



THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

3 December 2008

Dear Club Secretary

Further to our letter of 6 November 2008, please find attached the Breed Health plan information for your breed and details of any proposed changes to the Breed Standard.

In certain cases there may be minimal or no proposed changes to a Breed Standard, and/or little or no health information. However, we would still request a response from your club regarding its health co-ordinator, together with details of any concerns that the club may have on breed health.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Hallett
Registered Societies Manager



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3rd December 2008

Dear Breed Club Secretary

Breed Health Plans

As promised in our recent correspondence, I am writing further regarding the Kennel Club's health plan for your breed. The plan will be based on three separate areas - the conformation of the breed, **the prevalence of certain conditions and diseases within the breed**, and the diversity of the breed's gene pool. The information in this document concentrates mainly on the first two parts of this plan.

Firstly, all Kennel Club Breed Standards have been reviewed to ensure that the guidance given therein leads to the breeding and exhibition of healthy dogs. In some cases, no changes have been made, in others there have been very minor changes and in some, the amendments are more extensive. The detail of proposed changes for your breed is attached at Annex A.

The revised standards will of necessity become fully effective in January 2009 as 'Interim' Breed Standards, pending further feedback in the first six months of 2009 from breed clubs and the veterinary profession. Thereafter the final versions will be published.

Secondly, we have **enclosed information regarding the presence and prevalence of certain diseases and conditions within your breed**. This information has been obtained from three separate areas:

- The prevalence of conditions affecting certain parts of the dog, as documented by the KC/BSAVA Scientific Committee's Pure Bred Dog Health Survey, completed in 2004.
- An analysis which has been compiled using data **provided by Agria Pet Insurance and covers all purebred dogs covered under the Kennel Club Healthcare Plan for the past 5 years.**
- **A list of conditions included in published material in peer-reviewed scientific literature.**

This information is contained in Annex B.



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The third part of the health plan is to examine genetic diversity. This matter will be addressed on a breed specific basis once the health plans have been issued and feedback has been received on the information provided regarding breed health issues.

Implementation

There are several steps which we would now ask all breed clubs to take:

1. Please review the attached amendments (if any) to the Breed Standard for your breed. At this stage we would ask you to respond regarding any fundamental issues in writing to Caroline Hallett, as requested on Annex A, and return them by Tuesday 30th December 2008. The standards will become interim from the beginning of January but we will accept further comments until the end of June 2009.
2. Please review the health information contained in Annex B. We have provided a feedback form (Annex C) for your response and this should, please, be returned to Diana Brooks-Ward by Tuesday 30th December 2008.
3. As requested in Annex D, you should nominate a person to be the health representative for your breed. Please return the form on Annex D to Diana Brooks-Ward by Tuesday 30th December 2008.

Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Caroline Kisko
Kennel Club Secretary

ANNEX A:

Proposed Changes to Breed Standard

Please address your comments on Breed Standard amendments to Mrs Caroline Hallett, Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges St., London W1J 8AB.

1. All standards will include the following introductory paragraph from January 2009:

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. **Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health,** welfare or soundness of this breed. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Kennel Club website for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.

2. Any proposed changes to the breed standard will appear below

Dalmatian

Colour Ground colour pure white. Black spotted, dense black spots, and liver spotted, liver brown spots; not running together but round and well defined. In size one-penny to fifty-pence piece. Spots as well distributed as possible. Spots on extremities smaller than those on body. [~~Delete 'Patches'~~]. Tricolours and spotting colour other than black or liver undesirable. [~~delete - unacceptable.~~] Bronzing on spots undesirable in adults.

[Amendments underlined, deletions in brackets]

ANNEX B

(Please address any queries to Diana Brooks-Ward, The Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges Street, London, W1J 8AB – diana.brooks-ward@thekennelclub.org.uk.)

1. Breed specific information **from the Kennel Club**.

Breed: **Dalmatian**

A. **Relative risks (using Health Survey data)**

Diseases/conditions affecting health

There is a greater reported prevalence of diseases/conditions affecting the following organ systems:

- **the nervous system**
- **the urological system**
- **the dermatological system**

Diseases/conditions causing death:

There is a greater reported prevalence of death due to diseases/conditions affecting the following organ systems:

- **the nervous system**

NB. The enclosed glossary provides information on each body system. Many breeds have their own breed specific conditions listed on the KC website under the breed health survey reports (www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/549)

B. Insurance Data

Statistics collated from insurance claims indicate that the most common claims are for the following;

- **foot / pad problems**
- **gastroenteritis**
- **skin disorders**

C. Conditions referred to **in scientific literature**

A review of scientific literature indicates that the following conditions are known to affect your breed;

- **Ceroid lipofuscinosis**
- **Ciliary dyskinesia**
- **Copper toxicosis**
- **Dilated cardiomyopathy**

- Epilepsy
- Galactocerebrosidosis
- Hereditary myelopathy
- Hereditary nephritis
- Hypertonic myopathies
- Hypothyroidism
- Laryngeal paralysis-polyneuropathy
- Respiratory distress syndrome
- Sensorineural deafness
- **Urate urolithiasis**

Glossary to Annex B

Reproductive system; conditions affecting the male and female reproductive organs (including the prostate gland) e.g. Pyometra, false pregnancy, dystochia, infertility, cryptorchid, irregular heats

Musculoskeletal system; conditions affecting muscles, tendons, ligaments and bones; e.g.; Arthritis, cruciate ligament injury, hip dysplasia, patellar luxation, OCD

Dermatologic; conditions affecting the skin and coat e.g. Dermatitis, mites, pyotraumatic dermatitis, alopecia, pyoderma, fading nose pigment

Ocular; conditions affecting the eyes e.g. Cataract, entropion, corneal ulcer, epiphora, KCS, cherry eye, distichiasis

Gastrointestinal system; conditions affecting the stomach, intestines and pancreas e.g.; Colitis, GDV, diarrhoea, pancreatitis, foreign body obstruction, vomiting

Respiratory system; conditions affecting the nasal cavity, nasopharynx, larynx, trachea and lungs e.g. cough, noisy breathing, coughing, rhinitis, long soft palate

Cardiac; conditions affecting the heart including murmur, arrhythmia, MVD, CHF, DCMP

Urologic; conditions affecting the urinary tract, kidneys, ureters, bladder & urethra e.g. Cystitis, incontinence, **cystouroliths**, haematuria, kidney failure

Immune mediated conditions involving the immune system e.g. Food allergy, atopy, flea allergy, unspecified allergy, AIHA

Neurologic; conditions affecting the nervous system including the brain e.g. Seizures, IVDD, deafness, meningitis, vestibular disease

Aural; conditions affecting the ears e.g. Otitis externa, earmites, excessive ear wax, aural haematoma

Benign neoplasia; non-cancerous masses, lumps or cysts e.g. Lipoma, histiocytoma

Cancer; malignant neoplasia e.g. MCT, carcinoma, lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, SCC

Dental; e.g. Retained puppy teeth, dental disease, defect other than extra teeth

Endocrine system; conditions affecting the hormonal system e.g. Hypothyroidism, Cushing's disease, diabetes mellitus, Addison's disease

Trauma; traumatic conditions affecting any organ system

Anal Gland; conditions affecting the anal glands e.g. Anal sacculitis, anal gland impaction or infection or removal

Hepatic system; conditions affecting the liver and gall bladder e.g. hepatitis, portosystemic shunt, liver disease/failure

Cerebrovascular; Stroke or cerebrovascular accident

Haematopoietic; conditions affecting the blood e.g. Anaemia, bleeding disorders, platelet disorder

Cardiopulmonary; conditions affecting the heart & lungs e.g. Coughing, pleural effusion, pulmonary oedema

Notes to Annex B

A.

This survey, funded by the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, was conducted to estimate the prevalences of diseases and causes of death in the breeds of dog recognised here in the UK by the Kennel Club. A single breed club, the one with the largest numerical membership, was chosen to act as the breed's parent club and questionnaires were sent to its members.

Just short of 60,000 questionnaires were distributed and around 14,000 were returned completed, and used as the source of data for further analysis. The overall response rate was 24%, with breed response rates varying from 4.5% to 64.7%. A breed-specific analysis was performed for all breeds where the response rate exceeded 15%. The data retrieved contained information on 36,006 living dogs and 15,881 dead dogs.

Your breed may only have information presented in this section if an individual breed report was possible (i.e. minimum of 15% response rate) from the Survey.

B.

The insurance analysis has been compiled using data provided by Agria Pet Insurance and covers all purebred dogs covered under the Kennel Club Healthcare Plan for the past 5 years.

The data has been broken down by organ system group, and reflects the areas where the most commonly reported illnesses are recorded in each individual breed.

Within each of those groups the most commonly reported conditions are also listed. Where insufficient data is available to make meaningful reports (usually in numerically small breeds or when less than 50 claims have been made), this is stated.

Whereas the use of such data is extremely valuable in that it refers to conditions actually treated by veterinary surgeons, care should be taken not to use the information in isolation, as on occasions inconsistencies may occur in the way that conditions are reported. Consequently the treatment and subsequent condition may vary from that which is originally reported. It should also be noted that dog population differences may affect the statistics available

C.

The scientific literature is full of reports of research into canine diseases, so we have reported those inherited diseases that have been identified in your breed and reported in one of the peer-reviewed scientific journals. The advantage of such reports is that they will be supported and validated by

appropriate scientific evidence. The disadvantage is that such reports rarely detail the prevalence of such conditions and so it is difficult to evaluate the significance of such reports to the breed as a whole. Nonetheless, such reports do provide evidence that a disease has been described and diagnosed in your breed.

For simplicity, we have just reported the diseases/conditions that have been identified in your breed. For those that want more detail on the conditions mentioned, and perhaps the references to some of the scientific reports, then these can be found at www.vet.cam.ac.uk/idid/

This database, developed by Dr David Sargan at Cambridge University, can be searched either by breed or specific condition.

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Please note any omissions here:

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Please list in order of perceived importance the conditions currently concerning your breed below (minimum of three and add extra if necessary)

- Rank 1
- Rank 2
- Rank 3
- Rank 4
- Rank 5

ANNEX D

Requirements for ongoing health surveillance by Kennel Club registered clubs

In our previous correspondence it was suggested that Breed Clubs which did not yet have a breed health committee or representative, should give urgent consideration to ensuring that one or other of these was in place.

The Kennel Club has subsequently decided that this should be mandatory for all Breed Clubs. It is therefore requested that all Breed Clubs nominate a single lead health coordinator for the club and inform us accordingly by return of the form enclosed. This should be done **by Tuesday 30th December 2008**.

Where there is more than one Breed Club in a breed, the Kennel Club requests that Breed Clubs and Councils liaise to select one single health coordinator to represent the breed as a whole. This agreement should occur **by 31st March 2009**.

It is vital that this surveillance concept be accepted by the clubs' memberships, if we are to ensure that the reporting of newly diagnosed conditions in dogs becomes the norm. That way each breed will have immediate access to its current health status and will be able to act accordingly and in a responsible manner. One of the important functions of the health group will be to collate and record this health information. Of course, some breeds will already have such health surveillance covered by existing health groups.

For its part the KC is currently working to establish new systems that will eventually allow individual health groups to feed their data into a central resource that will be able to monitor health across all breeds. This will most easily be achieved by annual or bi-annual health reports from individual breed health groups, presenting the health statistics that have been collected since their previous report.

In the shorter term, the KC will establish an electronic communications group of all of the nominated breed health coordinators/monitors. Ultimately, once the system is running efficiently, regular meetings (possibly every two years) will be organised for all health coordinators to discuss health trends, to which specialists in some of the identified conditions will be invited to contribute to the discussion.

Such a system of surveillance will also enable more immediate consultation between the KC, specialists and breed clubs if/when a newly emerging condition is discovered within a breed or breeds. Better real time breed health surveillance will greatly improve our ability to react to newly emerging problems and focus the efforts of the KC, the breed clubs and veterinary and scientific specialists to addressing the issues and dealing with them to minimise their impact on the breed.

Breed Club Health Co-ordinator form

(Please return to Diana Brooks-Ward, The Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges Street, London, W1J 8AB)

Breed:.....

Name of breed club:

Name of breed club Secretary (please print clearly)

.....

Date:

Nominated health representative (for your club) by 30th December 2008 please:

Name:

Email:

Telephone:

We will be writing to you further to ask for the name of a single health representative for the breed. Where you are the only registered club for the breed please sign the statement below:

This is to certify that the above named club is the only registered club for the breed and therefore the above named person will be the overall breed health representative

Signed: