



## Abbreviated Notes of DBRG Meeting 22 March 2018

Royal Veterinary College, 4 Royal College Street, Kings Cross, London, NW1

**Members present:** Katharine Williams (KW), Fiona Cooke (FC), Clare Rusbridge (CR), Rowena Packer (RP), Carol Fowler (CF)

**Apologies:** Dan O'Neill, Sheila Crispin, Gudrun Ravetz, Sean Wensley, David Grimsell, Julia Carr, Lesley Field, Stephen Charlton, Charlotte Mackaness

**Guests:** Sam Worthy (SW) (Tailwise), Andrew Gillon (AG) (BVA/KC Canine Health Schemes)

Prior to the meeting CF, FC, RP, CR were interviewed by the CEVA film crew ahead of the CEVA Awards on 4 April.

### 1. Matters arising

- **Voting procedure** It was agreed that when a proposal needed to be decided by vote both trustees and full members should vote, including the Chairman. If the result is even, the Chairman has the casting vote.
- **Draft Statutory Instruments – The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animal) Regulations 2018** Note: Schedule 6 Breeding of Dogs, Protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease **(3) No dog may be kept for breeding if it can reasonably be expected, on the basis of its genotype, phenotype or state of health that breeding from it could have a detrimental effect on its health and welfare or that of its offspring.**

### 2. DBRG 3 Year Plan, Priorities for 2018

We identified funding, raising public awareness, and lobbying for legislative change under the Animal Welfare Act to protect animal offspring from genetic health and welfare problems.

Applications for funding are being made.

A **Guide to Finding the Right Dog** has been uploaded on to the DBRG website and new leaflets have been produced. To provide information to puppy seekers and owners the Dog Breed Health website is regularly updated in the light of new research.

It was felt that DBRG's presence at public events such as the National Pet Show was not practical at present not least due to cost and staffing. However, it was felt that we should utilise social media more in order to put the message across to the public.

A DBRG Policy Position Paper on the **Animal Welfare Act and the Protection of Offspring** is being produced and nearing completion.

DBRG fully supports the efforts of those calling for a ban on the third party selling of puppies, otherwise known as 'Lucy's Law.'

### **3. Fundraising**

The DBRG online shop is set up and currently has 27 products. Over time more products will be added and it is hoped that some income will be generated from that.

Gift Aid has been facilitated

### **4. DBRG Associate Members Scheme**

It was agreed to set up an Associate Membership Scheme as a way of involving more of the general public, dog breeders and other dog welfare organisations. A small group to work out the details and practicalities of the Scheme.

### **5. An Introduction to Tailwise (Sam Worthy)**

Tailwise is a new enterprise founded by Sam Worthy to match puppy buyers with excellent breeders. Sam Worthy spoke to the group. Sam will keep in touch with us as his project progresses. DBRG will discuss further when more details are known.

## **6. The BVA/KC Canine Health Schemes (CHS) (Andrew Gillon – Health Schemes Manager)**

Andrew Gillon spoke to the group about recent changes have been made to the CHS and a new focus on promoting the Schemes beyond the breeders who use them. The BVA wishes to ensure that members of the public who are looking for a puppy are also familiar with the Schemes and are empowered to ask the breeders the right questions. AG informed the group that there has been an expansion of the Schemes' use to overseas breeders who favour the KC/BVA Schemes to their own national ones. Breeders of Crossbreeds may also use the Schemes, and some do, but so far the results of crossbreeds are not published. This is something the CHS would like to change. AG felt that the Schemes had not reached their full potential and there was scope for further expansion and wider awareness.

It was agreed that with greater education of the dog owning public and perhaps a greater effort on the part of vets to encourage breeders to use the Scheme, progress in the reduction of these complex conditions would be more effective.

## **7. DBRG Symposium 2019**

The date for the 2019 Symposium is 13 October 2019

Venue: University of Surrey Vet School

Theme: Inherited Orthopaedic Problems in Dogs

Speakers: Padraig Egan (Orthopaedic Specialist), Dr Tom Lewis (Estimated Breeding Values), Andrew Gillon (The Canine Health Schemes), Dr Fiona Cooke (The Psychological and Behavioural Impact of Deformity or Ill-Health on Dog Welfare)

## **8. Response to Defra Consultation: A ban on commercial third party selling of puppies and kittens in England (due 2 May 2018)**

Julia Carr will write this on DBRG's behalf.

## **9. Brachycephalic Working Group (BWG)**

Rowena Packer updated the group

## **10. AOB**

### **KC Breed Watch Illustrated Guide**

This recent publication shows points of concern relating to category 2 and 3 breeds. These include nose and nostrils, dentition, skin and wrinkle, eyes, weight and body condition, tail, limbs and movement. All DBRG members should ideally have a copy of this booklet.

### **KC Dog Health Group**

CF pointed out that the Annual Report of the KC Dog Health Group was no longer being published. The last edition was 2014. Members thought this was regrettable given that the work of the Dog Health Group was so important.

### **Wotton DBRG volunteers**

CF has recruited two volunteers from Wotton-under-Edge to help with DBRG's work.

### **KC/CVS Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Heart Scheme**

It has now become general knowledge that a Health Scheme for Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Heart Testing is being developed by the Kennel Club and Veterinary Cardiovascular Society. The new Scheme will not be part of the BVA/KC Health Schemes. We understand that the Scheme is near completion and that it may be a 'requirement' of the KC Assured Breeders Scheme. The Scheme will not be compulsory for all breeders who register puppies with the Kennel Club and this is regrettable.

Date of next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> June RVC, College Street London