

Minutes of the Breed Council Health Committee meeting 22nd July, 2012
held at Woodlea, Main St., Styrrup, DN11 8NB

Present : - Marion Hopkinson MH, (Chair), Lynda Heron LH, Penny Carpanini PC, Caron Morton CM, Janet Cole JC, Fiona Braddon FB, Joy Venturi-Rose JVR (on conference call)
Apologies; Margaret Brown.

MH read out letter from Phillipa Robinson (The Karlton Index) re lack of recent minutes, breed health survey, up to date website.

EIC Survey of Labrador Clubs

Majority of Clubs agreed to KC publishing results

The KC has agreed to publish Labokin and Minnesota Lab results

Extreme Muscular Stiffness

Based on a study at Cambridge University

Only 6 dogs – all are related and generally felt that it was isolated and not significant enough in the breed to warrant further attention

A letter has been sent answering PR's points and the Health sub Committee agreed to try and improve website health information.

Letters to Steve Dean and Bill Lambert. (posted on LBC website)

Steve Dean did not personally receive letter – It took 2 months to get acknowledgement of receipt.

SD and BL replied for both.(posted on LBC website)

Amy Lleyellin is KC person to contact re health schemes, result publication, Mate select etc

PC asked if responses are from General Committee of the KC or actually from SD and BL.

- Not known

PC suggested that the LBCHSC go to Dog Press following unsatisfactory responses.

LH prepared Press Release quoting a precedent in Irish Setters

JVR expressed her and committee's concerns about hereditary clear status automatically awarded to pups by KC

Due to an incorrect CNM DNA test on a Lab stud dog, pups from a few matings from, at the time, clear parents were registered as 'Clear by parentage'. The stud dog has subsequently been tested again and found to be a carrier. Pups that were 'clear' – and now not. And KC are not willing to change status

KC have made Labokin laboratory of choice for EIC and CNM tests

Labokin have not responded to a detailed letter sent to them by owner of above stud dog, they initially blamed sample mix up by owner but this has been categorically refuted by the owner.

It is known that 3 dogs 'clear' at first test by Labokin have subsequently been changed to 'Carrier' at second test.

LBCHSC has sent a letter asking the KC to remove Clear by parentage tag from these pups, (Apparently this already happens in Daschunds so KC can do this)

and compile a policy on laboratory standards and publish recommended labs for each DNA test

EBV Estimated Breed Value.

A meeting was held by Kennel Club attended by JVR and MH. There was a presentation by a geneticist, Steve Dean Chair of KC was present

Labradors are the first breed to have EBV based upon a Risk score – currently only HD score of dogs and progeny- this has been published and analysed over many years (Joan Macan hip score

books)and Labradors have the highest number of dogs/plates scored of any breed in the KC/BVA scheme. The KC are ready to launch the EBV soon.

LH described how EBV scheme is used in cattle to good effect it has dramatically reduced number of caesarean sections in certain pedigree cattle, improved milk yields etc.

In a discussion it was agreed that hips were not the biggest problem to spend money on. It was also noted that cattle generally have only one calf – usually one per year and AI is the norm thus making risk scoring much more accurate. Labradors average litter 6 of which only 1 or 2 scored. AI little used because of lack of expertise and cost. Hip Dysplasia is multifactorial and only 30% hereditary therefore EBV score is much less accurate/ reliable than in cattle.

How useful will it be for breeders?

Breeding Coefficient – KC Mate Select

It was felt that there was not enough evidence to support the KC recommended BC of less than breed average of 6.4%. Over many years and in many types of livestock line breeding has been used to good effect. Results are much more predictable, faults can be bred out and good features maintained or % increased. The breed average of 6.4% is disputed - LH and Anne Taylor are looking at breeding coeffs on working and show winners in last year. Hope to publish on website

Discover Dogs leaflet

Ask John Jackson for pdf for leaflets he produced for Discover Dogs. All LBCHSC approve of leaflets and will adopt them and put on LBC website

KC - The Puppy Plan booklet

There was unanimous condemnation of this booklet. The LBCSHC has already written to KC asking them to withdraw it as it could prove dangerous for bitches and their puppies. Apparently written by a psychologist who had no experience of breeding dogs.

Influence of Health Sub Committee

LBCHSC cannot be pro-active if KC does not respond or listen. A letter is to be sent to Amy Llewellyn at KC asking KC to be proactive in preventing affected puppies being born where an established DNA test is available. To suggest a letter from KC to anyone who produces affected stock as happens now in the dachshund breed. First step is refusing registration for pups from affected/carrier parents. Only pups from matings with one clear parent can be registered.

Puppy Website:

In order to promote responsible breeding the LBCHSC thought the profile of the Labrador Puppy website should be raised. Encourage public to buy from breeders who carry out all the health tests on all stock, plan matings carefully backed by knowledge and experience, rear puppies well. Best way to promote good breeders is via Club secretaries or puppy coordinators.

One page per Club. Club should be able to load details of pups for sale if they wish or just answer by email or phone. It was agreed to use web tools to raise profile and make sure Puppy website comes up in search engines on web. FB agreed to set up new site based upon page present at moment and come back to committee with costs of promotion tools.

www.labrador-puppy.co.uk

Date of next meeting 9th December 2012