The Karlton INDEX™
Measuring progress in the health of our dogs

Philippa Robinson

Will cover the following points

• Who am I and what prompted the setting up of the Karlton Index
• Explanation of the project and scoring
• Dachshunds - why you were “top dogs”
• Dachshunds – how you can stay top
• Impact of the project overall
• Any questions
Who is Philippa Robinson?
who the hell is Philippa Robinson?

...and finally aged 40 hehem
My brief career in showing.....

Campaigning began 2006

• Asking questions of breeders, breed clubs and the KC
• Got a strong sense that inherited disease was a serious issue, many were in denial, problems were being hidden where possible
• No-one could categorically state how serious the issues were because the collection of validated data was so unforgivably poor
• What is being done?
Campaigning 2011

Noah’s rule

“Predicting rain doesn’t count – building Arks does”

The Karlton Index Framework
Leadership and Strategy

DACHSHUND SCORE 2011

15/20

Because

• Co-ordinated through a breed council
• Balanced Strategy was in place and was PUBLISHED
• Set health objectives and priorities
• Wide range of stakeholders involved in strategy development
• Strategy was regularly reviewed
• Strong visible leadership
Strategy

In their article *International and collaborative strategies to enhance genetic health in purebred dogs* Hedhammer stated:

- “Increasing attention to and awareness of health problems in purebred dogs has to be followed by collaborative actions to evaluate and strategically counteract them. Actions should be based on severity, prevalence and inheritance of each problem within breeds. Strategies regarding recognition of new breeds, health problems related to anatomical features and selection of breeding stock, need to be developed. For effective collaboration on these strategies, key stakeholders should develop platforms at national and international levels.”

Leadership and Strategy; to remain on top?

- Continue doing what you are doing and using the surveillance data to inform future strategy
- Think the unthinkable in terms of conformation, popular sires, out crossing, “plan Bs”
- Address contentious issues such as puppy farming, weighing of minis, ethics of mating and whelping and so forth
Communication and Engagement

DACHSHUND Score 2011 Because

15/20

- Web site dedicated to health with good range of information
- Published strategies and updates
- Newsletters and events
- Visual and engaging
- Refreshed and revised regularly
- Reaching out to wider audience
Communication and engagement; to remain on top?

- Continue doing what you are doing to demonstrate that this is an ongoing approach and is well established practice
- Publish more data on participation levels
- Continue to act as champions of health
- Continue to be early adopters and innovators

Participation

DACHSHUND Score 2011

Because

- Available data on participation in health testing suggested low levels
- Unsure of how many were participating in surveys and health schemes

6/20
Participation; to increase score

• Publish more data on participation levels
• Continue to encourage wider participation in health schemes and surveys, and event attendance
• Is there evidence that the wider dachshund owning population is being reached and is taking part in schemes

IMPACT

DACHSHUND Score 2011  Because
• Cord 1 PRA trend shows number of affected dogs is decreasing

4/40
IMPACT

• How do you know all your efforts are benefiting the dogs?
• Have the Dachshund breeds reached their conformational tipping points?
• Are you preventing new diseases from taking hold?
• Are you successfully containing inherited diseases and maybe eliminating some?
• Is your strategy securing a healthy and robust gene pool?
• Are you containing risks to breed health?

Conclusions on Dachshunds

• What I found did inspire me and I know it inspires other breeds
• You are fast developing a reputation of tackling health on a “tireless” basis so please applaud yourselves for that
• Continue to champion and innovate and continue to be brave and courageous
• The threats to your work are COMPLACENCY and LIMITED THINKING
Impact of the Project

On me
• Shifted my position on breed clubs
• Given me a glimpse of hope
• Put me in touch with many inspiring people doing hard work on behalf of dogs

On the campaign
• Raised the issue of recognising GOOD work
• Built bridges with many breed people and the KC
• Planting ideas and seeds – I hope
• Is constructive as well as challenging

Thank You!