

Labrador Breed Health Sub-committee (LBHSC) Meeting Draft Minutes 15th April 2019

Those present: Joy Venturi Rose (chairman and Breed Health Co-ordinator) Lynda Heron (Breed Health Co-ordinator) Elaine Grummitt Fiona Braddon Kira Leith-Ross Kirsty Jones Kate Smith Fiona McClean Sheelin Cuthbert (Breed Council Chairman) Sussie Wiles (Breed Council Chairman Elect) Karl Gawthorpe (Breed Council Secretary)

There were no apologies or absentees

JVR welcomed the members and all gave a short resume of their background and interests.

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed with one spelling correction.

It was clarified that members of the LBHSC who were not also on the Breed Council (BC) would have their travel expenses paid by the BC. Please complete the expenses sheet to be given to KG

Matters Arising: Give a Dog a Genome JVR reported that not all clubs had positively answered that they would contribute the extra money for an early start to this project. We were now due to start in 2019. **JVR had not heard anything from the project organisers so it was agreed that she would make contact to see when we would be starting.** There had been no feedback from clubs on the conditions to be investigated so we would go forward with the suggested Elbow Dysplasia Hereditary Cataract and Cruciate ligament as indicated previously via the Kennel Club Breed Health Report. FB asked why skin issues were not included. However (apart from ear problems (which can sometimes be skin related) this was not something that had been particularly highlighted via other health surveys or the breed clubs and we were only allowed to request three conditions via the Give a Dog a Genome project.

GPRA control letter. JVR reported that she had spent basically the whole year developing the research material and application to agree that Elbow Dysplasia scoring should be a requirement of the Assured Breeders Scheme (ABS) and felt that it was not a good idea to be pushing the Kennel Club regarding two different projects at the same time. GPRA will feature as this year's project.

Elbow Dysplasia (EB) Scoring As part of the research it was discovered that of progeny scoring the worst i.e scores of 2 or 3 sixty three percent (63%) of these dogs registered under the ABS scheme came from litters where either no parents were scored for ED or only one parent was scored. Accordingly the BHSCs proposal has been accepted by the Kennel Club (KC) ABS group and health sub-committee and has been ratified by the KC Board

The following change to the Health Sub Committee terms of reference (copy attached) to enable less changes of representatives all in one go. The following proposal and as suggested at the meeting with the amendment underlined was passed by the committee.

The Breed Club Health Sub Committee shall be made up of the two breed health coordinators who are elected every five years plus six other elected breed Club representatives. One third of the breed club representatives (consisting of the longest serving members) will retire bi-annually

but will be eligible for re-election. The remaining two thirds of the committee shall continue in office for the following year. In the event of a resignation of a representative of one or more of the breed clubs. All breed clubs will be asked to nominate names to fill the vacant space/s In the event of more nominations than spaces available being received the election will be by ballot of all the breed clubs.

As the above was adopted a ballot was held that determined the following length of service:

Elaine Grummitt 2 years

Fiona Braddon 2 years

Keira Leith Ross 3 years

Kirty Jones 3 years

Kate Smith 4 years

Fiona McClean 4 years

Representation of Breed Clubs

Kirsty Jones Cotswold and Wyevern and Labrador Retriever Club of Wales

Kate Smith East Anglian LRC and The Labrador Club

Joy Venturi Rose Kent Surrey and Sussex LRC

Fiona Maclean Labrador Club of Northern Ireland and North West LRC

Kira Leith-Ross Labrador Club of Scotland and Three Ridings LRC

Elaine Grummitt Midland Counties LRC

Lynda Heron Northumberland and Durham LRC

Fiona Braddon West of England LRC and Yellow Labrador Club

Attached is the current list of Laboratories that the KC will record DNA test results from and whether this will be done automatically or upon owner submission of the certificate. Certificates must include at least two methods of the dogs identification. **The chart** which may be amended from time to time can be found at <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health/for-breeders/dna-testing-simple-inherited-disorders/worldwide-dna-tests/> JVR also advised the meeting that Dr Tom Lewis was giving any new laboratories for new DNA testing a rigorous interview (email from G Johnson) before they would be accepted as laboratories who's certificates can be recorded by the KC. Currently, all laboratories undertaking GPRA DNA testing on the list are acceptable for recording as the KC now took the view that any potential patent issues were between the laboratories themselves. In the future there should be the additional quality assurance mechanism through the XXXX scheme. It was important that if members identified any anomalous results or suspected quality issues that they produce evidence and take this to the KC and to this committee preferably. Currently, it appears that Petagenic has been missed from the list.

Quality Assurance scheme It was noted with disquiet that even though there had been no club opinions past back to this committee by the breed clubs on the scheme proposed by the Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever Club last year that because of a few "complaints" by individuals when the scheme went "live" The scheme had been held back from being endorsed as a Breed Council motion being passed. Whilst this went against the procedure, outlined in the BC minutes, of hearing comments and opinions for consideration from breed clubs before the July closing date and then if there were no adverse comments the

scheme would go live. On balance, the committee now felt that it would be better to give clubs and individuals more information on the implementation of this voluntary scheme and also to make clear the recommendations were mainly for the general public and also with the awareness that as health testing is a developing situation not all litters would achieve the platinum target and that this did not necessarily indicate that the breeder was not health conscious. **Kate Smith (KS) agreed to take forward the writing of more information to support the scheme.** It was noted by the committee that there was nothing to stop individuals or breed clubs adopting the scheme in any case.

It was proposed and passed by the committee that: **The Kennel Club be asked to add to the requirements of the ABS that: One parent should be clear or hereditary clear of PRCD1 (GPRA) JVR to take this forward** although she advised that it might be more difficult to generate the required research information as it seems that often dogs diagnosed with GPRA might not actually have been seen by a KC/BVA eye panelist but either their own veterinary surgeon or an eye specialist not on the panel. **Lynda Heron (LH) has some information that she will pass to JVR to help support the application.**

Proposal that: The breed health sub-committee take a pro active role in building relationships with online puppy selling sites to highlight health testing requirements of the breed? Perhaps an area one of the new members may wish to develop? After discussion and some examples it was felt that most of the main web sites that sold puppies did not have sections to record the health testing status of the parents. However, the KC puppy register did not. The view of the committee was that this could be easily accommodated and that as the KC were revamping their IT systems that now was the time to write a letter suggesting this. **JVR to take forward.**

It was agreed that committee members would lead on the following areas:

Joy Venturi Rose GPRA

Lynda Heron relationship and liaison with BVA

Elaine Grummet Colour registrations and the dilute gene. A precedent has been set that the KC will not register Blue Merle whippets.

Fiona Braddon Ectopic Ureter

Kirsty Jones Hip Dysplasia and specific markers of inheritance

Kate Smith NDLC Quality Assurance Scheme

Fiona McClean Heart Issues

Kira Leith-Ross Cruciate Ligament

Any Other Business

Lynda Heron will pass access to Kirsty Jones to carry out some more analysis of the Breed Health Committee health survey

It was agreed that JVR would write a letter to Noel Fitzpatrick asking him to promote the benefits of the KC/BVA Hip and Elbow scoring scheme to the general public and clients.

Date of next meeting

It was decided that the committee would like 2 meetings a year. **Sussie Wiles would arrange a room after the Yellow Labrador Club championship show on the 25th September 2019**

