

THE LABRADOR BREED COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE 17th April 2014

Apologies: None received. Clarification required from the Labrador Club of Scotland on who their representative should be as Margaret Brown is no longer on their committee or attends the health sub-committee meetings.

Attendance: Janet Cole Fiona Braddon, Marion Hopkinson (Chairman) Caron Morton Lynda Heron, Joy Venturi Rose, Penny Carpanini

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Matters arising:

The chairman expressed the opinion that the main LBC agenda item submitted by Northumberland & Durham LRC which was clearly a Health matter should have come to the Health Committee first. That was the correct route so that it could be discussed by all the Breed Club representatives first and a decision made as to whether to make a proposal from the whole LBC HSC.

Lynda Heron (LH) responded saying that because there had been no HSC meetings before the agenda was closed for LBC meeting it was a good way to test opinion of all breed clubs and allow open discussion at the LBC meeting.

The breed survey needs an introduction to say what it is about and what it will be used for. Anonymity was discussed. It was decided to make it anonymous but give the option at the end to provide contact details if wished. The additional of a Pet name that was matched to year off birth could help to highlight any anomalies or repeated entries. **LH will contact the KC to follow up on their offer to circulate via email to registered owners. The addition of a part to notify sudden death was also discussed and agreed to be added.**

The letter written to KC asking them to not allow breeding between two parents neither of whom were DNA tested for GPRA was not responded to. However, it was confirmed that the KC are now operating the system of writing to anyone who has bred an affected litter (as per the Dachshund precedent). Anecdotally, the meeting heard of examples, where Labradors affected by GPRA are sometimes diagnosed by ophthalmological referral vets who were not on the BVA/KC eye panel. These cases are not automatically entered into the KC/BVA eye scheme and therefore not added to breed data. **It was agreed a letter to be sent to the KC and copied to the RCVS and BVA would be drafted by Joy Venturi Rose (JVR) and circulated to the committee for comments.**

JVR will put an introduction and link on a variety of facebook sites directing them to the Breed Council web site health section and the breed health co-ordinators. Stating we are always happy to answer questions from breeders or owners in the UK. Information that we have access to experience and are elected by breed clubs should also be made. In addition, a closed facebook site just for our committee was agreed. We could use the text facility to deal with issues through the year and only have a second meeting for specific very important issue/s. LH

Please could all health committee members ensure that changes to contact details i.e. email addresses or where members prefer a different one to be used that they contact Joy or Marion with the information. All documents will be sent as a word and PDF document so everyone can open them. (It is also possible to download a free internet programme called open office to allow the user to open word documents using the most recent issues of the software).

Comments on Elbow and Hip Scoring Advice. The BVA/KC advice and information for breeders and owners is now thought to be too prescriptive for breeders having to tackle lots of other health conditions as well as type, temperament, inbreeding coefficient etc. The statistical relevance of Mean Median and Mode in a non norm referenced population is also an issue. Estimated Breeding Values data was also discussed. Discussion on best time to XRAY and variance of results was also discussed. The group considered that later was often better. A study comparing results of radiographs taken at both 1 and 2 years of age would be interesting. A comparison between the ISDS and the KC and on how they approached the management of health issues was made. It was agreed that a letter expressing the groups disquiet regarding the BVA/KC advice on elbow and hip scores as above would be written. **JVR to draft a letter and circulate.** It needed to be scientifically factual so would take a while to write to best effect. The group felt that in some cases the breeders who were testing were going to be unnecessarily penalised whilst those that did not test would not be so constrained by what they bred from. **Lynda Heron would further research her contacts for the evidence base for elbows.**

The group felt that we should continue to press for more rigor in PRA testing even though we are not listened to. **An initial letter was drafted for the chairman to circulate.**

Feed back to Breed Council

Elbow Dysplasia Scheme. There was no majority in favour of making elbow scoring compulsory for ABS. The HSC recommend leaving it as desirable and will review this decision in light of further evidence collected by HSC members particularly the comparison between results of Xrays and CAT scans. There were also a number of environmental factors to consider regarding the development of elbow dysplasia.

PRA (as above)

BVA/KC Hip article disquiet (see appendix). A letter was required as above. **(recent updates to the BVA web site information now seem to render this letter un-necessary)**

Regarding coat colour other breeds had obviously been involved with the development of these non standard colours and this meant there was potential for introducing yet more inherited diseases into the Labrador breed pool.

The Health Strategy and roles specification agreed from the last meeting are to go on the web site.

The group questioned what the future of the Labrador Club of Scotland might be in relation to the UK KC and the breed council and health committee if the country voted for independence.

The committee supported a voluntary system of recording DNA results on the mate select web site.

Re-election of the health committee representatives is due in 2015