



DBRG welcomes Royal Veterinary College initiative to raise awareness of Syringomyelia in Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Data from the Royal Veterinary College's VetCompass project highlights that one in 60 Cavaliers is affected by Syringomyelia (SM). This is a serious condition causing pain and disability. It is characterised by fluid-filled cavities called syrinxes within the spinal cord which, as they grow, cause pain and neurological deficits.

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass/news/cavalier-king-charles-spaniels-playing-air-guitar-can-be-sign-of-serious-disease> .

DBRG welcomes the publicity of this genetic disease, which can cause such pain and discomfort to dogs and distress to their owners. We hope that as a result of the Royal College's press release general practice vets and dog owners will become more familiar with its symptoms and the appropriate drugs to afford some pain relief.

Dr Dan O'Neill from the Royal College and DBRG member says: 'Such can be the severity of SM that if even one dog gets recognised as being a case and receives some treatment that helps in any way to improve its life, then I will sleep easy for one night.'

There is an official BVA/KC Canine Health Scheme for CM/SM that all breeders of Cavaliers should use before breeding. However, as of 31st August this year, only 370 Cavalier scans had been submitted through the scheme. The DBRG is disappointed that the majority of Cavalier breeders do not make use of the CM/SM Scheme or the SM Breeding Protocol that accompanies it. Until they do, the incidence of CM/SM among Cavaliers will remain high.

Note to editors

DBRG is an organisation dedicated to improving the health and welfare of dogs through responsible breeding. It was founded in 2013 and became a Charitable Trust status in 2015. Members of the DBRG include veterinary specialists, dog welfare law experts, breeders and dog owners.

For more information about the DBRG please visit www.dogbreedingreformgroup.uk or contact Carol Fowler carol@cavaliercampaign.com or call 01453 843944