Funded by Vernon and Shirley Hill, founders of Metro Bank, and run by the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, the International Canine Health Awards recognise innovative researchers and veterinary scientists whose work has had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of dogs. The closing date for the awards is 15th November 2013, and nominations are sought in the following categories:

• The Lifetime Achievement Award
• The International Prize in Canine Health Award
• The Student Inspiration award

For more information click here.
New Canine focused research journal to launch

An online canine specific health journal is being launched to create a platform for groundbreaking research, that is accessible to all. Papers are currently being sought for inclusion in the Canine Genetics and Epidemiology journal, which will be launching this autumn. It will boast an impressive international editorial board, including Jerold Bell from Tufts University, USA; Hannes Lohi from the University of Helsinki, Finland; David Brodbelt and Brian Catchpole from the Royal Veterinary College, and Claire Wade from the University of Sydney. The journal will be edited by Professor Bill Ollier from the University of Manchester and Professor Jeff Sampson, and hopes to attract influential research papers from around the world.

Canine Genetics and Epidemiology (CGE) is to be published independently by Biomed Central, but support for authors will be provided by funding from the Kennel Club Educational Trust. The Trust has pledged to cover 50% of the article processing charge for manuscripts published in the area of domestic dog health. In addition, the Kennel Club is wholly enthusiastic about the contribution this journal could make to canine health education.

The independent, peer-reviewed online journal will publish original research and review articles relating to all aspects of canine genetics and epidemiology. The open access policy will enable a wide, global audience; whilst the lay summaries and key take home messages will aim to disseminate research to all interested parties, scientists, veterinarians, dog breeders and owners.

The journal, which is currently accepting submissions, will address genetic, genomic and epidemiological research in both domestic and wild canids, relating to breed and species diversity, and canine evolution.

Anyone interested in submitting a manuscript should visit the journal website or email cgejournal@biomedcentral.com.

New Breeder Education Seminars

The Kennel Club and Royal Canin are welcoming dog breeders to a stimulating series of educational seminars on health issues, breeding practices and scientific developments, which will help breeders and their puppy rearing programmes.

A number of highly regarded professionals in the world of canine health have been confirmed including Dr Cathryn Mellersh, from the Animal Health Trust who will be advising on how to spot a good DNA test; Dr Angelika von Heimendahl, from the Veterinary Reproduction Service who will be offering guidance on how to avoid a Caesarean section and Dr Lorna Kennedy, Senior Scientist at the University of Manchester will be presenting a talk on autoimmune conditions.

These 12 days of seminars are spread throughout the UK and are being held at 6 of the major Veterinary Colleges and Universities. Further information can be found on the Kennel Club website or if you would like to contribute to the seminars for 2014 please contact fay.moore@thekennelclub.org.uk.
Reporting Conformation Alterations and Caesarean Sections

In 1990 and again in 2010, The Kennel Club amended its registration rules to enable the collection and monitoring of health data from registered pedigree and non-pedigree dogs. It is a condition of registration that owners sign a declaration agreeing to allow vets to report to the Kennel Club any caesarean section operations, as well as procedures to correct any defects that alter the natural conformation of the dog.

These reports help inform judges and breeders of which dogs have been treated for inherited visible conditions and also helps to protect the health and welfare of the dam, by ensuring that puppies born from a dam that has had more than two caesarean sections are not registered. Data and information obtained from these reports can also be used for research and for monitoring changes in canine inherited visible conditions.

For more information on how to report, please visit the Vets and Researchers section of the new Kennel Club website.

A call for samples for cancer research

In addition to studying samples gathered through the Kennel Club Cancer Centre, the Animal Health Trust (AHT) would like the help of veterinary practices to collect tumour biopsies and surplus EDTA-blood samples/cheek swabs for research that will help both dogs with cancer and also vets treating dogs with cancer.

The AHT is attempting to improve ways of predicting how several canine tumours will behave and respond to treatment, as well as identify genetic risk factors for a number of common cancers in dogs, to enable early detection of cancer and facilitate early treatment. For this research, biopsies of lymphomas, mast cell tumours, melanomas, osteosarcomas, and soft tissue sarcomas are required.

In addition, surplus EDTA-blood samples/cheek swabs are needed to enable the study of specific cancers affecting Boxers, Bullmastiffs, German Shepherd Dogs, Golden Retrievers, Great Danes, Greyhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Labrador Retrievers, Leonbergers, Rottweilers, Shar Pei, and Weimaraners, respectively.

To submit samples for canine cancer research, please e-mail the Oncology Research Group oncologyres@aht.org.uk or telephone 01638 751000, ext. 1214.

By way of thanks, a free CPD session at the Trust is offered for every ten samples submitted by a practice.
Puppy Welfare Crisis: 1 in 5 social media and internet pups die before 6 months old

We are walking into a dog welfare and consumer crisis the Kennel Club warns, as new research shows that more and more people are buying their pups online or through pet shops - outlets often used by puppy farmers, and are paying the price with their pups requiring long-term veterinary treatment or dying before six months old.

The Kennel Club’s Puppy Awareness Week research shows that as many as one in three may have bought from a puppy farm after sourcing their puppy from the internet, social media, pet shops or newspaper ads - all outlets that are often used by puppy farmers. This has increased from one in five last year.

Of those who source their puppies online, half are going on to buy 'mail order pups' directly over the internet.

The research found:
- 94 percent of puppies bought direct from a breeder were reported as having good overall health.
- One third of people buying their puppy online, over social media or in pet shops said that their puppy did not experience 'overall good health'.
- One in three pups bought online or over social media required on-going veterinary treatment from a young age.
- Almost one in five pups bought online or via social media die before six months old.

There is currently very little regulation over dog breeders in the country so the Kennel Club established the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme in 2004, which now has UKAS recognition, to ensure that its members always follow responsible steps when breeding and selling puppies.

However, the research has revealed that too many people who are not buying from Assured Breeders are still going to unscrupulous breeders with:
- One third of puppy buyers failing to see the puppy with its mother
- More than half not seeing the breeding environment
- 70 percent get no contract of sale
- 82 percent were not offered post sales advice
- 69 percent did not see any relevant health certificates for the puppy’s parents, which indicate the likely health of the puppy.

Kennel Club Assured Breeders take specific steps to ensure such circumstances do not occur. The research also found that the owners of cross and mixed breeds are much less likely to see the puppy with the mother and where it was born, than the owners of purebred dogs, with half not seeing the mother (compared to a third of purebred owners) and 72 percent not seeing its home environment (compared to 45 percent of purebred owners), leading to concern that unscrupulous breeders are cashing in on the fashion for cross-bred dogs.

Puppy Awareness Week 2013 runs from 7th - 14th September. There are a number of ways you can get involved, including watching, liking and sharing our video on the do’s and don’ts of buying a puppy. You can also visit our Find A Puppy service or download our Find A Puppy app.

Support Puppy Awareness Week and help STOP puppy farming NOW.

Photo credit: Pati Robins/The Kennel Club©

Photo credit: Eve Dunlop/The Kennel Club©

Find A Puppy service or download our Find A Puppy app.
What’s being done about: The high profile breeds?

In response to the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animal’s 1995 appendix, the Kennel Club has over time made a number of changes to support health in dog showing. There are currently 14 breeds which are termed “high profile” breeds, which are being monitored for exaggerated physical characteristics that may cause, or lead to, pain or suffering. This article aims to provide an update on High Profile Breeds to Vet Practices.

What are the 14 breeds?
Currently: Basset Hound, French Bulldog, German Shepherd Dog, Pug, Dogue de Bordeaux, Mastiff, Bulldog, Bloodhound, Chow Chow, Clumber Spaniel, Neapolitan Mastiff, Pekingese, St. Bernard and Shar-Pei.

Changes to the Breed standards
In 2009 the Dog Health Group reviewed all 210 breed standards, to ensure they contained no wording that could encourage the breeding of dogs with exaggerations detrimental to its health. Following widespread consultation, 78 of the breed standards were amended.

Working with the breed clubs
The Kennel Club always work closely with breed representatives to promote and develop health initiatives and in 2012, it appointed the role of High Profile Breed Coordinator, to provide specific support to High Profile Breed (HPB) health groups. Many HPB Breed clubs now run breed-specific health testing schemes with veterinary surgeons to collect and monitor health information and data on an on-going basis.

Education
Events are regularly held for KC registered Judges, to provide information and support on existing and emerging visible health issues. In February 2013, a High Profile Breed Education Day was held for judges, vets and breeders to raise awareness of health initiatives undertaken by the HPBs. The event enabled representatives from each breed to showcase improvements that had been made and to discuss their progress with each other.

Breed watch
In 2009 the Kennel Club launched Breed Watch, an online tool which outlines breed-specific visible health conditions and exaggerations, with the aim of assisting judges and breed clubs to monitor and address these issues. From 2014, Breed Watch will undergo additional changes enabling Judges at Championship dog shows to report visible health conditions or exaggerations seen in the show ring. These changes will advance Breed Watch as an early warning system for emerging issues and become an additional method of monitoring health and breed progress.

High Profile Best of Breed Veterinary Checks
At Crufts 2012, the Kennel Club launched mandatory veterinary checks for all HPBs wishing to enter Group competitions at dog shows. These checks enable independent vets to check for visible conditions that may have resulted from exaggerated conformation. Any dogs that do not pass these checks are not awarded the highest accolades at dog shows, which it is hoped will be an additional step forward to discouraging the breeding of dogs with exaggerated conformation.

How can you be involved?
Veterinary professionals can help us to collect information on the progress of the HPBs by reporting any procedures that they carry out to correct defects that alter the natural conformation of a dog (see article in general news) or by contacting the Kennel Club about any thoughts or concerns you may have about specific breeds.

For more information on the High Profile Breeds and how breeds can be removed from the HPB list please see the High profile breed removal criteria guidance.
Health Seminars for your clients

The Kennel Club would like to invite veterinary practices to advertise up-coming health-related seminars on the KC website Health Pages, in the Kennel Club Gazette and in our new veterinary newsletter - The Kennel Scope. To submit an advertisement, please include: date, seminar title and description, venue details, costs, and contact information. The topics should relate to health issues, not general information. Please allow plenty of notice before the actual event. Details of any health seminars can be sent by email to bonnie.abhayaratne@thekennelclub.org.uk.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Info</th>
<th>Venue Details</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 dates from</td>
<td>Breeder Education The Kennel Club and Royal Canin are welcoming dog breeders to a stimulating series of educational seminars on health issues, breeding practices and scientific developments.</td>
<td>6 of the major Veterinary Colleges and Universities throughout the UK</td>
<td>For further information and for programmes for the day please visit The Kennel Club website</td>
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<td>Sept to Dec</td>
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<td>21st Sept</td>
<td>How to Have a Healthy Dog (Midland Golden Retriever Club – open to all breeds) Topics include: Diet, vaccinations, parasites, medication and genetics. Cost: £25 (includes lunch)</td>
<td>Kennel Club Building Stoneleigh Park Near Coventry Warwickshire CV8 2LZ</td>
<td>Hazel Gripton: <a href="mailto:j.gripton@ntlworld.com">j.gripton@ntlworld.com</a> Tel. 01623 487 283</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd Sept</td>
<td>Companion Cavalier Club Health Seminar Topics include: CM/SM and heart disease Cost: £15 (members), £25 for non-members (includes lunch)</td>
<td>Kennel Club Building Stoneleigh Park Near Coventry Warwickshire CV8 2LZ</td>
<td>For further information please click here or email <a href="mailto:secretary@companion-cavalierclub.co.uk">secretary@companion-cavalierclub.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>26th Oct</td>
<td>Kent, Surrey &amp; Sussex Labrador Retriever Club Health Seminar for the Labrador</td>
<td>Dick White Referrals Station Farm, London Road Six Mile Bottom Cambridge CB8 0UH</td>
<td>Alison Scutcher <a href="mailto:winsleywood@btinternet.com">winsleywood@btinternet.com</a></td>
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Research Studies

To submitt details of any research you would like to publicise, please e-mail Nick Sutton at nick.sutton@thekennelclub.org.uk

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Title and Description</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
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<td>Transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) in Scottish Terriers: Aim of study: To collect cheek swabs from both affected dogs and unaffected dogs aged 11 or more, which are hoped can be used to identify the genes causing TCC in the bladder. Kits can be obtained from the AHT with a donation of £5 requested for each kit to support the research.</td>
<td>Telephone: 01638 751 000 E-mail: <a href="mailto:oncologyres@aht.org.uk">oncologyres@aht.org.uk</a> This research is being carried out by scientists at the Kennel Club Cancer Centre at the Animal Health Trust who have agreed to help the breed council and UK’s breed clubs.</td>
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<td>Irish red &amp; white setter international health survey: Aim of study: To collect information about the health of all IRWS’s worldwide.</td>
<td>Click here for website E-mail: <a href="mailto:ann.millington@btinternet.com">ann.millington@btinternet.com</a> This research is being carried out by the IRWS Club of Great Britain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korthal Griffon Health Survey: Aim of study: To collect information about the health and wellbeing of all Korthals Griffons in the United Kingdom (both alive and deceased).</td>
<td>Click here for website. This research is being carried out by the Korthal Griffon Club.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Irish Setter Bloat Initiative: Aim of study: to further our understanding of the prevalence and heritability of gastric dilation/ torsion (bloat) in the breed.</td>
<td>Please visit the Events, seminars and surveys on the Kennel Club website. This research will be carried out by the Animal Health Trust and the Kennel Club on behalf of the Irish Setter breed clubs.</td>
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