

Dachshund Breed Council Newsletter



This month...

Health Seminar Report – Lafora Screening – H&W Sub-committee – Free Distichiasis Screening – Seminar and A2 Assessment – Health Fund – Mentoring Scheme – Judging Lists

Health Seminar October 13th



30 Dachshund enthusiasts attended the Breed Council's Health Seminar on 13th October 2012 which was run by the Dick White Charitable Foundation (DWCF), near Newmarket. The event included presentations on the following subjects:

- ⤴ Perineal hernias
- ⤴ Dermatology: Ear and Skin conditions
- ⤴ IVDD and Epilepsy
- ⤴ Diabetes
- ⤴ Physiotherapy and Hydrotherapy
- ⤴ Pain relief using Acupuncture

Professor Dick White introduced the day with a presentation on his veterinary referral practice which was launched in 2004, with just three staff. Today, the practice has a staff of more than 110 people that includes consultants, residents, interns and support staff.

You can read the full report here.

We made a donation to the DWCF and the DBC Health Fund from the sale of tickets to this seminar.

Lafora Disease Screening Programme - update



Lafora Disease

The WHDC Lafora Sub-group presented an update of their work at the Breed Council meeting on 21st October. Their report is re-printed here:

Overview

Overall, testing has identified 28 affected from a sample of 261, which is an incidence of 10.7%

The trial sample of 41 tests sent to Canada, showed an incidence of:

- ⤴ 3 affected (7.1%)
- ⤴ 10 carriers (23.8%)
- ⤴ 28 clear (66.6%)

Canada ran the trial sample of 41 blood and saliva tests using the PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) method, which is the current, preferred laboratory

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2012

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method, as Dr. Minassian explains below...

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."

Dr Minassian confirmed on Thursday 18th October, that the development of the new (old) test is going well and early results confirm the test appears to be working.

Those people that have submitted tests to Centogene and not received any result, will be the first to be invited to re-submit blood and saliva samples as soon as Canada tell us they are ready to receive them. Following that, all those who received an affected / unaffected result from Centogene and would like a full spectrum result (affected / unaffected / carrier) will be invited in batches to submit new samples for testing in Canada. There will be no charge to people for the above as they have already paid for full spectrum tests. The additional costs will be taken from existing funds. People will be invited via email, telephone or letter as soon as Canada are ready to receive samples.

Going forward, tests will be charged at the subsidised rate as long as funds allow, at which point, people will have to pay the full cost as charged by the Canadian laboratory. Although this price has not yet been finally confirmed, we expect that to be in line with the original costs agreed with Centogene.

Communication

Any updates are posted to the [Lafora area of the Wire Haired Dachshund Club website](#) and included in the regular Breed Council Newsletter.

At its meeting on 21st October, the Breed Council appointed four new members to its Health and Welfare Sub-committee. They are:

- ⤴ Sue Holt, who is currently a member of the WHDC's Lafora Team
- ⤴ Charles Hipkin, a member of the Miniature Dachshund Club Committee
- ⤴ Nora Price, who is currently WHDC Lafora Coordinator
- ⤴ Gina Salisbury, who is Assistant Secretary of the Southern Dachshund Association

Speaking at the Breed Council meeting, H&W Chairman Roger Sainsbury said *"Sue and Nora are already actively working on one of our health priorities (Lafora Disease) and it makes sense to formalise their position within our main Sub-committee. With the amount of work to be done, we also welcome Gina and Charles, who will give us extra resources to support our work"*.

He also thanked Lesley McNaughton (Scottish Dachshund Club) who has recently retired from the Sub-committee for all her hard work and support.

Full details of the Sub-committee can be found [here](#).

Minutes of Breed Council meetings are available [here](#).

Distichiasis – Free Screening for Mini Longs



Professor Sheila Crispin will be attending the Miniature Dachshund Club's Championship Show on Feb. 10th 2013 to offer a free eye examination for any Mini Long at the show.

The reason for the test is that Claudia Busse (AHT), during the examinations for PRA cord1 found an incidence of 42% of Distichiasis in Mini Longs. She did not, however, note the seriousness of the condition, as her primary research was into PRA. If there is found to be a serious problem, Cathryn Mellersh will be interested in working with us to identify a possible genetic basis and DNA test for the condition.

In our Dachs-Life 2012 Health Survey, Mini Longs were the only variety of Dachshund where Distichiasis was reported and the prevalence was 3%.

Owners will be asked to complete a short questionnaire for each dog and a follow-up will be done in a year's time to monitor any change of condition. We hope all Mini Long owners at the show will take advantage of this **free eye examination**.

Please note this session is solely to screen for Distichiasis as there is no time available for any testing under the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme.

This will be a test with bright light and magnifying glass and the examination will only take about 2 minutes to perform. Those wishing to participate must bring their dog's REGISTRATION DOCUMENT, PEDIGREE and PEDIGREE PHOTOCOPY for record purposes. For more information, please [contact Judy Squires](#).

Prof. Crispin has written an article about the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme which you can [read here](#).

Breed Seminar and A2 Assessment - Yorkshire



A Dachshund Breed Seminar and A2 Assessment will be run by East Yorkshire Dachshund Club and West Riding Dachshund Association on Sunday 17th February 2013 at Coronation Hall, Old Station Yard, Milby, Boroughbridge, YORK. YO51 9BL.

Cost of the seminar: morning Breed Talk £10 and the afternoon Assessment with hands on and written paper £10. If you are attending for the whole day, a buffet lunch is included in the price.

Opening at 9:30 a.m. – registration.

Morning Dachshund Breed talk given by Mrs Valerie Skinner (Ritterburg).

Afternoon Assessment (written paper and hands on for those candidate who have already judged over 150 Dachshunds). Numbers for the assessment are strictly limited.

Booking details from Janet Kay west-riding-dachshund@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 01709 510796.

The Dachshund Club's Loose Change Challenge



Donate to
Health Fund

The Dachshund Club is sponsoring a LOOSE CHANGE CHALLENGE in aid of the Breed Council Health Fund. Come along and collect a tin at their Championship show on Saturday 17th November to save your loose change in the coming year.

You have a year to complete the challenge and tins will be collected at next year's Championship show and there will be a small prize for the person who collects the most.

The tin can then be exchanged for a new one for the following year!!

The Breed Council would like to express its grateful thanks to the Dachshund Club for organising this.

Breed Mentoring Scheme



The Mentoring Scheme has been in existence for a number of years and has recently been revised to provide even more benefit to individuals who choose to be mentored. The scheme is entirely voluntary, however, Mentees who show particular promise will be highlighted on the Breed Council Judging List and are more likely to be asked to judge at Breed Club Open Shows.

We use a three-tier approach to help tailor the scheme to the individual with an increasing level of input from Mentors as the candidate moves up through the tiers. This, we believe, gives the candidate as balanced a view of the breed as possible, whilst ensuring that by the time they reach the A2 Assessment level they have as much knowledge as possible to enable them, hopefully, to pass the assessments first time round.

The Mentoring Scheme is managed by our Education Coordinator Helen Geeson and further details are available on our website: [here](#).

Judging Lists 2013

At its recent meeting the Breed Council agreed, as part of its process to compile 2013 Judging Lists, all Judges on the A Lists would be written to for their up-to-date contact details and confirmation that they wish to be included on the 2013 Lists. Judges will also receive a copy of the Breed Council's short, illustrated Breed Standard (which can also be [downloaded here](#)).

Due to the work involved and the cost of printing, Judges on the B and C Lists will be contacted by e-mail, at a later date.

If you wish to send an updated CV to the [Secretary](#), please do so before the end of November 2012. [E-mail the Secretary](#)

Judges are reminded that if they fail to submit critiques they are liable to disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and may have their names removed from our Judging Lists.

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

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