

# Breed Health & Welfare Chairperson's Report to the NBC Meeting July 2018

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## Inter varietal breeding:

- The current position of LSC exhibiting and breeding is doing well, however, the notion / situation has arisen whereby a health issue has cropped up, raising discussion and concern for the lack of genetic diversity within the LSC variety breeding and it being restricted to LSC type only.
- It is constantly a consideration about narrowing any gene pool for dog breeding, for many reasons (health, character, anatomical quality etc), and should be avoided wherever possible.
- Currently we have many health and welfare concerns for the breed as a whole, by narrowing the long stock coat variety's gene pool you run the risk of creating a bottle neck health problems.
- It would be my professional recommendation to open up inter varietal breeding of long stock coats.

## Genetic/DNA testing vs health screening (screening for a defect already present)

- Consider taking up the WUSV DNA go card system already in place.
- Current Australian commercial laboratory that performs health tests, such as Degenerative Myelopathy, Haemophilia A, MDR1/ivermectin sensitivity, Pituitary Dwarfism, DNA parentage.
- Do we want to implement any DNA health testing into our schemes for breed improvement?
- Consider a different mechanism for a national DNA database, ie University based.
- Future research for DNA markers may be beneficial.
- Blood sample/DNA for breeding animals only at time of HD/ED screening vs at 6-8 weeks when all puppies are vaccinated.
- Concern with blood sampling at a puppy age is that it can be more time consuming and detrimental to the pup's temperament as opposed to 12 months when they are sedated/anaesthetized for HD/ED xrays.

## Hip Dysplasia

Dr Zammit's research, would be great to hear from Rob on where things are at. They are still seeking funding for the completion of the data.

## Haemophilia testing:

- Haemophilia A or factor VIII deficiency in German Shepherd Dogs is an Autosomal X linked inherited disease.
- It causes life threatening bleeding abnormalities, which may be life threatening and problematic to a normal healthy life for male dogs.
- Since taking on the position of Breed Health and Welfare Chairperson and Haemophilia A, as a problem, has not been a concern for me.
- There have been no reported cases, in Australia that have been brought to my attention.
- Our current scheme requests imported males and sons of imported females or sons of imported semen be Factor VIII level tested.
- The only cases that have come up with abnormally low levels were spurious results due to collection technique or blood handling techniques.
- There is a DNA test available for Factor VIII however we are unsure of the reliability in comparison to a blood test for the factor VIII levels.

## Haemophilia negative dogs since the NBC report

- Fremont Watson
- Janeme Abba Dabba Doo
- Freinhauf Hasta Lavista Baby
- Oak vom Haus Iskander (IMP DEU)
- Macho vom Lamorak (IMP DEU)
- Freinhauf Hannibal
- NZ Ch Voneze Ricardo (IMP UK)
- Riddick vom Demina Hof (IMP SRB)
- Roger vom Weiherturchen (IMP DEU)
- Hasenway Marcus (IID)
- LaShadas Z Z Top (AI)

### JPS concerns

- Juvenile pubic symphysiodesis is a surgical procedure that must be performed prior to closure of the pubic symphysis growth plate. Ideally this is performed by 16 weeks, prior to 20 weeks. The early closure of this growth plate is then altered, therefore creating larger coverage of the coxofemoral joint (deeper hip sockets).
- The concern is that at a 10-12 week old puppy vaccination the vet is discussing this with puppy owners and this is creating a scare tactic for HD.
- However, we cannot predict and confirm entirely if that pup will develop HD due to it being a multifactorial disease process, especially at such a young age.
- PennHIP can be performed as early as 14 weeks, however, also does not necessarily go on to be as predicted.
- There is discussion of approaching the Vet Surgeon's Board (+/-AVA) about "over servicing", however, I believe we need to focus on education of vets and future vets and not dismiss the discussion of that type of surgical technique.
- We need to include an owner declaration consent on HD/ED form to ensure any given animal has not had surgery prior to presentation for radiographs.

### Early neutering

- Current thoughts and recommendations to wait until skeletal maturity for orthopaedic protection.
- Alternative forms of neutering – vasectomies, three quarter spey, pros and cons in every situation.