

Breed Health Coordinator Report April 2024

This year the KC organised a breed health co-ordinator seminar/symposium at the KC head office but unfortunately it was cancelled at the last minute because of lack of BHC's signing up to attend the event.

I attended an on-line seminar about common joint & eye problems in dogs and the available screening schemes. This was organised in partnership with the British Veterinary Association's (BVA) Canine Health Schemes, The Kennel Club's (KC) health team. This included:

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme

The Kennel Club has launched a 'clinic host' initiative. A clinic host is an individual or organisation that organises and runs health clinics in the UK, to provide pre-breeding health assessments to all those that that need to get their dog tested. Details can be found on the KC website.

I received the KC Annual Health Report which I will have uploaded to the WCGB website as there is no KC weblink to the report. It makes for some interesting reading on canine health in the UK but there is nothing specific about our breed in the report.

I attended an on-line event led by the Canine Genetics Centre (University of Cambridge), who are under threat of closing down, and were making an appeal for funds and or suggestions for a viable funding/business model. The KC have cut their funding and they are not likely to survive. This would be a great loss to the veterinary research community and would impact on canine health research. If people want to donate the link is below.



I have been contacted by a small number of Weimaraner owners with health issues, and although these numbers are very low, some of the conditions have been quite serious, with one individual dog developing symptoms after vaccination as a puppy. It is very difficult to gauge what underlying health conditions might be in our breed, as individual are reluctant to report these to me, so I do encourage anyone who does have any potential (breed-related) health problems to let me know.

Of course, we continue to hear horror stories of puppy farmers breeding bitches at too young an age and with repeated litters in a one year. We continually complain to the KC when these puppies get registered, but it is very difficult to get these dogs de-registered. As always, there have been several puppies advertised on Pets4Homes (and other forums) with non-breed standard colour, always advertised as 'special' or 'rare' who are charging a fortune for these puppies, we always report this to the KC in the hope that they will not be accepted for registration.

Professor Christopher Thrasivoulou
BHC