

Miniature Bull Terrier Breed Health Strategy



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Document Change Control

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Purpose

Background

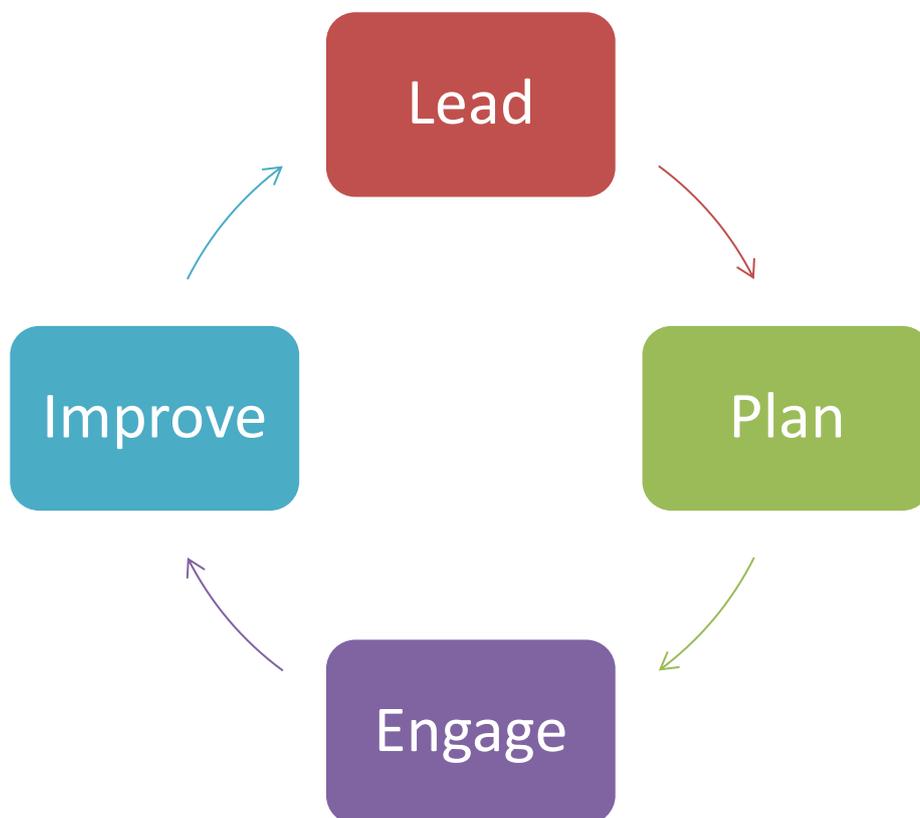
The present day brings new challenges to breed clubs, breeders and pet owners, all under the watchful eye of society, many of whom are quick to judge and comment on breeders, show enthusiasts and even pet owners of particular breeds. Calls for more legislation and the rising of expectations from pedigree dogs will only ever increase. To add to this the Miniature Bull Terrier (MBT) remains one of the 25 native vulnerable breeds listed with the UK Kennel Club.

Purpose

Creating a Health Strategy will help us focus our priorities and monitor the health of the MBT more closely acting as a reference point, guide and information source for the future. It will lay out where we want to be, not only today but in the years to come and help us move towards our goals together.

The Health Strategy will also bring some consistency into how breed clubs deal with health issues which is currently lacking in the MBT and regardless to who sits on the clubs committees or who is elected Health Co-Ordinator the same guidelines to health can be followed.

With the exception of PLL there is little data on MBT health related issues and so we cannot be sure what problems are worse or which needs our attention first. The collection of data will not only help the breed today but will leave information for generations to come to compare to and monitor the breeds health more accurately. This Health Strategy will be a place to formally collate data and ensure its availability for all to see now and into the future.



Breed Health

Current known hereditary diseases and Recommended Screening Test

Primary Lens Luxation (PLL)

A painful eye condition which should become a thing of the past after the Animal Health Trust (AHT) found the gene mutation and introduced a DNA test around 4 years ago. All breeding animals and puppies should hold a valid DNA certificate (stating Clear or Carrier) or certified 'clear by parentage' on their KC paperwork. It is still acceptable to breed from Carrier dog's providing the potential mate is Clear. Clear x Carrier can produce both Clear and Carrier puppies therefore the whole litter should be DNA tested prior to sale. Clear x Clear can only produce Clear puppies therefore their KC paperwork should state 'clear by parentage' or they should hold a clear DNA certificate.

This DNA test can be carried out on puppies after they have been weaned as well as adult dogs. This DNA test is only required once in the dog's lifetime.

At present we still recommend yearly eye checks with an ophthalmologist to ensure there are no other underlying eye conditions previously hidden by PLL.

Kidney Disease

There are two different types of kidney disease to be screened for. Hereditary Nephritis (HN) and Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). Both are known as silent killers as owners rarely notice the few signs/symptoms until the kidneys are in complete failure.

HN is screened for using the Urine Protein Creatinine (UPC) test which gives a final ratio. Anything above 0.3 can indicate early kidney failure and should be investigated. This ratio threshold (0.3) is unique to bull terriers/mini bull terriers (other breeds use 0.5) so please ensure you inform your vet and see the paper work of the lab results.

A copy of the lab report should be kept for proof.

Dogs should be tested from 1 year of age.

This screening test should be carried out yearly.

PKD is screened for by ultrasound of the kidneys where a clear picture can be seen by the vet to ensure no cysts are present. At least 3 cysts across the kidneys should be seen for PKD to be diagnosed along with a parent or sibling having the same problem.

A letter/certificate from your vet stating 'no cysts found' should be kept for proof.

Dogs should be tested from 1 year of age.

This test is only required once in an adult dog's life.

Heart Disease

There are a number of different heart conditions that can affect dogs however the main two known in the mini bull are Mitral Valve Disease (MVD) and Aortic Stenosis (AS).

These conditions affect different valves in the heart making it difficult for blood to pass through or causing 'back flows'.

Dogs should be heart checked by qualified cardiologists (Vets often miss low grade murmurs) using special equipment to detect heart murmurs. A minimum expectation is that the heart is listened to using auscultation (a special stethoscope able to hear even low grade murmurs) however the preferred method would be auscultation and ECG of the heart or full Doppler testing.

A letter/certificate from the vet should be kept showing no murmurs present.

Animals should be tested from 1 year of age.

Auscultation should be carried out yearly

Doppler testing, being more accurate, can be carried out 2 yearly

Deafness

This is normally associated more with white dogs however it has been known for coloured dogs to be affected too. Dogs can be either be deaf in one ear (unilateral deafness) or deaf in both ears (bilateral deafness). It is difficult to notice deafness in young puppies as they tend to react to vibrations or follow their litter mates or those deaf in one ear who can react normally. A BAER (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) carried out by a specialist trained to use the machine is the only way to know for certain. Small probes are placed on the puppy/dog and a headphone over the ear emitting a clicking noise is used while the computer records the brains response.

This is a non-invasive test that does not cause any pain or harm to the puppy/dog. On some occasions adult dogs will need to be lightly sedated to keep them still but puppies are fine awake.

This test can be carried out on puppies from 5 weeks old and any age after that.

This test is only required once in the dog's lifetime.

A copy of the report from the specialist should be kept for proof.

Patella Luxation

The patella is more commonly known as the knee-cap can luxate (slip out of place). This can be very slight and no obvious signs of limping are seen or more severe and an obvious limp noticed. This can be a painful condition for the dog and may cause constant pain.

In severe cases an operation to fix the joint where the patella is attached will be required. If required Kennel Club must be notified and their permission obtained before the dog can be exhibited.

Other areas of concern include

Skin Conditions – Severe allergies and atopic dermatitis

Mental Disorders – Spinning and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders (OCD)

Lethal Acrodermatitis (LAD)

Current Data

A Health Survey was conducted Aug 2013 – Jan 2014 to gather data on the current health of the MBT. The Survey was sent to all MBT owners who had registered email addresses with the KC over the past 10 years as well as on the KC Website, KC publications and KC Twitter/Facebook pages. It was also advertised on the MBTC website and Facebook pages along with other Facebook pages with an interest in the breed and was open to all MBT owners around the world. Full Results are available in the document appendices.

The KC Breed Record Supplements have been used to collate the number of puppies registered in 2012 and 2013 which shows a slight decrease in puppies registered each year. Although a concern it should be noted that the Bull Terrier as well as all other Terrier Group breeds also show a decrease in numbers each year.

2012				
1st Qtr.	2ndQrt	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	YEAR
44	77	45	26	192

2013				
1st Qtr.	2ndQrt	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year
27	53	50	31	161

A further break down of the registration numbers for 2012 and 2013 are below.

2012

2013

Registrations

Registrations

SEX	Number
DOGS	102
BITCHES	87
TOTAL PUPPIES	189
IMPORTS	3
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	192

SEX	Number
DOGS	74
BITCHES	77
TOTAL PUPPIES	151
IMPORTS	10
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	161

LITTERS	45
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LITTERS	38
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CAERSAERIANS	LITTERS	PUPPIES
ELECTIVE	5	25
EMERGANCY	2	7
TOTAL	7	32

CAERSAERIANS	LITTERS	PUPPIES
ELECTIVE	5	16
EMERGANCY	7	31
TOTAL	12	47

COLOURS	PUPPIES
BRINDLE / BLACK BRINDLE	86
RED/FAWN	28
TRI	17
TOTAL COLOUR	131
WHITE	58
TOTAL	189

COLOURS	PUPPIES
BRINDLE	36
BLACK BRINDLE	13
RED/FAWN	23
TRI	20
TOTAL COLOUR	92
WHITE	59
TOTAL	151

The KC 2013 Dog Health Annual Report has noted the number of UK registered MBTs DNA tested for PLL. The results are a little disappointing and show that a large number of MBTs who still have an unknown DNA status.

No. Tested		Clear		Carrier		Affected		Hereditary Clear		Hereditary Carrier	
15 years	2013	15 years	2013	15 years	2013	15 years	2013	15 years	2013	15 years	2013
376	31	225	22	142	9	9	0	495	66	3	0

The KC also provided data on the current number of litters registered where one or both parents had no PLL DNA status known.

YEAR	NO. OF LITTERS WITH SIRE PLL UNKNOWN	NO. OF LITTERS WITH DAM PLL UNKNOWN	NO. OF LITTERS WITH SIRE AND DAM PLL UNKNOWN	TOTALS
2010	4	8	8	20
2011	4	8	7	19
2012	7	9	4	20
2013	6	5	4	15
TOTALS	21	30	23	

This is an area that requires close monitoring to ensure the number continues on a downwards trend. Future conversations should include looking into requesting that the KC no longer allows litters to be registered where the sire or dam have unknown PLL status. This could have other effects on the breed so would require careful consideration.

The number of dogs in 2013 to receive an eye examination by an recognised KC scheme is low at only 12.

The KC Mate Select tool has been used to determine the current average breed COI.

Bull Terrier (Miniature) **5.6%**

This is a respectable level for such a small gene pool but will continue to be monitored.

Inbreeding is defined as the mating of related individuals, whether they are closely related or more distantly related. The inbreeding coefficient of an individual is the probability that two copies of the same gene have been inherited from a common founder that is an ancestor shared by both parents. The lower the inbreeding coefficient, the lower the probability (risk) that this will happen.

An inbreeding coefficient of 12.5% means that there is a 1 in 8 chance that a dog will inherit the same version of gene from the same dog that appears in both the sire's and dam's pedigree. The puppies born to a mother/son, father/daughter or brother/sister mating (which the Kennel Club will no longer accept for registration), would be at least 25%. The inbreeding coefficient of puppies born from a grandfather/granddaughter mating would be at least 12.5%.

Objectives and Plans

The Health Coordinator takes responsibility to update the Health Strategy however the Clubs, breeders, pet owners, general enthusiasts and judges are the ones responsible for delivering results. Working together we can make a difference.

Objectives

Lead

- Appointment of a breed health co-ordinator
- Publication of annual health reports
- Establish a health fund
- Update Code of Ethics
- Develop a Health Strategy
- Update KC Assured Breeder Scheme recommendations

Plan

- Develop health plans
- Conduct Health Surveys
- Develop health reporting system
- Develop communication methods

Engage/Communicate

Engage with

- Kennel Club
- Other clubs within the UK, Europe and world wide
- Breeders
- Pet owners and general enthusiasts
- Judges
- Potential new owners
- Vets and labs

Communication methods

- Face to face at shows and events like Discover Dogs
- By telephone or email, publishing contact details of Health Coordinator and Committee members
- Club website
- Social networks such as Facebook and Twitter
- In writing by means of factsheets / reports handed out at shows, events, posted to new members when joining and current members with AGM notices.

Plan

Currently there is a lack of health data for the MBT and this requires our immediate attention and must be a priority.

In order to improve on health we must understand where we are and what conditions are having the biggest impact on our breed, only then can we put plans in place to deal with them and reduce their occurrences.

A basic health survey was undertaken in 2013 which had a good response from around the world. 325 surveys were completed, 131 from the UK, 78 from Europe, 64 from America, 13 from Australia and 39 from other countries. The full results from this survey can be found in the appendices of this document.

We must now build on this data and improve the communication between breeders, owners and the health co-ordinator to collate a bigger picture on the health of the breed.

To do this the following commitments are made:-

- Create and communicate an illness/condition reporting form
 - Encourage breeders and pet owners to complete the form if any illness/condition is diagnosed with their mbt
- Create and communicate a death reporting form
 - Encourage breeder and pet owners to complete the form on the death of their mbt disclosing full details of the cause of death
- Create a more detailed survey for breeders and pet owners to complete
- Create a Health Award for breeders to show puppy buyers signed on behalf of the club by the Health Co-ordinator. This can be used to show puppy buyers and give peace of mind that the breeder had the support of the club with regards to health
 - The award will be in the form of a certificate, a sample can be found in the appendices
 - Health certificates must be submitted the Health Co-ordinator for both the sire and dam
 - Full health testing will be required with proof that PLL, UPC, PKD, Heart (minimum auscultation), BAER and Patella tests have all been completed. A copy of the dogs pedigree certificates showing microchip or tattoo information must be submitted. All Health certs must carry corresponding numbers (UPC will be accepted without and taken on trust).

Following on from these further commitments are made:-

- To increase our communication channels with breed enthusiasts
 - Create a twitter account
 - Change the Facebook page to a group for better 2 way communication
 - Update factsheets for shows and discover dogs
 - Send out fact sheets to new club members in their welcome packs
 - Send factsheets out to all club members, to act as reminders or updates, when sending out yearly AGM information
- To set up a dedicated health fund to support club testing schemes and for future possibilities of DNA research at the Animal Health Trust
- Monitor the Breeding COI, whilst currently at 9.9% which is deemed respectable for a small gene pool such as ours. This can change with speed if we have popular sires or if breeding decreases generally limiting the gene pool. We will encourage the use of different lines in breeding, limit the use of stud dogs to ensure popular sire syndrome does not affect us and encourage the use of dogs outside of the UK
- Monitor the registrations of puppies whose dam/sire have unknown DNA PLL Status. Current figures show this to be the case with around a quarter of current registrations. Discussions are taking place whether to request that the KC stop these types of registrations however it is hoped that with improved communications this will happen naturally.
- Increase the education of breed health screening tests. The most recent health survey did not show any epidemic health issue in the breed but there was evidence of large numbers of untested dogs.
- Encourage pet owners to health screen and inform their breeders of results, allowing breeders to keep clear records of their entire lines and note any common problems so they can be dealt with correctly.

- The Health Coordinator will submit an annual health report which will be made available to members via internet sites (website/Facebook/twitter) or in hard copy by special request. The annual health report will monitor the progress of objectives and plans of the breed health strategy. Other health updates will occur throughout the year as required by the same means of communication.

Breeding Recommendations

The dog and bitch should be in general good health and hold a DNA certificate clear or carrier or the registration documents should state clear by parentage.

The dog and bitch should have documentation showing full health testing for Kidneys (UPC), Heart and deafness (BAER) as a minimum with Patella checks and PKD scans being preferred. The dog and bitch should have good skin and no obsessive compulsive behaviours.

The dog and bitch should have an even temperament, be good with people and not be overtly shy or aggressive for any reasons.

The dog should be over the age of 1 year old to ensure all health testing is correct however breeders should consider waiting until the dog is at full maturity.

Breed Specific Judging Guide

The MBT is currently within Category 2 of the KC Breed Watch.

The primary purpose of Breed Watch is to enable anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show judges, to find out about any breed specific conformational issues which may lead to health problems. These conditions are known as 'Points of Concern'

MBT Points of concern for special attention by judges

- Misplaced lower canine teeth

Category 1 – Breeds with no current Breed Watch points of concern.

Category 2 – Breeds with Breed Watch points of concern – Visible conditions or exaggerations that can cause pain or discomfort have been reported by judges/ or clubs.

Category 3 – High Profile Breeds – Breeds where some dogs have visible conditions or exaggerations that can cause pain or discomfort. BOB Veterinary Health Checks at General and Group shows are required.

Appendices

Miniature Bull Terrier Breed Standard

Last updated October 2009

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Breed Watch section of the Kennel Club website here <http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/services/public/breeds/watch> for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as undesirable or highly undesirable it is strongly recommended that it should not be rewarded in the show ring.

General Appearance

Strongly built, muscular, well balanced and active with a keen, determined and intelligent expression.

Characteristics

Courageous, full of spirit, with a fun loving attitude. A unique feature is a downfaced, egg-shaped head. Irrespective of size dogs should look masculine and bitches feminine.

Temperament

Of even temperament and amenable to discipline. Although obstinate is particularly good with people.

Head and Skull

Head long, strong and deep right to end of muzzle, but not coarse. Viewed from front egg-shaped and completely filled, its surface free from hollows or indentations. Top of skull almost flat from ear to ear. Profile curves gently downwards from top of skull to tip of nose which should be black and bent downwards at tip. Nostrils well developed and under-jaw deep and strong.

Eyes

Appearing narrow and triangular, obliquely placed, black or as dark brown as possible so as to appear almost black, and with a piercing glint. Distance from tip of nose to eyes perceptibly greater than that from eyes to top of skull. Blue or partly blue undesirable.

Ears

Small, thin and placed close together. Dog should be able to hold them stiffly erect, when they point straight upwards.

Mouth

Teeth sound, clean, strong, of good size, regular with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Lips clean and tight.

Neck

Very muscular, long, arched, tapering from shoulders to head and free from loose skin.

Forequarters

Shoulders strong and muscular without loading. Shoulder blades wide, flat and held closely to chest wall and have a very pronounced backward slope of front edge from bottom to top, forming almost a right angle with upper arm. Elbows held straight and strong, pasterns upright. Forelegs have strongest type of round, quality bone, dog should stand solidly upon them and they should be perfectly parallel. In mature dogs length of foreleg should be approximately equal to depth of chest.

Body

Body well rounded with marked spring of rib and great depth from withers to brisket, so that latter nearer ground than belly. Back short, strong with backline behind withers level, arching or roaching slightly over broad, well muscled loins. Underline from brisket to belly forms a graceful upward curve. Chest broad when viewed from front.

Hindquarters

Hindlegs in parallel when viewed from behind. Thighs muscular and second thighs well developed. Stifle joint well bent and hock well angulated with bone to foot short and strong.

Feet

Round and compact with well arched toes.

Tail

Short, set on low and carried horizontally. Thick at root, it tapers to a fine point.

Gait/Movement

When moving appears well knit, smoothly covering ground with free, easy strides and with a typical jaunty air. When trotting, movement parallel, front and back, only converging towards centre line at faster speeds, forelegs reaching out well and hindlegs moving smoothly at hip, flexing well at stifle and hock, with great thrust.

Coat

Short, flat, even and harsh to touch with a fine gloss. Skin fitting dog tightly. A soft textured undercoat may be present in winter.

Colour

For White, pure white coat. Skin pigmentation and markings on head not to be penalised. For Coloured, colour predominates; all other things being equal, brindle preferred. Black, brindle,

red, fawn and tricolour acceptable. Tick markings in white coat undesirable. Blue and liver highly undesirable.

Size

Height should not exceed 35.5 cms (14ins). There should be an impression of substance to size of dog. There is no weight limit. Dog should at all times be balanced.

Faults

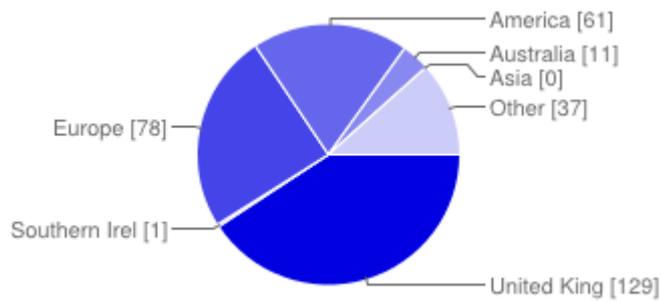
Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Note

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

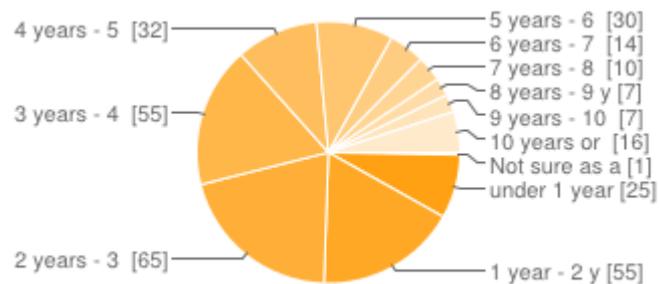
2013 MBTC Health Survey Results

Where does your mini bull currently live?



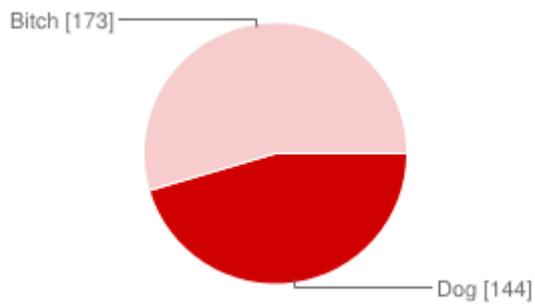
United Kingdom (UK)	129	41%
Southern Ireland	1	0%
Europe	78	25%
America	61	19%
Australia	11	3%
Asia	0	0%
Other	37	12%

How old is your mini bull?



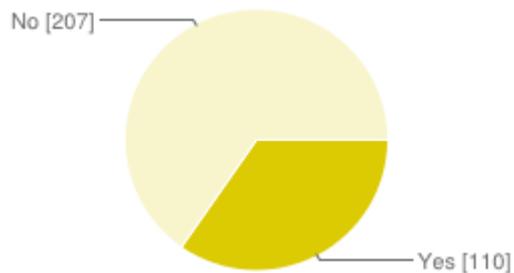
Not sure as a rescue	1	0%
under 1 year	25	8%
1 year - 2 years	55	17%
2 years - 3 years	65	21%
3 years - 4 years	55	17%
4 years - 5 years	32	10%
5 years - 6 years	30	9%
6 years - 7 years	14	4%
7 years - 8 years	10	3%
8 years - 9 years	7	2%
9 years - 10 years	7	2%
10 years or over	16	5%

Is your mini bull a dog or bitch?



Dog	144	45%
Bitch	173	55%

Has your mini bull been bred from?

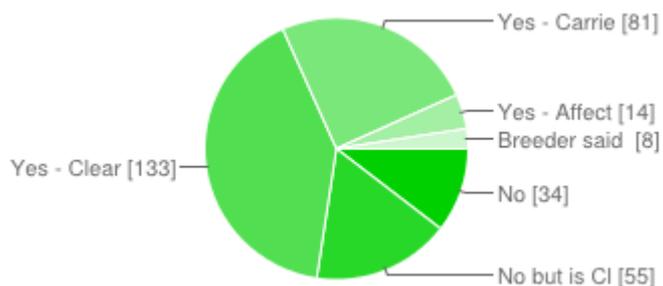


Yes	110	35%
No	207	65%

From those who had been bred the following issues were reported:-

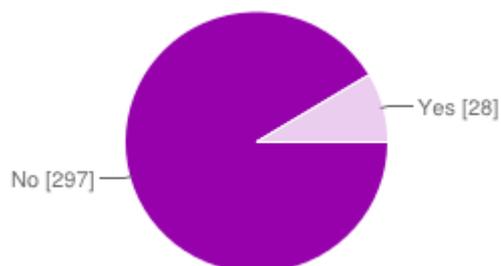
- 9 cleft palates
- 21 still born
- 3 bilaterally deaf
- 4 unilaterally deaf
- 26 died within 3 weeks (fading puppy / fluid on lungs / squashed by mother)
- 3 Diagnosed with LAD

Has your mini bull been DNA tested for Primary Lens Luxation?



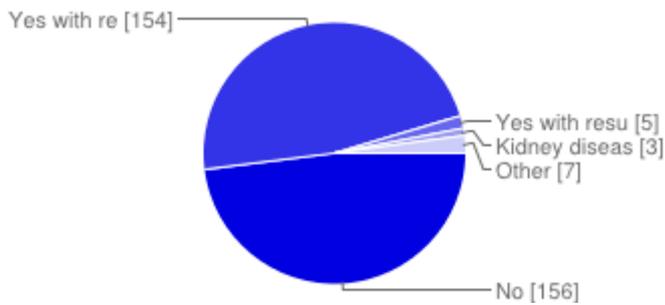
No	34	10%
No but is Clear by parentage (stated on its Kennel Club registration certificate)	55	17%
Yes - Clear	133	41%
Yes - Carrier	81	25%
Yes - Affected	14	4%
Breeder said yes but no certificate seen	8	2%

Has your mini bull been clinically diagnosed with Primary Lens Luxation?



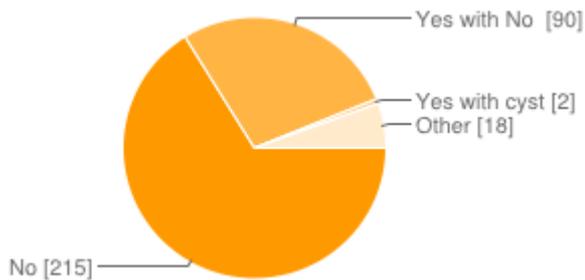
No	297	91%
Yes	28	9%

Has your mini bull been UPC tested to check kidney function or has kidney failure been diagnosed?



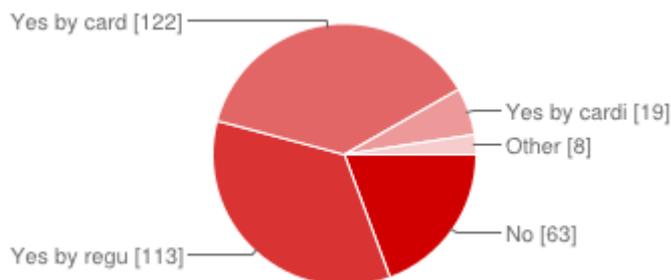
No	156	48%
Yes with result below 0.3	154	47%
Yes with result above 0.3	5	2%
Kidney disease diagnosed	3	1%
Other	7	2%

Has your mini bull been scanned for PKD?



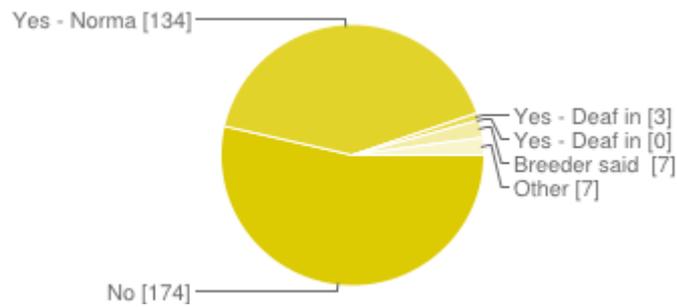
No	215	66%
Yes with No cysts found	90	28%
Yes with cysts found	2	1%
Other	18	6%

Has your mini bull's heart been checked?



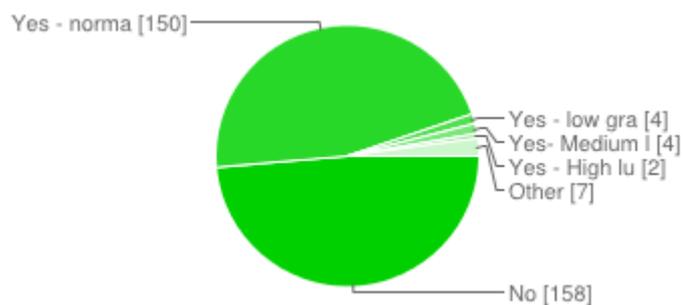
No	63	19%
Yes by regular vet only	113	35%
Yes by cardiologist - normal	122	38%
Yes by cardiologist - murmur found	19	6%
Other	8	2%

Has your mini bull been BAER hearing tested?



No	174	54%
Yes - Normal hearing	134	41%
Yes - Deaf in one ear	3	1%
Yes - Deaf in both ears	0	0%
Breeder said yes but no certificate seen	7	2%
Other	7	2%

Has your mini bull has its patella's checked



No	158	49%
Yes - normal	150	46%
Yes - low grade luxation	4	1%
Yes - Medium luxation	4	1%
Yes - High luxation	2	1%
Other	7	2%

Does your mini bull suffer with skin issues? If yes please provide details

13 cases of allergies (rashes/hives) in summer months mainly grass related.
Pemphigus Foliaceus
2 issues of flea treatment allergies
Feet irritation with no known cause
8 Allergies with no cause noted
4 cases of food allergies
Allergy to metal on dog tags
3 cases of demodex
2 cases of atopic dermatitis
Candida on paws

Does your mini bull suffer with any temperament issues? If yes please provide details

12 Spinning
2 ball obsessive
1 over protective
4 OCD licking
2 food aggression
3 OCD fixations (lights/bugs/shadows)
Noise sensitive
Extreme Shyness
6 aggression cases reported but no details

Does your mini bull suffer with any other health issues? If yes please provide details

5 low thyroids
Abscesses
Splitting pads
2 over growth of nails
4 dry eye
Prostatic Hyperplasia
Malocclusion of lower canine teeth
Bowed front leg
2 Epilepsy
Cancer
Descended Testicle
Elbow dysplasia