

Rottweiler Breed Health Report



May 2016 - September 2016

Breed Health Coordinator

Sarah Morgan

Welcome to the health coordinator update, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read through my report. Lots of things are going on and hopefully things are slowly progressing.

First things first I'd like to thank those that have forwarded information to me of various health concerns, including your ideas and suggestions for future studies and investigations. Please continue sharing your ideas and concerns so I can take these forward to the Kennel Club. This is the only way things can improve for the health of our wonderful breed.

I tried to do a health survey using Facebook it quickly became evident that this wouldn't work as people rather stated what they hadn't experienced than what they had. I think this was primarily due to it not being completely confidential. I have since received the tools from the Kennel Club to carry out a complete and confidential breed health survey. I will share the results later in the year or early next year.

Heart Testing

I have started accepting the blue forms from the heart testing certificates, I will be asking for our heart testing results be published in the Breeds Record Supplement, as they do for boxers. So please when you get your dogs heart tested ask the cardiologist to forward the blue copy to myself or you could keep it and forward it to my address below.

Osteosarcoma Study

This amazing study continues at Nottingham University Vet School, in recent years there have been two updates about the progress of this study. While the university fund these updates which include lunch, they have been poorly represented by breeders, we put this down to the fact they are held on Saturdays and there is usually a dog show going on somewhere. This year I have in advance given Mark Dunning a list of championship dog show dates and arranged the next update around these, we came to the agreement that the 26th November 2016 would be the best day. I would be extremely grateful if as many as possible could attend to show the support the study deserves.

Previous DNA Study

I Enquired with the KC about previous DNA study from 2013 that Kirstie reminded of us of at the last Breed Council Meeting. I have spoken to Aimee at the KC who sent me the email below and has promised to update me on any progress with this study. I have included Aimee's email below but the AHT trust say its separate to the Genome Project.

Dear Sarah,

23/08/2016

The project was moved from the AHT around 24 months ago, as the lead scientist on the project moved to the University of Nottingham. Unfortunately, this move caused some unexpected delays, but the research is continuing and we will be providing updates as soon as they are available to all who participated in the project. At the moment, the data has all been extracted, and we are now entering the analysis phase. We hope to be able to provide more detail in Late-Sept/Oct 2016.

This project is indeed different to the Give a Dog a Genome Project, though they could be considered complimentary to each other. Cathryn, I'm sure, has provided more detail on the Genome project, but in a nut-shell, it is building effectively a genetic library that should be able to help researchers to identify disease-causing mutations more quickly, for example.

The work being undertaken by us is focused on more efficient ways of identifying and delivering broad health information for the benefit of individual dogs.

We sincerely appreciate your Club member's patience, and will hopefully be in contact very soon with additional information and updates

**Kind regards,
Aimée**

Give A Dog a Genome

I Returned the forms to AHT suggesting the three health issues highlighted in the on-line survey carried out as being problems we'd like looked into which were,

1. Cruciate Disease 2. Heart Murmurs 3. Lymphoma.

Cathryn from the Genome Project contacted they will study Health concerns and let us Know what type of dog to sequence I've attached the email below.

I will do go fund me page once first dog has been sequenced.

Dear Sarah

16/08/16

Thank you very much for summarising your breed's health concerns.

We will read the information carefully and contact you again with suggestions of suitable candidates for sequencing.

Best wishes

Cathryn and the rest of the Give a Dog a Genome Team

Elbow Scoring

I have sent the form back to Sarah Bartrip at the Kennel Club regarding Elbow Scoring being made mandatory for breeders who are part of the Assured Breeder Scheme. As detailed in her email below as long as all goes well at the next two meetings Changes would be implemented in January 2017 as we suggested in the original form.

Dear Sarah

01/09/2016

Our Health Information Officer has now had an opportunity to check the request and feels there is sufficient information provided, as we already hold plenty of data in relation to elbow grading in Rottweilers.

We have actually had to postpone the next ABS Sub Group meeting, so this will now take place on 29th September and your request will be put to the committee at that time. As previously advised, the next Dog Health Group meeting to follow will then be on 26th October and then there is a General Committee meeting on 15th November. Assuming all goes well at each stage, the changes would be implemented in January 2017.

**Kind regards
Sarah**

BHC Symposium

The next breed health Coordinator Symposium will be held on 23rd September 2016. If there is anything you would like me to take forward, please email me. I will update you all in my next report.

And Finally.....

Juvenile Laryngeal Paralysis and Polyneuropathy (JLPP)

I have decided to include in my report some information about this hereditary disease.

Juvenile Laryngeal Paralysis & Polyneuropathy (JLPP) is a genetic disease that affects the nerves. In affected dogs, JLPP starts with the longest nerves in the body, one of the longest nerves is the one that supplies the muscles of the voice box (larynx) leading to muscle weakness and laryngeal paralysis as the first symptom. The vocal folds vibrate noisily and can obstruct the flow of air into the lungs when the dog is exercised or when it is hot. The dog may also choke on their food or water or regurgitate, and this can cause pneumonia.

The disease then progresses to the next longest nerves which supply the muscles of the back legs resulting in difficulty getting up and wobbly gait, the hind limbs are followed by the front limbs. Other symptoms include abnormalities in eye development. Symptoms typically start after weaning age.

I have included an article recently published in "The Total Rottweiler" magazine. Written by Dr. Prof. Peter Friedrich, president of the German Kennel Club in it he states, "As of the 1st November 2016, breedings may only be carried out with animals that have been tested for JLPP."

He also states "I perceive the same ethical duty to adopt precisely this approach in every country where Rottweilers are bred, be that Germany or any other nation. Diseases do not respect national borders. The suffering of animals does not stop at national borders. Friends of the Rottweiler across the world- on every continent and in every country- are challenged to act on this issue. Nothing and nobody can free any breeder from this duty. Whether the relevant local breeding regulations already contain provisions dealing with JLPP matters not a jot in this regard."

If you have any questions regarding JLPP or any other matters arising in this report please do not hesitate to contain me.

Kind Regards

Sarah Morgan,

3 Lansbury Walk,

Tipton,

West Midlands DY4 0SH

Tel: 07949230242

Email: Melaiseyrottweilers@gmail.com