

# Dachshund Breed Council Newsletter



## This month...

**Breed Health Plan – Laboklin cord1 DNA Test – Epilepsy Study – Assured Breeder Scheme – Dachshund Colour Lists – Judging Guidance 2013 – On the Internet**

March  
2013

## Breed Health Plan published for consultation

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



**An introduction to our Breed Health Plan**

**What is a Breed Health Plan?**  
A Breed Health Plan summarises all the available data and information we have on the breed today and sets out what we need to do to ensure a healthy future.

Our Health Plan is based on a model developed by the Kennel Club in its guide for Breed Health Coordinators.

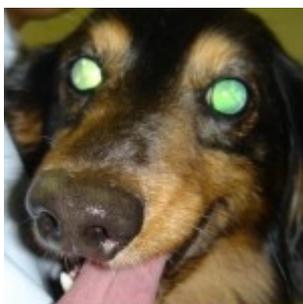
The Breed Council's Health Sub-committee has been working on a Breed Health Plan for several months and is now publishing this for consultation and feedback. The Health Plan follows the guidance issued by the Kennel Club in 2012 to all Breed Health Coordinators.

You can download a 1-page abbreviated summary of the plan [here](#) and the full plan [here](#) (pdf files).

If you would like to send us your comments on the plan, please e-mail them no later than April 13th 2013 to the [Breed Council Chairman](#) AND the [Health Sub-committee Chairman](#).



## Laboklin UK no longer offer cord1 PRA DNA testing



cord1 PRA

We have recently received a number of questions about Laboklin's decision to stop offering the cord1 PRA DNA test and there has been some discussion on this matter in various online groups.

Our response was originally published [here](#), in August 2012.

In August 2012 Laboklin UK announced that they will no longer be offering the cord1 PRA test, other than for research purposes. They refer to a study which was published on 17th July 2012 by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

We consulted with the Kennel Club and Animal Health Trust to seek clarification of the findings in this paper and their response is in the document available [here](#).

In brief: the new paper adds nothing to what we have known since 2009, that there's a second, modifying, mutation that needs to be present for early onset PRA in cord1 Affected dogs and that, without this, PRA is more likely to be late onset. Additionally, we know from AHT research that ERG testing shows that cord1 Affected dogs do indeed have reduced retinal function.

So, the recommendation continues to be that there is value in doing the cord1 test and that Affected and Carrier dogs should only be mated to Clear dogs. The Breed Council also recommends that clinical eye examinations should be used by breeders to help ensure only dogs with healthy eyes are bred from.

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## RVC Study invitation for owners of Dachshunds with Epilepsy



We have received an invitation from the Royal Veterinary College for Dachshunds to participate in a new trial into the effect of diet on Idiopathic Epilepsy.

The Clinical Investigation Centre and the Epilepsy Clinic at the RVC is working with a small animal health and wellness company to confirm the efficacy and safety of a novel diet in the management of dogs with idiopathic epilepsy

being treated with phenobarbitone and/or potassium bromide.

To find out if your Dachshund qualifies for the study, visit the [Health News page here](#).

In our Dachs-Life 2012 survey, just over 4% of Mini Long-haired Dachshunds were reported as suffering from Epilepsy. There was a statistically significant (positive) difference from all five of the other Dachshund varieties.

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## Kennel Club updates Assured Breeder Scheme Requirements



The KC has updated its ABS Requirements in the run-up to Crufts and has written with details of the new criteria to all current members. This is part of the KC's work towards gaining UKAS Accreditation of the scheme.

Read the [KC Press Release here](#).

In addition to satisfying the requirements of UKAS, some of the changes to the ABS Standard came about as a direct result of comparing it with the Standard drawn up by the Advisory Council on the Welfare Issues of Dog Breeding, including references reflecting the Animal Welfare Act. The Advisory Council's draft Breeding Standard was widely discussed in the dog press in 2012.

Last month, the EFRA Committee of MPs published its report into Dog Control and Welfare. Among its recommendations, it said: "The Kennel Club exerts great influence over the pedigree dog community. It should stop registering puppies from breeders not compliant with its own Assured Breeder Scheme."

The [KC's response](#) included this: "We regret that the committee has missed an opportunity to call for legislation requiring all dog breeders to comply with standards similar to those followed by Kennel Club Assured Breeders. Two thirds of dogs are bred outside of the Kennel Club registration system and action needs to be taken to regulate these breeders. Those who register with the Kennel Club are bound by our Code of Ethics but we need the government to get tough on certain principles, such as mandatory health testing, before we can expect those outside our Assured Breeder Scheme to fall in line with concepts, such as mandatory health testing. The requirements of our Assured Breeder Scheme can only be extended when dog breeders are required by law to breed to the same standards".

The Breed Council has discussed the ABS several times and, in 2011, wrote to the KC to say we supported the ABS and would be happy to add the following to our Code of Ethics: "Members will, when breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum standard the principles, requirements and recommendations as embodied in the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder Scheme".

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## Colour Lists and Registration Lists



In his February Kennel Gazette article, the Chairman of the KC summarised the KC's views on the differences between colours listed in Breed Standards and those available on lists for Registration.

This is also a subject the Breed Council has discussed several times and has resulted in us asking the KC for changes to both the Breed Standard and Registration Lists.

Our [Breed Standard](#) describes those colours which are considered undesirable in the show ring: **“Pied, tricolour and the dilute colours isabella and blue are highly undesirable.”** This amendment was made in 2012.

In Dachshunds, registration is not refused on the grounds of colour except in the case of Double-Dapple (merle to merle matings) where there are health risks associated with the merle gene.

The Council has taken the view that lists of colours for Registration should reflect as accurately as possible the actual colours likely to be found in the breed. This is important so that when anyone looks at a pedigree it is clear what colours are present so that undesirable mating combinations can be avoided. For example, we were recently made aware of a litter of Double Dapple puppies that were produced because the breeder was unaware that her bitch was a Red Dapple.

Currently, anyone registering a Dachshund of a colour not included in the Registration Lists has to register it as “Colour not recognised by KC”. We are happy to hear from anyone who wishes to make a case for amending the lists of Registration Colours.

Helen Geeson's presentation on the genetics of Dachshund coats and colours is available [here](#).

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## Guidance for Judges 2013



### Judges' Responsibilities

The Kennel Club has written to all judges who are approved to award Challenge Certificates to provide them with an update on new initiatives and various rules and regulations in relation to canine health and welfare.

The note covers:

- Breed Standards
- Code of Best Practice for Judges
- Breed Watch
- Show Regulations

You can download a copy of the note [here](#).

The KC Briefing Note for Judges at Kennel Club Shows can be downloaded [here](#).

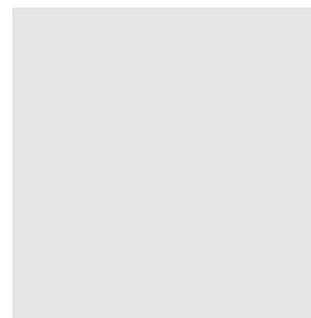
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**On the internet**

[When did dogs stop being Wolves?](#)

[Dachshund History Project: All creatures have amazing unity of action](#)

[Things your Dachshund didn't tell you](#)



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[www.dachshundhealth.org.uk](http://www.dachshundhealth.org.uk)    [www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk](http://www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk)

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