

Dachshund Breed Council Newsletter



This month...

Dachshund Health Seminar – Can you help the Dog Advisory Council? - Canine Sarcoma – Order your Breed Conference DVD – CC Allocation 2014 – Lafora Disease – What is COI? - “Down and Back Please” - Book Review – Back Disease Project

Dachshund Health Seminar 13th October 2012



The Dick White Charitable Foundation has kindly offered to run a Health Seminar for the Dachshund Breed Council at their Referral Practice near Newmarket.

The Seminar will take place on Saturday 13th October (09:00 – 16:00) at Six Mile Bottom, Cambridgeshire, CB8 0UH.

Prof. Dick White's practice team of highly-experienced Specialists with expertise across a wide range of veterinary disciplines will provide the speakers for the seminar. Topics will include:

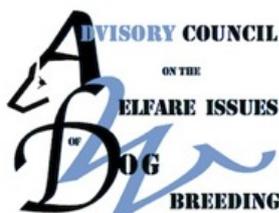
- ⤴ Soft tissue – hernias
- ⤴ Dermatology – managing ear and skin conditions
- ⤴ Neurology – brain and back
- ⤴ Diabetes treatment
- ⤴ Hydrotherapy and physiotherapy demonstrations
- ⤴ Anaesthesia – acupuncture

There will also be an opportunity to have a tour of the referral clinic to see their facilities.

If you would like to reserve a place (first come, first served; max. 40) a Booking Form is available online at our Health website, [here](#). Alternatively, please e-mail or 'phone Ian Seath (ian@sunsong.co.uk; 01628 529936).

The cost of the seminar is ONLY £10 which includes refreshments and lunch. The £10 fee includes donations which will be made to the Dick White Charitable Foundation and the Dachshund Breed Council Health Fund.

Can you and your vet help the Dog Advisory Council?



The Advisory Council on the Welfare Issues of Dog Breeding was established in late 2010 following a recommendation in the Bateson Report, and has since been evaluating all aspects of dog breeding. One of their projects thus far has been to produce a Standard for dog breeders that they consider protects the health and welfare of both the breeding stock and the puppies produced. The Standard is intended to be used by all breeders, not only those who breed Kennel Club registered dogs.

One parameter of the Standard is that puppies should have a health check by a

August 2012

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. If you have Dachshund friends who aren't on the internet, please print a copy and give it to them.

If you've been sent a copy of this, but aren't on our mailing list, please click the link below.



veterinary surgeon prior to sale. The check is intended to be no more than most veterinary surgeons would complete at their first examination of a puppy prior to vaccination. The aim of the check is to encourage breeders to produce physically and genetically healthy puppies. Doing so would not only protect the puppies' welfare but also the interests of the purchaser and the breeder.

Consequently, the Advisory Council has worked with the RCVS, VDS, BVA and BSAVA to produce a health check form. They have involved these organisations because they are very aware of the potential consequences for veterinary surgeons of providing written evidence of puppies' health.

The Advisory Council would now like to distribute the forms round a number of breeders in order to pilot them in the real world. The aim of the pilot is to assess whether veterinary surgeons in practice find the form easy to use and how long it takes on average to examine a puppy and complete the paperwork. The goal of this pilot study is for 50 breeders to each take a litter of up to 5 puppies to their vet, along with the vet check form and a letter explaining the pilot, and ask their vet to examine the puppies and complete a form for each puppy.

The Dachshund Breed Council's Health and Welfare Sub-committee has been asked by Advisory Council member Dr. Cathryn Mellersh if we could recruit up to 50 breeders to take part in this pilot. The Advisory Council will provide letters of explanation to both the vet and the breeder along with 5 copies of the form for each breeder.

Please support this pilot study if you can.

Further details of who to contact at the Advisory Council will be available in our next Newsletter.

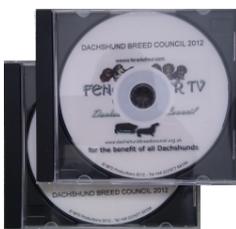
Canine Sarcoma – an owner's story

Our Dachs-Life 2012 Breed Health Survey showed that the incidence of cancers in Dachshunds is, thankfully, low at 3.5%. Mammary Tumours, particularly in Mini Longs, accounted for just over a third of all cases.

Kirsty Crossley, who sadly lost her Mini Long due to a Sarcoma, has written a short case study describing her experience. She includes a description of the symptoms to look out for in the hope that other Dachshund owners may be able to identify any potential Sarcoma as early as possible.

The case study is published on our Health website [here](#).

Breed Conference DVD



The DVD of our 2012 Breed Conference is now available. It contains the following video presentations:

- Conference Introduction (Ian Seath & Roger Sainsbury)
- Health Responsibilities of Judges and Exhibitors (Ron James)
- Genetics for Dog Breeders (Hannah Stephenson)

- Genetics of Dachshund Coats, Colours and Patterns (Helen Geeson)
- The KarltonIndex (Philippa Robinson)

Plus, audio soundtracks for:

- Canine Epilepsy (Elsa Beltran)
- Canine Eye Diseases (Claudia Busse)

Costs will be £6 inc. P&P UK and £10 inc. P&P non-UK).

To pre-order a DVD, please use the [Booking Form here](#).

You can also download all the [Speakers' Presentations here](#).

Breed Club CC Allocation 2014

The Kennel Club asked the Breed Council and its member Clubs to consider the allocation of Challenge Certificates at Breed Club shows for the year 2014 and beyond. All member Clubs were asked to submit proposals for the distribution of Breed CCs and these were considered at the Council's April meeting.

Four proposals were submitted with a range of options to allocate the CCs and the result of Clubs' voting was submitted to the KC. The KC General Committee has now approved the allocation, as follows:

Dachshund Club; LH, MLH, SH, MSH, WH, MWH
Great Joint Dachshund Association, LH, MLH, SH, MSH, WH, MWH
Miniature Dachshund Club, MLH, MSH, MWH
Long Haired Dachshund Club, LH, MLH
Smooth Haired Dachshund Club, SM, MSH
Wire Haired Dachshund Club, WH, MWH
Scottish Dachshund Association, LH, MLH, SH, MSH
Dachshund Club of Wales, LH, MLH, W, MW
Northern Counties Dachshund Association, MLH, SH, MSH, MW
Midland Dachshund Club, MLH, WH, MWH
Southern Dachshund Association, LH, MLH, SH
Lancs & Cheshire Dachshund Association, MSH, W, MWH

Rotation:

LH, MSH, WH -
West of England Dachshund Association – 2014, 2017
Eastern Counties Dachshund Association - 2015, 2018

2016, 2019 -
Lancs & Cheshire - LH
Midland Dachshund C - MSH
Southern Dachshund A - WH

The allocation of CCs at General Championship Shows was not included in this review and the allocation/dates of these can be found [here](#).

Lafora Disease



Lafora Disease

Since our last update, the WHDC has received additional communication from Dr Minassian and his team in Canada, confirming that the testing is continuing to prove very difficult. He explains the difficulty with the current method of testing (Polymerase Chain Reaction).

“All modern methods rely on PCR, which amplify the segment of the mutation to detect, in this case, the expanded abnormal copy. This is very difficult in this case because the expansion is a massive repeat of the same nucleotides (letters of the code), and these nucleotides are the G's and C's which when repeatedly expanded like this make PCR very difficult. We are therefore in each case having to use extensive control experiments and numerous repeats to get the result we trust. We can continue doing this, but things will remain slow.

We have therefore decided to regenerate an old technique that does not rely on PCR and that therefore obviates all the above problems. Few people around know this old technique, since PCR took over practically all experiments with DNA. The old technique is called Southern Blot. It is perfectly suited for this case. XiaoChu used to do this technique many years ago before PCR became dominant. She is able to revive it, and she is working on it.

I have concluded that for the longer term it would be best to establish this new (old) technique. Though it is on the surface a slower method than PCR-based methods, given the special problems of PCR in our current testing, it will end up being much faster than our turnaround now given the countless repeats and controls we have to do now."

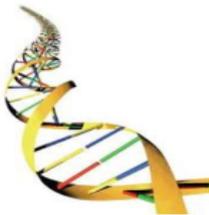
He goes on to confirm that the completed tests done in the initial control sample, are robust results, but the length of time taken to achieve them was due to the above issues.

Therefore, we are awaiting news that the new (old) method of testing is ready. As soon as we receive that, we will start to invite test submissions, as outlined in our previous update.

We are aware that the waiting is frustrating and thank you for bearing with us. For the long term, we want a test that is robust, reliable and the fastest turnaround possible and this early development work will give us that.

All the currently available results are published [here](#).

What is the Coefficient of Inbreeding?



Several people have asked "What is COI?" and "How does it affect our breeding plans?"

The Dachshund Breed Council has produced a free to download [Introductory Guide to Genetics](#). This explains COI (and more!).

Genetics

The Kennel Club launched its "[Mate Select](#)" online service in May 2011. The site enables breeders to:

- ⤴ Find the health test results of individual dogs
- ⤴ Find out the Coefficient of Inbreeding of an individual dog
- ⤴ Find the Coefficient of Inbreeding for an entire breed
- ⤴ Predict the Coefficient of Inbreeding of puppies from a proposed mating

At the date of launch, the Breed Average Col values for each of 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 Col values:

German Shepherd = 3.2%, German Shorthaired Pointer = 5.3%, Golden Retriever = 9.5%, Pug = 6.5%, Cavalier = 5.2%, Pekingese = 7.4%

It is important to remember that the Mate Select COI values are based on available pedigree information in the KC database. Where pedigrees are missing (e.g. for imported dogs), COI results may either not be available at all, or may be based on limited pedigree data.

The higher the Col, 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 Col of at least 25%.

There is no current guide to “target” COI values for Dachshunds, but the Advisory Council on the Welfare Issues of Dog Breeding has published their own [Breeding Standard](#) which states:

Bitches must be mated to a dog when the Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI) of the resulting puppies as measured from a five generation pedigree would be lower than 12.5%.

The Breed Council will be monitoring changes in each Dachshund variety's Coefficient of Inbreeding (from Mate Select) 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 COI analysis of "Popular Sires".

“Down and back, please”

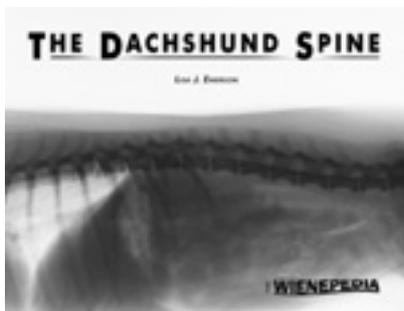
The [Dachshund History Project](#) has published another interesting article on judging. It describes the ‘down and back’ as a useful tool for assessing soundness, coming and going, in a typical, well-made Dachshund. It says “in assessing this movement, all it takes is a few steps and, in my opinion, a dog can be judged either as unsound or sound enough for its purpose in those few steps. As valuable as this view is, it is far too often over-used and not kept in perspective”.

The writer goes on to remind judges of the importance of watching a Dachshund's profile movement, particularly mentioning topline, reach and drive.

Nowhere does he mention the “watching paint dry” judges' preference for staring endlessly at a row of stacked Dachshunds (presumably in the hope that divine inspiration will help select the winner)!

Read the article [here](#).

Book Review – The Dachshund Spine

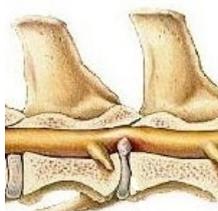


Lisa Emerson's book "The Dachshund Spine" was first published in 2011 and is described as "a must-have" for all owners and breeders of Dachshunds. It's also aimed at vets and those interested in the other pedigree breeds where back disease is a common problem (e.g. Basset Hounds, Corgis and Pekingese, among others).

Overall, this is one of the most comprehensive current texts on the subject, bringing together evidence from a vast array of research papers (fully referenced). The other text that takes a similar approach is Patricia J. Luttgen's Canine Intervertebral Disc Disease booklet, written for the Dachshund Club of America and published in 1993 [<http://www.dachshund-dca.org/discbook.html>]. This latter text was essential reading in its day, but the science has moved on and is brought fully up-to-date by Lisa.

Read the full book review [here](#).

Back Disease (IVDD) Research Project – can you help?



Back Disease

Last Summer we asked for DNA swab samples for dogs over the age of 10 who had no history of back problems. We now need to ask for more samples from additional Dachshunds to support our research programme.

Health and Welfare Sub-committee representative Lesley McNaughton is coordinating this, so please [e-mail](#) her if you have a Dachshund of 10 or older who has never had back problems (however minor). These samples will act as the “controls” in the research being carried out by the AHT.

www.dachshundhealth.org.uk www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

E-mail: secretary@dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

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