



Abbreviated Notes of DBRG Meeting 6 September 2018

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

Members present: Carol Fowler (CF), Julia Carr (JC), David Grimsell (via Skype), Clare Rusbridge (CR), Andrew Gillon (AG), Camilla Pegram (CP) (VetCompass Research Assistant); Charlotte Mackaness (CM), Tania Ledger (TL), Fiona Cooke (FC), Rowena Packer (RP), Emily Davies (ED) (volunteer admin support)

Apologies for absence: Sheila Crispin, Katharine Williams, Lesley Bloomfield, Dan O'Neill, Vicki Betton

1. Matters arising

Action points from 7 June Meeting:

- Update on the Associate Membership Scheme since the last meeting
- Information on Breed Clubs now a separate page on the DBRG website
- Dog Breed Health website now includes the relevant DNA tests from the IPFD Harmonisation of Genetic Tests

2. Presentation by Dr Tom Lewis (KC Canine Geneticist)

Tom gave DBRG members an introduction to Canine Genetics including an explanation of DNA, Estimated Breeding Values, the KC's Mate Select, inbreeding, coefficient of inbreeding and Effective Population Size. It was most informative, and it is hoped that Tom can come to other meetings in future to update on these issues.

3. Associate Membership Scheme and Student Representatives (CM)

CM outlined ideas for Student Representatives. It was agreed that the Associate Membership Scheme should be postponed until after the Students' Representative scheme was up and running. DBRG Student Representatives would promote the work of DBRG

among their colleagues via social media and promote important events such as the DBRG Symposium to the wider veterinary community. A working Group was formed (Charlotte Mackaness, Rowena Packer, Clare Rusbridge) to get the Scheme off the ground.

4. Fund Raising /Easy Fundraising /Community Voluntary Service (CVS)

CF brought the attention of members and trustees to the issue of funding for DBRG and fulfilling one of our main Objectives for 2018-2021. Ideas were discussed, including Crowd Funding, use of Easy Fundraising and developing the DBRG online shop.

5. Third Party Sales Ban – Defra Consultation

It was agreed that Julia Carr would do the response on behalf of DBRG. Individual responses could also be made.

6. Canine Health Schemes Update (CHS) (AG)

Andrew reported that the CHS team is currently working on expanding the Schemes and getting information out to the public. A page on the CHS website is intended to point buyers in the right direction and provide them with an explanation of the CHS: what the certificates look like and what the scores mean.

He is also looking at the CHS from the breeders' perspective and will attend the KC Breed Health Co-ordinators' Symposium. The CHS team will also be attending Discover Dogs and London Vet Show. The CHS website is being redesigned for breeders, vets and buyers.

AG attended the SSPCA meeting in Scotland which included representatives from the Scottish Government and local authorities. It was an inspiring meeting with the aim to ensure the public have the right information about how to buy a puppy responsibly. This has an unheard-of level of support from the Scottish Government, which is looking at a register for breeders.

7. KC Breed Health and Conservation Plans and DBRG engagement with breed clubs

The first group of breeds (Breed Watch Category 3) now have their plans in place and the second group is now underway. Our research has found that there is no information about those plans on the websites of the breeds concerned. The KC has decided that it is up to the individual breed clubs to what extent the plans are made public. CR commented that it would be helpful if the plans were produced as a paper.

8. DBRG Presentation to CFSG on the AWA and the Protection of Offspring in the light of the Guidance Notes for Conditions for Breeding Dogs

DG and CF will present the revised Position Paper on the AWA and the Protection of Offspring to the Canine and Feline Sector Group (CFSG) AGM on 28 September. One aim will be to ask if a Code of Practice on Dog Breeding could be taken forward with DBRG's input. We will also request that CFSG looks at including on its agenda Recommendations to Defra regarding the Animal Welfare Act and the Protection of Offspring. While under the new Animal Establishment's Licensing Regulations there is some provision to pay regard to the welfare of offspring, which could result in the loss of a breeder's licence as a penalty, this only applies to the minority of puppies bred in licensed breeding establishments. There is a need for a more general enforceable requirement under the AWA for anyone breeding dogs to pay appropriate regard to the genetic health of the parent.

9. Dog Breed Health Website Update – DNA tests

The lists of DNA Tests Available on the Breed Pages have been updated in the light of the launch of the IPFD Harmonisation of DNA Tests and the Kennel Clubs list of DNA tests for each breed.

Date of next meeting: 6th December 2018 RVC, College Street London