

MBTC Annual Health Report

The past year has seen some good steps forward with regards to Mini Bull Health with free PKD testing for members at the Club Champ Show Nov 13 and the first Breed Health Survey receiving over 300 responses from around the world. A draft Breed Health Strategy has been drawn up and this outlines some aims going forward and can be used to track progress.

2013/14 MBTC Breed Health Survey

The Health Survey data did not show any specific issue as standing out. In brief the results showed:-

317 total responses from around the globe with 129 responses from the UK (41% of total responses)

35% of dogs reported on had been bred from and from those 21 puppies were still born, 26 puppies died within 3 weeks, 9 cases of cleft palates reported and 3 cases of LAD.

10% had not been DNA tested for PLL and 17% were clear by parentage.

48% had not been UPC tested and 47% had been with results below the recommended 0.3 ratio. 3 dogs had been diagnosed as having Kidney Disease and 5 had UPC results above 0.3

66% had not been scanned for PKD with 28% having been scanned clear. 2 dogs had reported cysts to be found.

19% of dogs had not had a heart check and 35% had hearts listened to by a regular vet (not cardiologist). 38% had normal heart checks by cardiologists with 6% having had murmurs heard.

54% had not been BAER hearing tested and 41% had been tested with normal hearing reported. 3 dogs were reported as deaf in one ear.

49% had not had their patella's checked and 46% had with normal results. 10 dogs had luxation reported at various levels.

Various skin complaints were reported and this is an area that I would like to look at in more detail. Skin conditions are a difficult area as environmental and food can impact the problem a great deal.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorders also showed to be higher than we would like with 12 cases of spinning, 4 compulsive lickings, 3 fixation issues (light etc) and 6 cases of aggression reported.

KC Reports

The KC Dog Health Annual Report shows the number of UK registered dogs DNA tested (or hereditary clear/carrier). Since the DNA test has been available 376 dogs have been DNA tested with 225 clear, 142 carriers, 9 affected. In 2013 only 31 dogs have been DNA tested 22 of which are clear and 9 carriers. 495 dogs are hereditary clear, 66 of those within 2013. We still have a number of litters being registered

where one or both parents have unknown PLL status, in 2013 6 litters had a sire with unknown PLL status, 5 litters with a dam with unknown PLL status and 4 litters with both parents having unknown PLL status.

I spoke to the AHT during Crufts this year and to date no further cases of DNA carrier dogs have been reported to luxate. They still believe this could have been a random few cases found at the start of the test however ask that we continue to eye test our dogs yearly, especially those who are DNA carriers and that we report any changes to them immediately. The DNA testing is still in its early years and we will continue to receive updates as it progresses.

The number of caesareans has risen from 7 in 2012 to 12 in 2013 of which 7 were emergency and 5 elective.

The breed COI is currently excellent at 5.6% . This will be tracked throughout the year.

Looking forward to 2014/15

The plans for the coming year are to continue with increasing communication with breeders and owners about health testing and general health issues. The Club website, Facebook and new Twitter page will be used primarily as this is quick and involves no extra cost to the club. In a general 2013 survey 86% of adults in the UK have internet connections at home and therefore we must use this channel of communication to its maximum.

I will be producing an on-line form where people can report cases of diagnosed illness and report deaths where illness was the reason. This will allow for anonymous submissions to help encourage reporting. This will contribute to the overall need for data and the information received will be reported (anonymously) in next year's Health Report.

A more detailed Health Survey will be launched at the end of the year.

With the more data we have we can start to look at what areas need our attention, whether research can be started or what breeders need to be careful/concerned about.

I will continue with discussions with the Breed Health representatives in Europe and around the world – we have confirmed sharing of health data and ideas to improve the breeds health. I have also been in discussions with Health Co-ordinators in other breeds again to share ideas and information.

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