INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of the visual health assessments is for breed representatives to collect verified veterinary information on the prevalence of visible conditions listed for a specific breed on Breed Watch. The twelve breeds listed as category three breeds and the thirty breeds listed as category two breeds all have visible conditions currently listed. More information can be found on the specific conditions listed for each breed by visiting the Kennel Club website and using the Breed Watch tool.

Q. Why should we conduct visual health assessments?

Visual health assessments provide both the owner and breed health group with information on the visible health of individual dogs. Similar to a basic health check a Veterinary Surgeon is required to assess the health of the eyes, dentition, skin, movement and respiratory function (breathing) of the dog being assessed. Additional sections for certain breeds such as assessment of the dog’s coat can be noted on the assessment form if linked to a welfare problem. The information provided gives evidence on the visible health of the breed and the prevalence of certain conditions considered to be of concern.

Q. Where should visual health assessments be conducted?

Health assessment forms can be sent to owners to be taken to individual Veterinary Surgeons who can conduct the assessment, or alternatively the breed representative(s) (health group or committee) can decide to organise group health testing sessions at Breed Club shows or Breed Club events.

Q. How long is the assessment

The assessment should take no more than 25 minutes including the completion of the health assessment form. This should give the Veterinary Surgeon ample time to assess the dog, complete the paperwork and discuss any comments with the owner.

Q. How much does it cost?

It is at the discretion of the breed representative(s) to decide a fair and consistent cost for the health assessment. Veterinary Surgeons are likely to charge a discretionary fee for individual assessment opposed to a group testing session. For group testing sessions the breed representative(s) should agree a fee with the Veterinary Surgeon in advance and then decide a fair and consistent cost to the owners. Some breeds have provided free health assessment testing at shows, although owners have been asked to give a donation to the breed health fund.
Q. What does the owner receive?

The health assessment form should be printed in triplicate copies. The original copy should be retained by the owner of the dog, the second copy retained by the Veterinary Surgeon and the third copy should be retained by the breed representative appointed. For more information on triplicate printing please contact mateselect@thekennelclub.org.uk.

Q. Who should administrate the health assessment scheme? Why do we need to appoint an administrator?

The breed representative(s) should appoint an administrator for the health assessment scheme to ensure that information is disseminated and collected comprehensively. The role of the administrator will be to advertise the breed health assessment scheme to owners of both show and pet dogs using a variety of communication methods both online and in breed publications. The administrator will send out forms where individual testing is agreed and/or for group testing sessions at Breed Club events to make the appropriate arrangements. This could involve liaising with the Breed Club secretary and the Veterinary Surgeon, making arrangements for a suitable private room or location to be available at the show to conduct the assessments, booking in owners for assessments at the show and potentially assisting with the completion of paperwork and the scanning of microchips.

The health assessment scheme administrator should also be responsible for recording all of the information provided on the health assessment forms. Further information on this is given in the Data Collection Guidance pages 8 to 19.

If further information is required on visual health assessments or if you require guidance and assistance in setting up a health assessment scheme then please contact mateselect@thekennelclub.org.uk.
A health assessment template has been devised by the Kennel Club for breed representative(s) to collate information relating to visible conditions associated with a breed. The template can be used in its current format or can be adapted to include specific visible conditions that are present in certain breeds. Veterinary Guidance notes have also been provided as an example of the guidance that should be given to the Veterinary Surgeon conducting the assessment.
# DOG HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORM

## The first section to be completed by the owner and verified by the Veterinary Surgeon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kennel Club name:</th>
<th>D.O.B: dd/mm/yy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kennel Club registration number:</td>
<td>Microchip number:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tick all that apply:
- Pet Dog [ ]
- Show Dog [ ]
- Other Canine Activity [ ]
- Please specify……………………………….. Insured [ ]

Name and address of owner (optional):

Email: Phone:

## The second section to be completed by the Veterinary Surgeon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dog [ ]</th>
<th>Bitch [ ]</th>
<th>Colour:</th>
<th>Neutered:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes [ ]  No [ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Body Condition: Using the attached guidance notes please rate the dog’s body condition

1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3 [ ] 4 [ ] 5 [ ] 6 [ ] 7 [ ] 8 [ ] 9 [ ]

Comments:

Skin assessment: (Please see guidance notes and specify the location of the concern if applicable)

Please provide comments:

Eyes: (Please see the guidance notes and please provide comments in relation to the visible eye health)

Right eye comments:

Left eye comments:

Refer to Ophthalmologist: Yes [ ] No [ ]

Reason:
Breathing: How audible is the dog’s breathing at rest? (Please tick all that are appropriate)

- Inaudible breathing [ ]
- Low level respiratory noise [ ]
- Easily audible respiratory noise [ ]
- Laboured breathing at rest [ ]

Comments:

Are there any visible signs of health concerns with the dog’s mouth or teeth? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Please provide comments:

Do you have any concerns about the dog’s movement? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Please provide comments:

Do you have any concerns about the dog’s temperament? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Please provide comments:

Veterinary Surgeon’s additional comments:

Would you recommend that the dog is referred to a specialist? Yes [ ] No [ ]

If applicable please provide details:

The above dog shows the physical characteristics as described on the date shown. The above report and its results are not a warranty against any hereditary or acquired condition that may develop in the future. These results are the findings of a basic visual examination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of Veterinary Surgeon:</th>
<th>Veterinary Stamp/ Contact details:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Date: __________
GUIDANCE NOTES TO VETERINARY SURGEONS

The aim of the health assessment is to encourage all owners and breeders to have their dogs assessed for visible conditions that may cause pain or discomfort. The health assessment forms will provide the Xxxxxxxxxxx [Breed Club] with valuable data regarding the health of the breed.

The Xxxxxxxxx [Breed Club] will only accept results on the above health assessment form supplied by the Xxxxxxx [Breed Club] with the completed identification details of the dog being examined.

All dogs must have their microchip number scanned by the vet and it must correspond to the one written on the form before the examination commences.

The Veterinary Surgeon is required to comment on:

1. Visual assessment of the dog’s body condition using the body conditioning 1-9 scale.
   Please ensure that you are well affiliated with a copy of the body conditioning scale prior to the assessment. Widely acknowledged body conditioning scales can be found through the following sources:
   - The World Small Animal Veterinary Association
   - Pet Food Manufacturer Association
   - Royal Canin

2. Visual assessment of the skin - please comment if there are signs of dermatitis, hair loss, scarring or excessive amounts of skin if causing a health or welfare concern. Below is a list of the possible areas to examine:
   - Ears
   - Periocular
   - Lip-folds
   - Neck
   - Face
   - Anal glands
   - Feet
   - Axilla
   - Groin
   - Perineum
   - Thorax
   - Abdomen

3. Visual assessment of the eyes and adnexa - please comment on the eye, adnexa and eyelid conformation for each eye individually. Please list if any of the below conditions are present and the severity:
   - Entropion/ Ectropion/ Combination of both
   - Damage to the cornea
   - Third eyelid abnormalities
   - Wet eyes/Ocular discharge
   - Keratitis
• Conjunctivitis
• Epiphora
• Distichiasis/Trichiasis
• Signs of pain or discomfort
• Other (please specify)

If you have a concern during the eye assessment an option is listed for you to refer the dog to an ophthalmologist. In this instance please give a brief description of the reason for referral.

4. Visual assessment of the teeth and mouth and the option to provide comments if any visible health or welfare concerns are present. This should be limited to signs of pain or discomfort.

5. Visual assessment of the movement - please comment if any of the conditions are present and the severity:
• Lameness
• Ataxia
• Weak hocks
• Weak hindquarters

6. Temperament - please make a basic assessment of the dog and comment if the dog is excessively shy or aggressive.

7. Any additional comments.

The following clause will apply to the assessment form: “The above dog shows the physical characteristics as marked. The above report and its results are not a guarantee against any hereditary or acquired condition that may develop in the future. These results are the findings of a basic visual examination relating to the date specified.”

This examination will take approximately 10 minutes.

A copy of the form should be given to the XXXXXXX [Breed Club] Health Assessment Administrator for data collection purposes. The owner of the dog should retain a copy of the form for their own records.
The purpose of visual health assessments is to collect information on the prevalence of specific visible conditions listed on Breed Watch for certain breeds. More information on the conditions specific to breeds can be found on the Kennel Club website here.

Before a visual health assessment testing session is undertaken for your breed you will need to set and agree a health assessment form and appoint an administrator to record the information provided and to analyse the results.

Q. Who should be our administrator? What skills will they need?

The administrator should be somebody involved in health initiatives for your breed; this may be an already appointed breed representative or a member of the health group or committee. The administrator will need a basic knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel and experience with collecting data, record keeping or database management.

STEP ONE: CREATING A DATABASE

The first step is to set up a health information database for the breed. Preferably using the Microsoft Excel application. Below is example of what the database may look like:
STEP TWO: CREATING HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORM CATEGORIES IN THE DATABASE

All categories from the health assessment form should be listed in an individual column. If you are missing any details you should attempt to contact the owner to ensure you receive the correct identification information for the dog assessed. It is extremely important that dogs are individually identifiable by either the microchip number or the Kennel Club registration number (preferably both). Below highlighted in yellow are the areas the owner should complete.

DOG HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORM

The first section to be completed by the owner and verified by the Veterinary Surgeon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kennel Club name</th>
<th>Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kennel Club registration number</td>
<td>Microchip number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tick all that apply:

- Pet Dog
- Show Dog
- Other Canine Activity

If applicable, please specify:

Name and address of owner (optional):

Email: Phone:

INPUTTING HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORM INFORMATION

When inputting sections from the health assessment form where there are several options for the Veterinary Surgeon to choose from it is useful to include filters. This has been demonstrated below showing the body conditioning section and the range of answers the Vet could provide.
STEP THREE: RECORDING INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORM INTO THE DATABASE

Some sections of the assessment require the administrator to record comments made by the Veterinary Surgeon, in the free text sections of the form as shown in the example below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skin assessment: (Please see guidance notes and specify the location of the concern if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please provide comments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eyes. (Please see the guidance notes and please provide comments in relation to the visible eye health)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right eye comments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left eye comments:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Refer to Ophthalmologist: | Yes □ | No □ |
| Reason: |

QUANTIFYING INFORMATION

It is important to quantify any free text comments the Vet has made into either visible condition present or no visible condition present, as well as recording the Vet’s comments to give more specific information about the condition. Below is a database demonstration of how this could be achieved:

![Database Screenshot](image_url)
EXAMPLE TWO

VETERINARY DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE

It is important that it is specified on the form that the comments made on the visible and physical characteristics of the dog are only relevant to this examination of the dog on the date recorded on the form. The date of the assessment should be recorded in the database. An example of the text that could be applied has been provided on the health assessment form template.

The above dog shows the physical characteristics as described on the date shown. The above report and its results are not a warranty against any hereditary or acquired condition that may develop in the future. These results are the findings of a basic visual examination.

Signature of Veterinary Surgeon:  

Veterinary Stamp/ Contact details:

Date:
SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR CONDUCTING DATA ANALYSIS

Q. Where to find calculations?

On the tabs at the top of an Excel document there will be a ‘formulas’ tab, this contains all the formulae that may be required in an Excel document. For Mac computers within the programme ‘Numbers’ these formulae will be found under ‘functions’. The ‘autosum’ button has the most commonly used formulae.
FILTERING DATA

Filtering data is a useful tool for when you are only interested in a certain value within a field. You can use this by clicking on the row (normally your 'headings'), in this case it is row 1. An example is shown below:

Once your Row is selected, on the ‘Home tab’ click on the ‘Sort & Filter’ button and select the filter choice. Then the table will have arrows beside each header as shown in the snapshot below:
The arrows can then be clicked to see all of the values within each column under each heading. By unselecting all and only selecting those you are interested in the data is then filtered to your own specifications.

This can also be used when there are more than one field or category you are interested in. For example the body conditioning assessment and the breathing assessment (which is shown in the above snapshot). By filtering both fields you can then see how they compare e.g. how many dogs with a high body conditioning score also had a notable breathing problem.
SORTING DATA

In some cases you may wish to sort data either in ascending or descending order. Choose and click on a row, the example below has chosen row “D”:

Under the home tab in the ‘Sort & Filter’ button there is the option from smallest to largest or largest to smallest. Chose and click on the one that you require, a question in a small window will appear with the choice to either expand selection; meaning that the row e.g. B2 will move all together; or to carry on with current selection; this means that only that column that you have selected will be sorted and thus may not correlate to the rest of the row once sorted. Once you have selected the option you require, the data should be sorted.
COUNTING THE TOTAL SUM FOR FIELDS OR COLUMNS

Much the same as the above calculations count can either be found within more functions of autosum, or by entering “=Count (selectdata)” in the same way as the above calculations were conducted.

**Count if**

In some cases such as eye test results or “yes” or “no” answers you might want to set a code such as

0= no 1= yes
0= fail 1= pass

Or you can keep these as words and count them with the ‘count if’ function (this function can also be used to count the occurrence of one number).

This can be done through autosum further functions or “=countif (dataset, “word/number”)” in the cell that you would like it to appear. The example below shows an eye test as these values are pass/fail results.

The same can be done with the failed category by inserting “fail”, instead of the current “pass” into the same calculation beside the ‘No. Failed’ box.
CALCULATING A PERCENTAGE

To generate a percentage you will have to divide the part by the total number. In most cases this will result in a decimal number. On the home tab you are able to change values to the percentage format by changing it from general to percentage as demonstrated below:
STEP ONE

The first step is to find the total population; this is done by a count function on the individual numbers, but can also be done on name or a column when there are no blanks in information. Then find the number which were elbow scored, which was done by the count function. The percentage is then conducted by dividing the number elbow scored by the total as shown in the example below:
STEP TWO

The value then appears as a decimal number as shown in the example below. By selecting the percentage choice in the section of the ‘Home tab’ your number is converted to a percentage, also shown below:

FURTHER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

For further support and guidance on data collection in relation to the visible health assessments please contact mateselect@thekennelclub.org.uk or visit the Kennel Club website to view other online tools and resources. http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health/for-exhibitors-and-judges-of-show-dogs/