Karlton aka “Alfie”
Childhood “dogs”

Dog books

Toy dogs

Non-dog pets
My actual dog

fun

gorgeous

eligible
Train of thought began a while before that about February 2009 prompted by something I read in Dog World

Developed a framework based on other models for change and management practice

- Leadership; strategy, plans and objectives
- Communicate those plans
- Engage people in participation
- Evaluate the impact of that on the health of the breed
Reinforced by ideas from academia

The Kennel Club Health Toolkits

Breed Health Strategy

Lead

Improve

Plan

Engage
Not one Philippa Robinson....

- There’s TWO!
- The one that set up the Karlton Index in March 2011
- The one that runs it in 2013
- THREE KEY THINGS shifted my position very significantly (actually it was four things)
Historical perspective

- 1873 Kennel Club established
- 1897 KC closes registries
- 1965 BVA Eye scheme set-up
- 1998 KC appoints genetics co-ordinator
- 2010 Bateson Inquiry findings published
Historical Perspective

1792 First intake of veterinary students
1824 Society for Prevention of Cruelty to animals set up
1881 NVMA/BVA set up
1891 National Canine Defence League set up
1942 Veterinary Education Trust set up (now AHT)
Engaged with researchers

“We are only now beginning to ask the right questions”

Veterinary Researcher 2012
Three Perspective-Changers

1. That statement – only now asking the right questions
2. History of all the stakeholders
3. The work of the breed clubs - when looked at closely
What the Karlton Index reveals about your work

Rules of engagement

Issues and questions on scoring put aside until later
Examples flagged are done so for the purposes of
- learning
- sharing
- exploring better ways of working

- I have no intention of flagging up examples or poor practice
Process

- Online audit trail from the breed entry on the Kennel Club website through to reliable information on breed health
- Map out what is published
- Score that against the framework
- 187 breeds in total
- Done that twice now, September 2011 and again March 2013
- Have also done that for non-recognised breeds like “Cockapoo“ obviously cannot start at the KC for those
Breed Club work makes an impression

Karlton Index Top Breeds 2013

2011 Scores
2013 Scores
Most Improved since 2011

Scottish Terrier
Bulldog
Chinese Crested
Shar Pei
Siberian Husky
Lancashire Heeler
Boxer
German Shepherd Dog
Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Otterhound
Norfolk Terrier
Cairn Terrier
Great Dane
Basset Hound
Irish Wolfhound
Beagle
Flatcoated Retriever
Chow chow
Polish Lowland Sheepdog
Bearded Collie
Welsh Springer Spaniel
Neapolitan Mastiff
French Bulldog
Bloodhound

Improvement since 2011
More visible activity

- Clearer information on contextualised health conditions
  - 2011 – 24 out of 187 breeds
  - 2013 – 88 out of 187

- Health surveillance
  - 2011 – 32 out of 187 breeds explained how they were surveying the health of their breed
  - 2013 – 52 out of 187

- Good web sites with relevant content and clearly marked “health” sections
Breed Health Activity Iceberg = Good News

Breed Health Information made public

Information for members only

Information on activities kept from public & members
Would this be better?

- Breed Health
  Information made public

- Information for members only

- Information on activities kept from public & members
Strategy and planning for health

- Good published examples of this from:
  - Bloodhounds: http://www.bloodhoundhealth.co.uk/breed-specific-strategy
  - Dachshunds: http://www.dachshundhealth.org.uk/

- Other breeds may not have a written published strategy but can demonstrate systematic thinking on strategy
Where’s your breed on strategy

- Who is involved in discussions on health?
- Who takes an interest in it in the breed?
- Who supports you?
- Have roles been defined, resources allocated, actions prioritised?


Breed Health Improvement Strategy Toolkit  
[http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/97934/bhcbreedhealthimpstrat.pdf](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/97934/bhcbreedhealthimpstrat.pdf)
Health Surveillance

- **Breed Surveys**
  - Giant, Mini and standard Schnauzers [http://www.giantschnauzerclub.co.uk/health_reports.php](http://www.giantschnauzerclub.co.uk/health_reports.php)
  - Hungarian Wirehaired Vizlas [http://www.hwva.org.uk/HealthSurvey.htm](http://www.hwva.org.uk/HealthSurvey.htm)
  - Salukis [http://www.salukiclab.co.uk/pages/HEALTH2.htm](http://www.salukiclab.co.uk/pages/HEALTH2.htm)
  - Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club *Health Census 2013*

- **Investigations into specific conditions or aspects of health**
  - Staffordshire Bull Terriers cause of death [http://northwestsbtcub.co.uk/health-bullitins/](http://northwestsbtcub.co.uk/health-bullitins/)
Health Surveillance cont’d

- Breed watch – Clumber Spaniels
- Breed population trends – Staffordshire Bull Terriers and French Bulldogs
- Health Reporting – Norfolk Terriers
Where’s your breed on surveillance

- What is known about the health of your breed?
- How do you know this?
- What research is there?
- How are you monitoring health and reporting?

**Resources**

- VetCompass [http://www.rvc.ac.uk/VetCOMPASS/](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/VetCOMPASS/)
Breakthrough activities

- KC Health Team
- Dog Health Group
- KC Charitable Trust
- Research coming out of Royal Veterinary College
- International collaborations
- International Databases
- Karlton Index Breed Health Awards

Exciting stuff???
Why I am excited to be here with you – the frontline

- A room full of welfare campaigners – all they can do for breed health is shout about it
- A room full of veterinary researchers – all they can do for breed health is analyse it
- A room full of academics – all they can do for breed health is think about it
- A room full of breed health co-ordinators...........?

You TACKLE it
Reality checks

- We are working in a resource strapped environment – finance and time poor
- How do we feel about the pace of progress?
- Silos remain as do prejudices and entrenched positions in some quarters
- Defensive behaviours and routines continue in some quarters

We are constrained by the lack of resources but not constrained by a lack of passion, energy, determination
We ❤️❤️ pedigree dogs
Those timelines

2006
- Loses her dog to epilepsy

2006
- Donates dog’s DNA to AHT

2011
- Sets up the Karlton Index

2013
- Sets up breed health awards

......and the next 10 years?

Philippa Robinson
So now you know........

- What inspired me to be here
  My dog Alfie

- What inspires me to stay here
  The growing body of fantastic work being done at the frontline

- How I am feeling about where we are
  Upbeat and excited
How are your feeling about where we are?

- Yellow post-its – one word or phrase summing up your most positive feeling about your role
- Pink post-its one word or phrase describing your biggest challenge

We will use it to create a word cloud
End of main presentation

- Thank You
- Slides that follow are in anticipation for some questions
- Any questions?
Thoughts that motivate me

- It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that they are difficult.  
  Lucius Annaeus Seneca

- 80% of success is showing up.  
  Woody Allen

- For now decisions are upon us, and we cannot afford delay. We cannot mistake absolutism for principle, or substitute spectacle for politics, or treat name-calling as reasoned debate. We must act, knowing that our work will be imperfect. We must act, knowing that today's victories will be only partial, and that it will be up to those who stand here in four years, and forty years, and four hundred years hence to advance the timeless spirit once conferred to us in a spare Philadelphia hall.  
  President Obama 2nd Inaugural address
"We've got this saying, ‘performance by the aggregation of marginal gains’. It means taking the 1% from everything you do; finding a 1% margin for improvement in everything you do. That's what we try to do from the mechanics upwards. If a mechanic sticks a tyre on, and someone comes along and says it could be done better, it's not an insult - it's because we are always striving for improvement, for those 1% gains, in absolutely every single thing we do." David Brailsford Coach of the British Olympic Cycling Team
The Karlton Index: what next

- Breed Health Awards November – supported by the Kennel Club
- 20 submissions put in front ten judges
  - Nick Blayney
  - David Cavill
  - Chris Laurence
  - Harvey Locke
  - Dan O’Neill
  - Simon Parsons
  - Clare Rusbridge
  - Hannah Stephenson
  - Holger Volk
  - Sigurd Wilburg
Evaluation of the entire project

- Feedback from breeds
  - Consensus that leadership and strategy dimension and communication dimension are sound
  - Anxieties around the “participation” dimension so that needs to be reviewed
  - Misunderstanding of the “impact” dimension
  - Mixed views on scoring

- Look at other similar projects “Access to Nutrition Index”
- More collaboration with breed clubs on what excellence looks like
- Broadening it to become a “welfare” index for all stakeholders
Other projects

- Changing attitudes and behaviours
  - At the frontline
  - At the level of stakeholder collaboration
  - Review of available resources
  - Review of various work streams
Resourcing Breed Health Improvement

- RSPCA
- Dogs Trust
- Welfare Campaigners
- BVA
- DAC
- Kennel Club
- Breed Clubs
Looking forward to making a difference together