

DBC News

March 2012

Dachshund Breed Council



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It's a Dachs Life! – Breed Survey 2012 – only 4 weeks left!

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

There are now only four weeks left to record your dogs in our 2012 Breed Health Survey. Dachs-Life 2012 went live on January 1st 2012 and runs until 31st March 2012. Send your forms back as soon as possible AFTER 31st March.

Download the Survey [here](#).

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.**

On-line Forms now available:

If you would prefer to enter and return your survey results on-line, rather than copying the forms and posting them, you can complete the survey on-line here: <http://kwiksurveys.com/?u=DachsLife2012>

Lafora Disease

The Wirehaired Dachshund Club has continued to [publish updated information](#) on the status of the Lafora Screening Programme on its website. On 2nd March, the latest announcement was as follows:

Following the confirmation from Centogene, that they were not able to continue with our testing due to technical difficulties, we asked Canada to see if they could detect Carriers from the saliva provided by Centogene. This was not possible, due either to the age and deterioration of the dna or due to the fact that the test is still not possible on saliva samples.

To move forward, Canada are using their new carrier / clear / affected test on 35 blood samples, covering known Affecteds, known Carriers and presumed Clears. Saliva from the same 35 dogs, is also being tested, to see if it is possible to perfect a saliva carrier test.

All other samples are on hold, pending the outcome of the above tests. To perfect a saliva carrier test is proving extremely complex and we are very grateful for everyone's support and patience whilst the research is being completed.

The breeding advice remains that:

- ⤴ *It is not advisable to breed from Affected animals*
- ⤴ *Through pedigree analysis, endeavour to use assumed "clear" animals on known carriers, therefore reducing the risk of producing affected animals*
- ⤴ *Carrier to carrier matings WILL produce some affected stock (refer to the guide on this site) and therefore these matings are not desirable. All puppies from such matings should be tested to determine their Lafora status, so that new owners can be informed*

Swabs are still being accepted. These will be tested as soon as the initial research with the blood / saliva is completed by Canada

Any queries / enquiries, please contact any of the team, details on the January update. Updates and results can be found at <http://www.whdc.co.uk>

The Club has also [published a spreadsheet](#) summarising all the available 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.

Support and Information on Lafora Disease:



Gill Key is the owner of Alfie, a Mini Wire affected by Lafora Disease. She has established a support group and website to help people understand the condition and how to cope with an affected dog.

This month she has added a “Breeders” section which has an article by Sue Holt: [A breeder's perspective](#). Gill is particularly keen to ensure potential Mini Wire owners have the best possible information on how to buy a health puppy. If you are a Mini Wire breeder and are supporting the Screening Programme by having submitted your dogs for screening, Gill would be happy to add your details to her list of

breeders. E-mail: laforadogs@btinternet.com

Breed Conference 22nd April 2012 – book your place now

There are still places available for Breed Conference which is being held on Sunday 22nd April 2012 at Acton Trussell, near Stafford. The day costs £20 (the same price as our 2009 Conference) and includes refreshments and lunch.

The speakers and topics are:

- ♣ Ron James: Health and welfare – the responsibilities of judges and exhibitors
- ♣ Hannah Stephenson: Genetics for dog breeders
- ♣ Helen Geeson: The genetics of Dachshund coats and colours
- ♣ Philippa Robinson: The challenge of breed health improvement
- ♣ Claudia Busse: Eye disease in Dachshunds
- ♣ Elsa Beltran: Canine Epilepsy

[Download a Booking Form here.](#)

A few weeks ago the Dachshund Breed Council was contacted by the film's makers to ask for permission to show a screen-shot of our Health website in PDE2. This was to be positioned in a section of the film about the positive things that were happening on breed health improvement and would be accompanied by a voice-over saying: "There are also some forward-thinking breed clubs. The Dachshund Breed Council, for instance, recently came top of a poll measuring breed club performance on health."

Evidently, this "good news story" ended up on the cutting room floor.



Dachshunds made an appearance in PDE2 after 41 minutes with a flashback to the pictures (above) used in PDE1 in 2008 and commentary saying "look what 100 years of the show ring has done to the Dachshund; today's dogs have much shorter legs".

True enough; comparing those two photos the "modern" dog certainly doesn't have the ground clearance required by our Breed Standard. Interestingly, the "old" dog has approximately the same length to height proportions currently required by the FCI Dachshund Standard.

Download a copy of our [Quick Guide](#), illustrated Breed Standard.

We weren't told what the health consequences might be of the fact that the "modern" dog has short legs. We all know that back disease is the biggest health risk in Dachshunds and that this is due to them being a dwarf breed, with short legs (not long backs). Since the "old" Dachshunds were also chondrodystrophic, it would be interesting to know if they were any more or less prone to back problems. A copy of the Dachshund Club Newsletter from 50 years ago has an article that describes back disease as being a health concern, so it's not clear how much different things would have been 100 years ago.

There was no mention of the significant amount of research now being done worldwide to identify a gene test to help breed away from lines more prone to back disease. It's certainly not the case that our breed average Coefficient of Inbreeding values are a clear indicator of back problems.

Dogs – a healthy future:

The Kennel Club's film "[Dogs: a healthy future](#)" is essential viewing for anyone who wants to find out how much work is being done on health improvement of pedigree dogs.

Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI) – what's that?

The Coefficient of Inbreeding is a measure of how inbred a dog is. The higher the CoI, the greater the probability (and risk) that two copies of a particular gene will be inherited from a common ancestor. The KC will no longer register puppies from mother/son, father/daughter or brother/sister combinations - these would have a CoI of at least 25%.

Most pedigree software can calculate COI values for individual dogs and you can also look up the COI of any registered dog at the KC's [Mate Select website](#).

When Mate Select was launched, the CoI values for the Dachshund varieties was as follows: Smooth = 8.2%, Mini Smooth = 8.1%, Long = 8.6%, Mini Long = 7.6%, Wire = 6.7%, Mini Wire = 11.3%

For comparison, some other popular breeds have the following CoI values: German Shepherd = 3.2%, German Shorthaired Pointer = 5.3%, Golden Retriever = 9.5%, Pug = 6.5%, Cavalier = 5.2%, Pekingese = 7.4%

The section on COI in PDE2 really was overly-simplistic but resulted in a tweet from the MRCVS the next morning to say simple advice to puppy buyers would be to ask about the COI. However, if Cavaliers are in the state they are with a breed average COI of 5.2% and Ceskys are healthy at 24.4%, this advice is surprisingly naïve from an organisation of science-trained professionals. PDE2 showed a COI value of over 40% for one Cesky Terrier, but failed to mention it was a healthy 14 year old dog that had rarely seen the inside of a vet's consulting room.

In general, aiming to breed litters with lower COI values than the current breed average is a good thing, but relying on COI as a measure of good health is naïve at best and dangerous at worst.

The Breed Council will be monitoring changes in each Dachshund variety's Coefficient of Inbreeding over time and strongly encourages breeders to make use of Mate Select to help inform their breeding strategies. You can also find summaries ([here](#)) of stud dogs being used in each Dachshund variety and follow our analysis of "Popular Sires".

If you want to learn more about COI and genetics for dog breeders, book a place at our Health Conference. [Download a Booking Form here](#).

Seminar and A2 Assessment

East Yorkshire DC and West Riding DC will be running a Breed Seminar and A2 Assessment on Saturday May 5th in Selby, N. Yorkshire. To qualify for a place on the A2 Assessment part of the day, you must already have judged at least 150 Dachshunds. To book a place at either the Assessment or Seminar, contact Katherine Herrington: katherine.herrington@yahoo.co.uk

News from our websites

[UK Dachshund Trials Club launches its website](#)

Read about the tracking and go-to-ground training and events being organised by the UK Trials Club.

[Popular Sire Syndrome](#)

Prof. Jerold Bell has written a number of interesting articles on canine genetics. The subject of Popular Sires and the responsibilities of Stud Dog owners are explained in this article.

[The reality of living with a disabled Dachshund](#)

Emily Critchley owned Digby, a Mini Smooth who was paralysed with back disease. She tells her story of life after a disc operation.

[Clare Rusbridge – website update](#)

Dr. Clare Rusbridge, Veterinary Neurologist, has updated her website and there are useful pages on Lafora Disease and Back Disease / Spinal Surgery.

Issued by the Dachshund Breed Council. © 2012 DBC

E-mail: secretary@dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

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

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

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