

DBC News

May 2012

Dachshund Breed Council



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Breed Conference Presentations

The Breed Conference on April 22nd was attended by about 60 people and their feedback was extremely positive about the content of the day's sessions. You can find all the speakers' presentations or papers on the Breed Council's website [here](#). Topics included:

- Judges' and Exhibitors' responsibilities for health
- Genetics for Dog Breeders
- Genetics of Dachshund Coats and Colours
- The KarltonIndex
- Eye Disease in Dachshunds
- Canine Epilepsy

The Conference presentations were filmed and a DVD will be available for those who were unable to attend (and those who feel they need to brush up on their genetics!).

It's a Dachs Life! – Breed Survey 2012 – Initial Report is now available

Dachs-Life 2012 has been really well-supported by UK Dachshund owners and the Breed Council's Health and Welfare Sub-committee would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has participated. The survey has confirmed many of our current priorities are valid and has identified some new areas where we will need to carry out further work. [Read the full report here](#).

Although we can only report an average age of death from a small number of Dachshunds who died during the survey period, the Median age of death here was 11.8 years (compared with 12.8 in the KC 2004 survey - 245 deaths). The current age profile of dogs in the Dachs-Life Survey was very similar to that in the 2004 survey, so it would be reasonable to assume that the breed's median age of death is still around the 12 year mark. We should encourage more people to report the death of their Dachshund on our [on-line Health Reporting site](#) so that we can build more data on age and cause of death.

Conclusions and initial recommendations:

There are a number of age related conditions highlighted in the survey (dental disease, deafness, cataracts, arthritis) which should not concern us particularly, as they are part of the natural ageing process and are to be expected.

1. Back Disease is the number one issue we need to address and our research programme with the Animal Health Trust is a key part of that.
 - The prevalence of back problems in dogs over the age of 5, particularly in the Smooth, Mini Smooth and Mini Wire varieties is a particular concern.
 - The fact that the other three varieties have lower rates of back disease is encouraging and may help provide a DNA differentiator which will be of use to us.
2. Heart Disease in Standard Wires is an issue that is significantly more prevalent than in the other varieties. It may be sensible to reinstate the WHDC Cardiac Screening programme.
3. Epilepsy in Mini Longs is significantly more prevalent than in any of the other varieties. This has been mentioned anecdotally, but we now have quantified evidence of a problem that needs to be investigated further.
 - The previous worries about Epilepsy in Wires appears no longer to be a concern.
4. Lafora Disease in Mini Wires is already being addressed by the WHDC Screening Programme and will continue to be a priority until we can be confident that Affected puppies are no longer being bred.
5. All the Miniature varieties suffer from eye diseases to a greater extent than the Standards. Clinical eye testing (preferably annually) should become the norm for all six varieties.
 - A research programme into Distichiasis in Mini Longs is currently being planned.
6. Compared with many other breeds, cancer is not a major issue in Dachshunds. Mammary Tumours are the only form of cancer highlighted in our survey and it may be useful to investigate this further to identify age of onset and the impact of spaying.
7. It was interesting to note a small number of cases of Patellar Luxation in the Miniature Smooth and Miniature Long varieties which may also be worth investigating further with a research screening exercise using the established Putnam 1968 method (which does not require anaesthesia).

Further reports will be issued as the data are analysed over the coming months.

Breed Council Annual General Meeting

The Dachshund Breed Council held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday May 6th.

Katherine Herrington was re-elected as Treasurer for a further 3 year term. Anne Moore was re-elected as Vice-Chair for a 1 year term.

Roger Sainsbury MRCVS remains as Chairman of the Health and Welfare Sub-committee.

The Treasurer reported that the Health Fund had a balance of £1110 thanks to donations made by the Dachshund Club, Eastern Counties DA and the Breed Council, during 2011.

You can read the Chairman's Report [here](#).

Breed Mentoring Scheme

Helen Geeson has taken over responsibility for the Breed Mentoring Scheme and presented a proposal for a three-tier scheme to the Clubs at the recent Council meeting.

We would like to thank Lovaine Coxon for all her work setting up and running the scheme so far.

If anyone is interested in joining the Mentoring Scheme (either as a Mentor or Mentee), please contact [Helen](#).

US Dachshund History Project

The [Dachshund History Project](#) is a US website that is attempting to document the history of a dog breed that was recognised by the American Kennel Club in 1895. It's a work in progress, but is already establishing itself as a comprehensive resource for those interested in the history of the Dachshund, albeit with an American flavour (flavor?).

Some of the interesting articles already published include:

- ⤴ [Developing an eye for type in Dachshunds](#)
- ⤴ [Setting Type](#) (not just about Dachshunds)
- ⤴ [Four fundamentals of the show Dachshund](#)

Lafora Disease



Unfortunately, we are still awaiting Dr. Berge Minassian's Canadian analysis of the matching sets of blood and saliva samples submitted towards the end of March.

As soon as the results are known, further information on the next steps in the screening programme will be published.

Online Health Reporting

Health Report Data Entry

***Required**

About you and your Dachshund
Please answer all the questions on this page before proceeding to the main

Your name*
(First name & Surname (mandatory))

Your Telephone Number
(Optional - in case we need to ask for more information)

Your e-mail address
(Optional - in case we need to ask for more information)

Report a health problem

Although our Dachs-Life 2012 Survey has now closed we need to continue to monitor breed health. If your Dachshund develops a health problem, or dies, please continue to submit reports at our Health [website](#).

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E-mail: secretary@dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

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

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

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