

GOLDEN RETRIEVER BREED COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

A Meeting of the Breed Council was held on Tuesday 2 October 2012, at the Kennel Club, London W1 when the following topics were discussed:

GR_PRA2 DNA Test - the Animal Health Trust had recently reported the release of a DNA test for this second form of 'GR_PRA'. Delegates voted in favour of requesting that this becomes an "official DNA testing scheme" for the breed with results published by the KC on its website, in the Breed Records Supplement and on any new registration certificates issued for the dogs themselves and any future progeny.

Verification of Dogs' ID for DNA testing - generally it was felt that ideally, a donor dog's ID should be verified by an independent third party when the sample is taken: similar to the ID verification now used for BVA/KC testing schemes. It should not be necessary to have to use a Vet but that a designated person could be acceptable: possibly an Eye Panellist or possibly a Committee member at a Club testing session. It was agreed that this would be pursued with relevant parties.

Health Survey - previously, it had been noted that the Golden Retriever fundamentally is a healthy breed; and there is a need to demonstrate and quantify this rather than focus on diseases. As part of the desire for 'Health Surveillance', the Chairman was drafting a simple survey on Reproductive health and will be asking Clubs to review a draft copy before posting it online for general access and completion.

Hereditary Cataract & Multifocal Retinal Dysplasia - no real progress has been made on these conditions and the AHT is still keen to receive more samples both from Affected dogs and from dogs that are certified as Clear; further details of suitable donors can be obtained from the Council's Health Coordinator, Margaret Woods (margaret.woods6@btinternet.com), or from the AHT.

Other Health topics discussed included the genetic skin disease Ichthyosis, for which a DNA test is available from Antegene; Ectopic Ureter & Epilepsy where some samples and data collection has taken place; and also the possibility of establishing a samples bank of DNA extracted from a bloods.

Show Judges - Delegates approved the new Council lists valid for 2012/13; and copies may be obtained from the Secretary (christine@crowshott.co.uk). It was noted that gradually, different Clubs criteria for the B Lists are coming closer to match the Council criteria. Delegates agreed they would like to see the gap between B and C lists closed to facilitate judges' progression on to the B List.

A2 Procedure - a proposal was approved to request additions to the A2 Procedure that an Assessor should receive a written critique from the Judge, so they are seen to comply with Regulations and also to evaluate if judging was conducted in a Breed Specific way.

KC Show Certificate of Merit (ShCM) - Delegates were advised of an anomaly in the points scheme between Reserve Best In Show winners at Open shows judged / not judged on the Group system; and agreed to request that KC reconsiders this element.

Cancellation of events - Delegates noted that there is no specified means of notifying Exhibitors or Judges at a Show if it is cancelled; and suggested that Societies publish the means of notification eg via email, telephone or website in their Schedule. This will be suggested to the KC.

Elbow Grade results - a request to KC that results reported in the 'Dog Health Group' Annual Report be published by individual breeds had received a positive response.

Working Gundog Certificate - an item from Council suggesting that a Working Gundog Certificate obtained on game should enable the "Sh" to be removed from the title of Show Champion and allow a gundog to be recognised as a full "Champion", as is the case for the Show Gundog Working Certificate, received some support from the KCLC Breeds Council. Delegates agreed that this should be pursued with other breed societies and a proposal put forward to the next KCLC Field Trials Council meeting in June 2013.

Date of AGM & next meeting - Thursday 16 May 2013

Christine Morrell - Secretary
