:

- [Buying a Dachshund](#)
- [Owning a Dachshund](#)

These summarise the information already available on our website, but in slide presentation format.

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E-mail: secretary@dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

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

Health Website: <http://www.dachshundhealth.org.uk>

Please print a copy of this Newsletter for any of your Dachshund-owning friends who can't receive an e-mail copy

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