

# THE LABRADOR BREED COUNCIL

## Health Sub - Committee

### Minutes of the Health Sub Committee

Held on Thursday 6th April 2017

at The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB

#### Present

Joy Venturi Rose – Chairperson (Breed Health Rep)

Lynda Heron - Breed Health Rep

David Coode

Caron Morton

Karl Gawthorpe

Fiona Braddon

Sheelin Cuthbert (In her capacity as Chair of the Breed Council)

#### Apologies

Received from Janet Cole

(Minute Taker - Joanne McDonald)

JVR opening the meeting advising that Penny Carpanini has resigned from her position on the BCHSC and questioned the procedure. KG advised there had been a similar position in 2015 and quoted from the minutes “Resignation within term, the committee can co-opt a member”. LH asked if the representative needed to be on a Breed Club Committee, JVR advised they have always asked Breed Clubs to propose a member. LH mentioned that no-one from the (pure) working side was a representative. KG to contact Clubs to request nominations from Midland Counties and Labrador Club of Wales and then the BCHSC will agree.

The Minutes of the meeting of The Labrador Breed Council Health Sub Committee held on 11th April 2016 were proposed as a true record by LH and seconded by DC.

#### Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes Not on the Agenda

##### 1. Health Results Erroneous Results –

The case mentioned at the previous meeting has now resulted in an out of court settlement in favour of the owners who were asked by the company to agree to a privacy order. LH sent a sample for colour analysis as a test which came back with a chocolate dog been given a black result. FB / JVR were to look at quality assurance (external industry body schemes), FB explained at present there are no mandatory schemes in place for health testing, different countries operate differing schemes and this in itself is an issue. Not all laboratories are recognised by the KC, the laboratory with the incorrect results IS KC Accredited. Some labs take samples and then forward to a third party so giving additional concerns over lost/ mixed samples. The patent for PRA has now expired and so the KC should now accept results.

**JVR** to contact KC regarding accepting results from labs other than Optigen.

**JVR** to collect more information regarding erroneous results.

Voluntary reporting of health tests should stay in place. **AIF**

##### 2. Facebook -

JVR reported that the Facebook page launch had been a success, LH has continued to post throughout the year with relevant informative material.

##### 3. Proximal Dyskensia –

JVR asked for feedback, LH explained she had some but not as yet collated to report.

##### 4. BH Fund –

Money could be available if required for relevant things. KG should be the initial point of contact to organise.

## Matters Arising from the Agenda

**5. Update on Breed Health Coordinators Meeting** – Neither JVR or LH were able to attend this year, JVR summarised from provided notes.

**5.1 Vet Compass Presentation** – Disorders/ issues need to be evidence based. How do we gather evidence if we feel there is a problem within the breed?

A comparison was undertaken of Cross Breeds to Pedigree dogs from 498 participating vets, this was 5 million unique animals (3 million of which were dogs). The research is to be shared with colleagues and international studies. (High bred vigour and inbreeding)

### **Most Common Problem**

Issue	Pure Bred	Cross
Ear Problem	More	
Feet Problems		
Obesity	More	
Skin Masses		

In comparing breeds high numerical (Jack Russells, Yorkshire Terrier, GSD, Cocker Spaniel, Cavaliers, Border Terriers, Labradors)

Labradors came out highest for Ears Problems, Obesity and Degenerative Joint Disease. For longevity cross breeds were found to live longer, on average one year longer with an average age at death being 13.1 years against 11.9 for pure bred.

**5.2. Biggest Challenge for the Breed** - In reality this is a people problem and not a dog one.

**5.3. KC Insurance Company (Agria) and International KC** - A discussion took place, it has been noted that if you declare puppies have visited a vet then the reported condition (ie. upset tummy) will be excluded from future insurance policies (even if no longer an issue). JVR reported case of a two year old dog, where the insurance company had asked the breeder if the puppy had visited the vets and given a 21 day response period for reply. The dog was by now two years old and had been with its new owner since 8 weeks of age. The insurance was no longer with the breeder but the owner. When you take out the free puppy insurance the puppy's KC registration details are given. LH enquired if Pet Plan could therefore provide a discount for health tested progeny as at present mongrels are apparently cheaper to insure than pure bred. LH (JM) noted a discount scheme is offered in other industries for additional security or membership of a compliance body. Agria and other insurance companies could be contacted re discount. KG reported that if we do not report issues with the scheme in its current state then the insurance companies won't know of problems, Breed Club members are encouraged to join the breeders scheme. **KG** to take back comments to Agria (as a general enquiry not from the BCHSC). JVR commented that if breeders are honest and note issues this should not be used as a get out clause.

**5.4. Hereditary Cataract** - LH followed up with Sally Ricketts "Following the two Labrador days at the AHT in October and in Netherton in February, we now have DNA samples from 123 Labradors with bilateral HC (Posterior Polar Subcapsula Cataracts) and 94 dogs over the age of eight years with clear eyes. As we are still short of the 120 target for controls, AHT plan to reimburse BVA Eye Testing for up to 30 dogs in the coming weeks. An email will be sent to all of the clubs regarding this and to owners via the Kennel Club. They will then be in a good position to conduct our Genome Scan during the summer months". Until the inheritance and environmental factors of HC are clarified there is unlikely to be any change to the status of HC on the KC/BVA scheme. LH stated a case of a dog Passed at 12 months, Failed a 2 years, Retested at 4 and found to have Cortical Anterior Cataract (Non- hereditary) seen by the lead panelist (In full Pass, Fail, Fail, Pass, Pass). HC is a difficult, multi-factoral condition it seems, with sometimes a very late onset. There may well be other external factors to take into account.

**5.5. Breed Specific Genome** - JVR stated that 75 breeds are signed up to do this, Labradors will not be in the first wave but included in the second which is planned for 2018. LH asked the reason why labradors were not included in the first wave. JVR explained 50 originally planned but due to large uptake 75 will be included and they are happy to include Labradors in the second phase. More popular than anticipated and because the breed council could not agree it until April 16 and the scheme started in January 16 therefore we were later than some breeds to respond. KC will provide £1000 per breed with the breed being asked to cover the other half. KC Genome Committee process already undertaken to select dogs. KC have asked for 3 disorders that cause concern in the breed. **LH** to collate information and send to others. CM (and JM) attended the Three Ridings Labrador Club presentation re the Genome Project where it was stated the reason that Labradors were not included was a lack of interest although CM had shown them our acceptance email on her mobile. It was also said that if the Breed wished to fund itself it could at a cost of £2000 and then we could be included in 2017. **JVR** to follow this up.

**5.6. Health Co-Ordinators Symposium** - Held annually with KC - now open to all, not just Breed Health Co-Ordinators.

**6. Puppy Buyers Quality Assurance** - N&D proposed that the BCHSC look at how to promote basic health criteria. All the breed Clubs were contacted to ask for feedback on the scheme -

N&D propose the use of a logo for people to use who meet the scheme criteria. This is to directly target issues over - Dilutes, the ABS and BVA (now recommending Hips of 9 or less).

FB queried re elbows should be 0? Could this put people off trying to improve? JVR suggested a possible Silver Standard with elbows of 1? The scheme needs to be achievable and promote progression.

FB raised concerns that this might imply a guarantee - buy this puppy and everything will be fine, a disclaimer may be needed.

JVR stated the scheme needed adjustment, with wording tidied up. **All Clubs** are requested to review the scheme and forward suggestions to **LH** to collate. **PLEASE SEE NOTES ATTACHED.**

**7. Hip Dysplasia DNA Marker Test** - JVR has spoken to Tom Lewis re this newish test on the market.. This test looked at 6 markers of HD. It was felt that as the test was not proven in the real environment that at present Estimated Breeding Values were the preferred way to progress. The tests reports dogs as low, medium or high risk of developing HD. CM mentioned 'Pup Scan' a business offering to scan pups at 6 - 8 weeks to provide evidence of HD. A discussion took place with the genera feeling being that evidence that it worked was not yet in place.. Further investigation needed into its promotion. **CM** to collate.

**8. Breed Watch** - DC questioned reporting the number of incidents as being too low which makes a nonsense of the reporting. LH queried it being non-mandatory as the number of responses does not tally with the number of CC's on offer. SC noted the importance of reporting to be brought up with all **the Breed Clubs**. Advice should possibly be given with judges slips.

**9. KC Questionnaire** - Annual Breed Health Report to be at the KC by August to include the 3 conditions CURRENTLY seen as most important within the breed. This used to be sent to Breed Clubs but now forwarded to BCHSC. **KG** volunteered to contact all the Breed Clubs within the time limit and report back to KC.

To include -

\* What in their view are the most important 3 Health problems in the breed

\* What, if anything has the breed done to tackle issues so far  
\*

**10. BC Website** - CM noted that it requires updating, **FB** to action.

**11. Surveys** - Pedigree and Breed Health - LH circulated th BCHC survey. JVR noted it is simple, straightforward and easy to use. Only LH has access to collated information at present. She confirmed this would be shared with the committee.

**12. Ectopic Ureter** - LH has contacted Laura Owers (Cambridge) re the issue. Currently working with goldies, scanning to define normal or not. In progression, possibly hereditary factors. she is happy to include Labradors in the study. FB asked if BCHSC could consider providing some sponsorship. JVR explained that currently the KC are working with Cambridge on the project. FB said the non-invasive scheme used by the Swiss Mountain Dog Breeders and **FB** would include information on this on the website. JVR commented that as far as she knew in Switzerland reporting is on a risk basis as it is likely to be a polygenetic and/or multifactorial condition. Therefore, reporting would be along the; lines. of High, Medium or Low Risk Method of breeding for example would be Medium or High to Low. **FB** to email information re research completed by Laura Owers.

**13. Dilute DNA Test** - FB asked why KC registered known dilute gene carriers. Holland has banned registration of these. DC commented that LRC of Wales would not accept entries to Working Tests or Field Trials from non-recognised colours (on entry information). DC commented that there was a DNA test for the dilute gene now available. JVR would raise this with the KC.

**14. AOB** -

**14.1.** LH brought up that she thought the KC was phasing out the type of control schemes where they for example wrote to breeders who produced affected Labradors with GPRA. JVR to enquire.

**14.2.** JVR mentioned that although Labradors are numerically high, As a breed the number of representative breeding Labradors is under the desirable 100 probably because of our breed sub populations that tend to be more inbred than average e.g Working, Trialing, Show, Geographical). However, should the breed incur an inbreeding problem we could interbreed between the subsections to introduce diversity and reduce genetic problems without reducing the gene pool still further..

**14.3.** CM asked if 'silver' labrador breeders were allowed on ABS? **CM** to look at this..

**14.4.** LH asked if KC could include elbows on the scheme, this was denied last time, as it is only a recommendation and NOT a requirement. JVR asked for feeling from Representatives. Feeling was that it should be and will be put on the agenda for the next meeting and mentioned in the BC Meeting. **JVR to mention.** DC expressed concern over Testing Schemes as he knows of several appeals all being reduced. FB commented that Elbow Scheme needs to be digitised currently, needs to be more accurate. **JVR** volunteered to ask for a represnetative from BVA to speak to BCHSC re scheme. LH stated that online submissions now have a code on the X-Ray, therefore if payment could be made prior to submission there would be less opt out and a better picture gained.

**14.5** It was noted that currently the Eye Testing Scheme was taking up to two months to come back.

**14.6** JVR said HC Clear Labradors over the age of 8 years are still required. For the AHT researchIf anyone can take part she would like to know.

**Meeting Closed.**