



THE KENNEL CLUB
DOG HEALTH

Breed Health and Conservation Plans Booklet



2017



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Data will be collected on:

- Known inherited diseases
- Suspected and emerging inherited disease
- Population structure and inbreeding risks
- Visible health concerns (conformation)



Resources that will be used:

- Scientific literature
- Breed club health survey data
- Data from Breed club health initiatives
- Kennel Club's 2014 Pedigree Breed Health Survey Data
- Population analysis of Kennel Club data
- Data from Official Kennel Club DNA tests
- Data from BVA/KC Screening Schemes



Collaborators:

- Breed clubs
- Breed Health Co-ordinators
- Veterinary community
- Research community



Identify where additional research is required and where further funding is needed



Help create breeding strategies with a particular focus on health



Determine where new breeding resources are required



Help the Kennel Club and its collaborators make evidence-based decisions on the best ways to improve canine health

Initially 17 Key priority breeds will be provided with a Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP).
Eventually all Kennel Club recognised breeds will have a BHCP.

Breed Health and Conservation Plans

Using evidence based research to identify, prioritise and improve canine health

What is the aim of the Breed Health and Conservation Plans?

The purpose of the Breed Health and Conservation Plans is to ensure that all health concerns are identified through evidence-based criteria, and that breeders are provided with useful information and resources to support them in making balanced breeding decisions that make health a priority.



What topics do the BHCPs cover?

The Breed Health and Conservation Plans take a holistic view of breed health and include information about the following issues: known inherited conditions, complex conditions (i.e. those involving many genes and environmental effects such as nutrition or exercise levels, for example hip dysplasia), conformational concerns and population genetics.



What information is used to create BHCPs?

Sources of evidence and data being collated include the scientific literature, the Kennel Club's 2004 and 2014 Purebred Dog Health Surveys and breed-specific health surveys conducted by the Breed Clubs themselves. Other potential sources of data are also being investigated. These will be brought together to give clear indications of the most significant health conditions in each breed, in terms of prevalence and impact.

Is the BHCPs a collaborative project?

The project, part of the Kennel Club's wider work to improve dog health, will involve collaboration across a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Breed Health Coordinators will continue to be central collaborators in the identification and prioritisation of health concerns, but we will also draw on the knowledge and experience of breeders within the Breed Club communities and the veterinary and research community.

What information is provided in the BHCPs?

At the end of the first stage of each breed's Breed Health and Conservation Plan a document will have been produced, collaboratively with the Breed Clubs, setting out all of the evidence. The second stage will include the prioritisation of health concerns and the third Stage will provide clear advice to breeders and breed clubs as to how to move forward.



How will the BHCPs prioritise health concerns?

Prioritisation will take into consideration a spectrum of evidence-based measures, recognising the impact of individual health concerns on welfare, and maximum benefit for positive change to a breed. The bespoke nature of the breed-specific health plans will include monitoring and review, so that we can ensure ongoing health needs are accommodated and reflect progress and achievements.

Which breeds will have a BHCP?

Eventually, it is hoped that all breeds have a BHCP available. In the meantime, 17 key breeds have been identified as the first to collaborate on a Breed Health and Conservation Plan.



BHCP Stages

Stage One - Identify

Health concerns are identified by collating and summarising data from a range of scientific resources

Stage Two - Prioritise

Findings from stage one will be used collaboratively to provide clear indications of the most significant health conditions in each breed, in terms of prevalence and impact

Stage Three - Advise

Conclusions drawn collaboratively from stage two will lead to guidance to both breeders and breed clubs on how to improve breed health.

Stage Four - Develop

Previous stages of the BHCPs will be used to identify where additional research or breeding resources are required and where further funding is needed.