



April 2018



PATRON: TRUDIE SUMNER

Welcome

What other news do we have for you in this issue?

Lovely to say hello to you all, and I do hope that I will be able to continue to send snippets and updates to you for a long time to come.

However, with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) coming into force in May, we are obligated to ask you to (re)subscribe to ensure that we fully meet the new regulations.

We do not pass on your details to any other organisation, unless with your knowledge and express consent. You can be assured that will continue. Additionally, anytime you no longer wish to continue to receive the newsletter, or any other communication from us, you have only to let us know that is the case.

There is no notice period, nor explanation required, and we will immediately remove all the information about you that we hold. However, if you do wish to continue to receive our newsletter, then please click [here](#) to subscribe.

We have completely revised both the [breed booklet](#), and the [puppy buyers guide](#), Both are free and downloadable, or can be sent as a booklet for breeders to include in their puppy packs on request from the secretary.

We are pleased to say that our intentions are that the number of heart screening sessions will remain the same as last year. If your preferred session is not listed [here](#) yet, then please keep checking back as some sessions are still to be confirmed. The results page now also has the option to search by year or by the registered name of the dog.

Linda

! We have details of an exciting new opportunity for an organised 'someone' who has spare time on their hands and wants to be more involved with the breed [here](#);

- Update on IDEXX/livershunt testing [here](#);
- Financial update [here](#);
- Regional heart testing review [here](#);
- Contact details of our email addresses [here](#).
- Research Projects – how to help [here](#)
- BHC Update [here](#)
- Pneumonia update [here](#)

IWHG

Regional Heart Testing Scheme Update

by Wendy Heather

2017 saw a total of 272 hounds screened through the regional heart testing scheme over 21 sessions. The cost at £45 per hound remained the same as 2016 with the cardiologists kind enough to keep their fees the same as 2016. Super Veterans were subsidised by the Irish Wolfhound Health Group and hounds rescued through the Irish Wolfhound Rescue Trust were kindly paid for by the Trust.

The scheme is very grateful to all cardiologists, helpers and of course hosts that allow the scheme to continue in its current form. The voluntary publication of heart testing results increased for 2017, which is a very useful resource for all. ***It is now possible to search for published results by name of dog, as well as by year, so making this resource more user friendly.***

For 2018 there will be a change in the administration side of the scheme. We welcome Anne Vaudin who will take over the daily running of the scheme for bookings. There is now also an [online booking form](#) available through the Health Group website.

We will continue to provide the same number of sessions throughout the year, but not all dates and venues are confirmed as yet. If you do not see your 'usual' session, please keep checking back.

Remember, you absolutely will not get a similar heart check anywhere for such a competitive rate!

Anne Vaudin: hearttestbooking@iwhealthgroup.co.uk

Online Booking Form : <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/booking.html>

| Cardiologist | Number of Sessions Attended | Number of Hounds Screened | Super veterans | | Rescue Hounds |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--|---------------|
| Angela Bodey | 15 | 210 | 14 | | 13 |
| Serena Brownlie-Sykes | 3 | 26 | 1 | | 0 |
| Sheena Milne | 3 | 36 | 2 | | 5 |
| TOTALS | 21 | 272 | 17 | | 18 |

| Date | Venue | Cardiologist | Total Number Tested | SV | Rescue |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----|--------|
| 19-03-2017 | Milford, Surrey | Sheena Milne | 11 | 0 | 4 |
| 01-04-2017 | Notts, Nottingham | Angela Bodey | 14 | 3 | 1 |
| 02-04-2017 | Wisbech, Norfolk | Angela Bodey | 18 | 1 | 0 |
| 30-04-2017 | Snaith, Yorkshire | Angela Bodey | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 01-05-2017 | Gt Witley, Worcester | Angela Bodey | 15 | 3 | 4 |
| 07-05-2017 | Maybole, Ayrshire | Serena Brownlie-Sykes | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 14-05-2017 | Milford, Surrey | Sheena Milne | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| 08-07-2017 | Notts, Nottingham | Angela Bodey | 16 | 1 | 2 |
| 09-07-2017 | Bridgend, Wales | Angela Bodey | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| 20-08-2017 | Morpeth, Northumberland | Angela Bodey | 13 | 1 | 1 |
| 17-09-2017 | Crosby, Liverpool | Angela Bodey | 15 | 0 | 1 |
| 08-10-2017 | Milford, Surrey | Sheena Milne | 12 | 2 | 1 |
| 22-10-2017 | Thirsk, Yorkshire | Angela Bodey | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| 28-10-2017 | Fawkham, Kent | Angela Bodey | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| 29-10-2017 | Salisbury, Wilts | Angela Bodey | 14 | 0 | 1 |
| 30-10-2017 | Salisbury, Wilts | Angela Bodey | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 18-11-2017 | Notts, Nottingham | Angela Bodey | 15 | 1 | 1 |
| 19-11-2017 | Axminster, SW | Angela Bodey | 13 | 2 | 2 |
| 20-11-2017 | Hereford | Angela Bodey | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| 26-11-2017 | Lisburn, NI | Serena Brownlie-Sykes | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 27-11-2017 | Dublin, Ireland | Serena Brownlie-Sykes | 14 | 1 | 0 |

Financial Update

by Steven Ritchie (Treasurer)



The Irish Wolfhound Community spring raffle drawn at Crufts on 9th March raised the magnificent sum of £1,489.71 for the IWHG (and a similar figure for the Irish Wolfhound Rescue Trust).

A huge thank you goes out to **Mandy Addington**, and to everyone who donated prizes, bought tickets or made donations. What a fantastic achievement! During the quarter we also received a very generous donation of £596 from **DeWolf Dog Training**. DeWolf's volunteer team raise money from sales of cakes and blankets at their various courses throughout the year and at their annual charity quiz night. So, thank you to all who helped raise this wonderful sum.

<https://www.facebook.com/DeWolfDogTraining/>

£356 was received from **easyfundraising** for the quarter, so thank you to our supporters who use this when shopping online.

I'd urge everyone to sign up for easyfundraising as it generates donations from participating retailers at no additional cost to you and is easy to do at the following link <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/iwhg>.

Loose change tins generated £125 this first quarter, most of which came from the single tin returned by **Kevin and Adele-Campbell Woodford**, which generated just under £90.00 all by itself - a fantastic result! It's amazing how the loose change soon adds up, so a big thank you to them!

We'd like to say a big thank you also to **Jill Stayte** for donating a new batch of tins ready to be sent out and filled up.

If you'd like a loose change tin, or if yours is getting full and you need another, please contact Wendy Heather who will arrange to get one to you.

standing order – having this regular source of income is invaluable to the Group. If you want to start making monthly donations, you can do so by following this link <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/files/Standing-order.docx> and filling in the standing order form, or by creating a standing order through your online banking.

We genuinely appreciate the donations received and the efforts that people go to in raising funds, so thank you to everyone who supports the work of the Group, either financially or in kind through contribution of their time and talents.

The 2017 accounts are in the process of being finalised and audited and will be published on our website as soon as they're available.

Kennel Club Breed Education Co-ordinator (BEC)

- Call for Volunteer

by Debbie Treadwell

The Kennel Club has written to all breed clubs and councils to ask them to appoint a Breed Education Coordinator (BEC) by the first of June 2018. Below is an explanation of what skills are required.

Please note this will be a voluntary position but expenses will be covered by each of the four UK Irish Wolfhound Clubs/Societies.

If you are interested in taking on this position, please send a CV to Mrs Debbie Treadwell to reach her not later than the 16th of April 2018

A KC Breed Education Co-ordinator (known as the BEC) is an administrative role to coordinate all points of breed specific education and support for judges. This coordinating role is held on behalf of all the Irish Wolfhound clubs in order to support the breed club obligations under the Judges Competency Framework (JCF) for the education and training of judges.

"The BEC's role is not intended to remove the responsibility for a judge's education process from the breed clubs."

The BEC is, therefore, someone who will work with the breed clubs to promote JCF Level 1 – 3 judges who wish to progress through the breed specific judging levels with the purpose of helping the

judge to identify opportunities for them to enhance their knowledge of the breed right through to achieving JCF Level 4. If the identified educational opportunities are effective, the KC BEC (working with the breed clubs) will be able to contribute to providing the necessary training opportunities for the judge to progress

The BEC will need to co-ordinate all of the educational and judges development opportunities on behalf of the breed clubs.

The Judges Competency Framework (JCF)

This is an important administrative role and will encompass managing the information for the breed clubs in all breed educational opportunities, ie including Breed Appreciation Days and Multiple-choice Breed Standard Exam, mentors, observers, as well as the subsequent assessors and exhibits for the KC organised Breed Competence Assessments.

The BEC's role is not intended to remove the responsibility for a judge's education process from the breed clubs. As stated, the BEC is a key co-ordinating role on behalf of the breed clubs in order to support the breed club obligations under the JCF for the education and training of judges.

Who can be a KC Breed Education Co-ordinator?

- Someone with good administration experience, including spreadsheets, reports and a familiarity with computer skills would be advantageous
- They do not necessarily already award CCs in that breed
- They do not necessarily need to be a current or previous breed club committee member
- Someone who is currently active or has retired from judging and has the regard of the breed clubs
- The BEC does not necessarily have to be someone from within the breed, as this is a coordination role.

- Someone who is personable and approachable, who will be able to create a good rapport with both judges and member of the relevant breed clubs
- **Please note: The Kennel Club envisages that in numerically small breeds the BEC could act as either a Mentor or Observer, in addition to the role of BEC, with the permission of the Kennel Club, but not all 3 roles**

What is the Scope of the KC Breed Education Co-ordinator's Role (BEC)?

- To administrate and co-ordinate the information and delivery of a judge's education in the breed
- Liaison with breed clubs
- Liaison with prospective breed judges
- To liaise between the breed clubs and the Kennel Club Education & Training team to ensure that the BEC/breed clubs do not operate in isolation.
- To act as point of contact for breed education enquiries
- Co-ordination of Breed Appreciation Day and Multiple-choice Breed Standard Exams
- Co-ordination of breed mentoring days
- Co-ordination of mentors
- Co-ordination of observers
- Proactively promote the breed and recruiting of new judges

What are the Responsibilities of a KC Breed Education Co-ordinator (BEC)?

- To identify the need for educational opportunities
- To forward plan the breed's education and training needs to ensure an effective process
- To co-ordinate Breed Appreciation Days by liaising with breed clubs
- With the assistance of the breed clubs to develop the Multiple-choice Breed Standard Exam for prospective judges based on the breed standard for use at Breed Appreciation Days as per guidance set out in the Code of Best Practice for the Running of a Breed Appreciation Day and subsequent Multiple-choice Breed Standard Exam
- To arrange the delivery of the Multiple-choice Breed Standard Exam at Breed Appreciation Days

- To assist Kennel Club Education and Training Team with the delivery of Breed Competence Assessments as required
- To update the Kennel Club Education and Training team with details of the activities organised by the BEC and breed clubs and also to advise the KC of the outcomes from training provided
- To provide an annual report to the breed clubs and Kennel Club on all of the activities organised
- To identify through breed clubs and assist in the recruitment of mentors within the breed
- To facilitate the initial introduction of the mentor to the judge as and when required, and to monitor the mentoring process with each judge
- To encourage breed clubs to actively promote the supported entry club shows
- To identify through breed clubs and assist in the recruitment of observers to observe judges when required
- To arrange for judges to be observed at the appropriate time/show
- To collate information on feedback sheets, on the performance of 'trainers'
- To receive feedback from the observers, mentors and assessors for updating judges records so that their details are given at the correct JCF judging Level
- To help judges, where appropriate, to reflect on and learn from things that did not turn out as expected
- To refer the judge to other sources of information, advice or further support when appropriate
- To encourage judges, mentors and observers to take responsibility for their own decisions, plans and actions when appropriate
- To present a positive image of the Kennel Club and follow Kennel Club's Code of Practice for Volunteers
- To keep up-to-date, accurate and confidential records of all contacts made and subsequent actions taken

Update on Livershunt Testing - IDEXX Charges

By Rebecca Peek

Recently, there have been several questions raised about whether or not the IDEXX Laboratory discounted rate for Irish Wolfhound puppies livershunt testing is still available to us. Apparently, some breeders have been finding that the discounted rate we have been quoting, and that the breed has been lucky enough to benefit from for many years now, was not available to them. We were not aware of this and have been having further discussions with IDEXX to see if this is just a hiccup or a change of policy.

Along with the discussions on social media there has also been a little confusion as to how the discount came about and also whether or not the data that this has generated with IDEXX was statistically available to us to monitor the incidence and trend of [Livershunt](#) within the breed.

The background to all this goes back to the 1990s when the condition of Livershunt, also referred to as Portosystemic Shunt (PSS), was only just being recognised within the breed – the condition had been in existence for some time but had not been identified for what it actually was. Once it was recognised, there appeared to be an increase in the condition between the mid 80's to the early 90's, but this may simply have been down to vets actually recognising the condition, rather than an actual increase in incidence.

Once the condition was recognised a few breeders immediately sought the help of researchers to try to establish ways of diagnosing and managing the condition.

Initial testing began with Dr Morag G Kerr (BVMS, BSc, PhD, CBiol, FIBiol, MRCVS) when she was Chief Scientist and a partner in Vet Lab in the late 80's/early 1990's. She and her colleague T Van Doorn, were investigating

the benefits of the ammonia versus the dynamic bile acid tests and they ultimately developed the dynamic bile acid tests that remain the breed benchmark today.

“Over the research period five hundred and sixty-six Irish Wolfhound puppies aged six to 15 weeks were tested for congenital portosystemic shunts by the dynamic bile acid method”

In those early days very few people were able to test as the test itself had to be created, and tested, before it could be made more widely available, so breeders were volunteering their puppies to be tested to establish the parameters and calibrations that were relevant for the breed. In those days, many of us would take our litters of puppies down to the Vetlab offices in Sussex and we would do the double bile acid test in a spare ground floor office - chaotic, but the puppies, on the whole, took it very well! Without this dedication from the breeders it would have taken a lot longer to establish the test so readily available now.

In 1999 Kerr & Van Doorn published their paper on the [‘Mass screening of Irish Wolfhound puppies for portosystemic shunts by the dynamic bile acid test’](#).

Over the research period five hundred and sixty-six Irish wolfhound puppies aged six to 15 weeks were tested for congenital portosystemic shunts by the dynamic bile acid method.

It was because of this that Jean Timmins and Miranda Brace negotiated the discount with Morag and VetLab for Irish Wolfhound breeders as a thank you. At that time not everybody was on board with Livershunt testing, so the discount provided an incentive to breeders. When Vetlab were taken over by IDEXX they continued to honour the agreement, so for nearly 20 years now, up until very recently we have continued to benefit from this.

Since the research began, Vetlab /Morag also agreed to provide the breed with statistical data of litters tested for livershunt as a way of monitoring the incidence of the condition within the breed, and to hopefully help with any studies into trends and inheritance.

This was before the IWHG was formed, and these breeders were operating independently of the breed bodies, but the data was nevertheless reported to the breed through the breed AGMs and through their magazines – the data goes back as far as 1996 when Jean Taylor originally started collecting it. Jean Timmins then took over and continues to collect and collate where information is made available.

“The incidence of livershunt remains very low in the breed these days, and the success and future prognosis of those affected puppies that are operated on is so much better than 20 odd years ago, so it is a success story for the breed. “

In conjunction with this, the breed also worked very closely with Dr Carolyn Burton on the surgical side as she was doing her PhD using PSS in the IWH. She completed her first successful operation on an IWH in 1996. [Surgical treatment of intrahepatic portosystemic shunts in 45 dogs](#) As we were referring cases to her, she was doing the operations at a discount while the study was ongoing.

Inevitably, time moves on and managements change. We no longer benefit from any discounts on the surgical side as Dr Burton now operates out of a much larger practice and the decision is out of her hands. In the same way, we now understand that the accounts department at IDEXX are no longer as happy to offer the discount to the breed when they are dealing with large corporate veterinary practices and we understand that there may be a concern that the discount may not always be reaching the breeder.

We also have to recognise that at the time that we were first given the discount, we were breeding far more puppies in a year and Vetlab/Idexx was the most experienced place to go for the tests. Now we are breeding far fewer puppies annually, but also there are far more labs able to provide the service, and some vets provide it in-house. In addition, the cost of a puppy is significantly higher than it was relative to the testing fee so they may be wondering why we should benefit from that now.

To date, we have always promoted the IDEXX route because of the discount, but also because of the data

they have been providing. But they are very large Multinational Corporation and we are very small beer to them. Our main contact who has provided the data, has been very slow to provide the stats for 2015 through to 2017, simply because he is a very busy man. However, we are persisting and hope to receive the stats at some point soon.

Although we are still investigating whether or not we can renegotiate an ongoing discount with them or another laboratory, we are not optimistic that this will happen, so we will be removing the reference to costs on our forms. For the time being, we will still be suggesting that bloods are sent to IDEXX and offer the form to download as they are still the most experienced lab for the breed and the breed is able to monitor the incidence best through a single source. However, a breeder can choose whichever lab or vet they wish to go to – the important thing is to continue testing your puppies.

On a final note, whilst we may be coming to the end of the road as far as the discount and the support from IDEXX is concerned, we need to remember how lucky we have been to benefit from theirs and Vetlab’s support and help over such a long period. The people who have done the research, and do the testing, still find time to provide us with information, and have done so in their own time and not as part of their day to day work, so we have been very lucky and should be extremely appreciative of that. The incidence of Livershunt remains very low in the breed these days, and the success and future prognosis of those affected puppies that are operated on is so much better than 20 odd years ago, so it is a success story for the breed. However, we cannot rest on our laurels - breeders need to continue livershunt testing their puppies and we would urge you to provide data for the research programmes should you be unfortunate enough to have any affected puppies in your litters, or if you are an owner of an affected puppy. You can find more information on livershunt testing and research here <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/liver-shunt.html>

How Can You Contribute to Health Research in Irish Wolfhounds?

By Dr Maura Lyons, Research Co-ordinator

The IWHG are involved with, or coordinating, various different research projects in Irish Wolfhounds, many are still ongoing and need your help. Take a read through the following list and see if your hound can help contribute to research helping to maintain and improve the health status of the breed.

1) **Nottingham University Osteosarcoma longitudinal project** – *Dr Mark Dunning.*

We are still recruiting dogs and owners for this ambitious project. For those dogs already swabbed for this project please remember to complete the health update surveys annually. For anyone who has experienced bone cancer in their dogs in the past, whether the dog was swabbed or not, there is a Treatment Survey to determine which treatments are offered by primary care vets and which are most successful. There are also two further surveys, one for wolfhound owners who have decided to amputate for reasons other than osteosarcoma, and also owners who have never experienced either amputation or osteosarcoma.

Survey 1 – please complete this survey if you have experience of amputation in your wolfhound but it was for a reason other than bone cancer:

<http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/IW-amputation>

Survey 2 – Please complete this survey if you have never experienced either bone cancer/osteosarcoma or amputation in your wolfhound:

http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/canine_amputation1

Whilst it is hoped that no wolfhound ever suffers from bone cancer again, if your dog is swabbed and gets a confirmed diagnosis of bone cancer, please get in touch with Mark to see how you can help. This is a large project with many angles and full details can be found on the webpage:

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/nottingham-university.html>

2) **Nottingham University Heart disease research** – *Prof Malcolm Cobb and Dr Serena Brownlie-Sykes.*

By taking part in the IWHG Regional Heart Testing scheme you are contributing to this ongoing project, possibly the longest running veterinary research project ever! The results of your wolfhound's heart test are recorded in the database and used by the team at Nottingham University to unravel the specifics of wolfhound heart disease. To book a slot and contribute to this valuable research, whilst also looking after your own dogs heart, please find a session close to you (or that suits by date) and get in touch with Anne Vaudin to book.

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/dates-and-locations-.html>

3) **Nottingham University Pneumonia research** – *Dr Angela Bodey and Dr Mark Dunning.*

If your wolfhound has ever experienced pneumonia, or any other type of respiratory disease or any type of nasal disease (snotty nose) we are collecting case studies so that our researchers may evaluate the most effective treatments and devise a recommended treatment protocol. Please see all details and

fill out the survey on the webpage here;
<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/pneumonia.html>

4) **Animal Health Trust (AHT) – Give a Dog a Genome/Osteosarcoma research** – *Dr Mike Starkey.*

Thanks to your support and donations, the IWHG have been able to fund participation in the ambitious Give a Dog a Genome project, as well as funding the whole genome sequencing of 5 wolfhounds. This has allowed Mike and his team at AHT to study, in depth, the differences between affected and unaffected dogs genomes. This has led to identifying several areas of the genome which may play a part in influencing the development of bone cancer in wolfhounds. An in depth report was published in the last newsletter and more details can be found here

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/animal-health-trust.html> and here
<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/give-a-dog-a-genome.html>

5) **Nottingham University FCE research** – *Dr Mark Dunning.*

Irish Wolfhounds appear to suffer from a unique form of FCE, one which affects them in puppyhood, which is why this condition is also known as puppy paralysis. It is hoped that by studying the experience of wolfhounds affected by FCE, this research could determine what causes it and the most appropriate treatment for a favourable outcome. Ellen Kroll has written a comprehensive article about FCE which is available on our webpage. If your wolfhound has experienced FCE please fill out the survey.

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/puppy-paralysis.html>

6) **University of Utrecht Liver Shunt project** – *Dr Frank van Steenbeek.*

Dr Steenbeek started his research project into liver shunt in Irish Wolfhounds as a PhD student studying for his doctorate. Since

gaining his doctorate he is continuing to investigate the causes of liver shunt in wolfhounds. He is still collecting DNA samples from affected dogs and their parents – if you can help his research by providing a sample then please do so. Details of how to help are here;

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/liver-shunt-1.html>

7) **AHT DNA Repository Scheme** – *Emma Hales.*

The DNA storage program is still available at the AHT. The easiest way to provide samples for this is for a breeder to collect an extra 1ml of blood from each puppy at liver shunt testing time. Thereafter each new owner should be informed to update the AHT with any health issues the puppy may encounter throughout its life. Full details, sample submission forms and health status updates forms can be found at the webpage;

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/dna-storage-programme.html>

8) **Nottingham University - Atrial Fibrillation and Blood Clots in Giant Breed Dogs** – *Lowri Heseltine.*

This research is looking at the effects and outcomes of atrial fibrillation in giant breed dogs, and in particular whether there is an increased likelihood of suffering a blood clot event associated with a diagnosis of AF. If you have or had an Irish Wolfhound with a confirmed diagnosis of AF please fill out the survey here;

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/nottingham-university-1.html>

9) **IWHG Liver shunt/ Epilepsy and PRA Reporting survey** – *Dr Maura Lyons.*

This is a simple form to record incidences of Liver shunt, Epilepsy and PRA. This enables the IWHG to monitor the prevalence of these diseases within the IW population. If you have experienced these conditions in your wolfhound, please fill out the survey with your

experiences.

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/health-survey.html>

10) IWHG Dentition survey – Mrs Caroline Sheppard.

Caroline has been collecting examples of jaw growth in wolfhound puppies in order to provide evidence concerning the eventual alignment of teeth in the adult wolfhound. The IW is on the KC Breed Watch list for instances of misaligned canines, the IWHG feel that if this is seen in a growing puppy there is every chance the condition could correct itself – either if left or with some targeted therapy. If you have experienced puppies with teeth issues, please contact Caroline to share your experiences.

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/about-the-study.html>

veteran wolfhounds. If you have a wolfhound who has lived to over 7 years then please fill out the questionnaire. It includes details about lifestyle and environment in order to see if there is a correlation between any of these factors and longevity in wolfhounds. You can find the details and a link to the survey on the webpage:

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/veteran-study.html>

The IW Breed Health Survey to assist formulation of the Breed Health Conservation Survey will be available very soon. Please sign up for notifications of announcements on our website here -

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/home.html>

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Pneumonia Update April 2018

by Dr Maura Lyons PhD, IWHG Research Co-ordinator

The IWHG are currently in the process of rewriting the Veterinary and Owners Pneumonia Guidelines. This has come about in response to Dr Angela Bodey's findings from the completed pneumonia surveys she has received thus far.

From the 60 or so surveys returned and analysed so far she has found no evidence that any one antibiotic is more effective than any other, but has concluded that the speed with which a diagnosis is made and broad spectrum antibiotic treatment initiated is the most critical issue.

Anecdotally, the IWHG know of many cases where the protocol in its current guise as recommended in the Guidelines has been felt to quite literally save wolfhounds lives. Unfortunately, this has not been borne up by the evidence from the surveys submitted. The IWHG would ask that if you have experienced pneumonia or respiratory/nasal disease in your wolfhound please, please, please fill out the survey and get your experience in for Angela and Dr Mark Dunning to include in the research. The ultimate goal of this research is to be able to recommend a treatment protocol based on clinical evidence from a significant number of case studies. So they really need to know about everyone's experiences.

Once we have formatted the new Guidelines they will be available on the IWHG website. The new protocol will focus

on rapidly recognising the clinical symptoms of pneumonia in wolfhounds, which are often not typical, and recommends starting intravenous broad spectrum antibiotics as soon as possible in order to increase the likelihood of a positive outcome. If there is no improvement within 24 hours, then ask for a referral to a respiratory specialist. Speed is absolutely of the essence.

As the Guidelines are being updated so the survey itself is being converted into a Google form, a format which can be quickly and easily completed online and the IWHG are hopeful this will encourage everyone who has experienced any sort of respiratory or nasal disease to share their dog's case study. Mark wants to investigate whether all the different forms of respiratory and nasal disease are variants of the same underlying problem or actually separate diseases. So if your wolfhound has experienced anything from a snotty nose to a slight cough, or there was a positive diagnosis of pneumonia from your vet, please fill out the survey.

You can find everything you need on our Pneumonia webpage.

Breed Health Co-ordinator UPDATE

By Rebecca Peek

Breed Health & Conservation Plan – our own Breed Health Survey

As already reported in previous newsletter, the KC requires that every breed has to produce a Breed Health & Conservation Plan (BHCP) – this is a project that will take some time and will be done in stages.

Stage 1, the high profile breeds, has already been completed and now Stage 2 is already underway with a view to completing this next run of breeds by the end of the year.

Irish Wolfhounds are in this second round, mainly because we are on the Breed Watch list. (See March 2017 Newsletter

http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/files/Newsletter-0217_zj67hb8k.pdf It involves the KC working closely with the breed, through the Breed Health Co-ordinator, to develop a strategy for the breed's health into the future.

They will be reviewing all the data available on the breed's health and as part of this the IWHG will be producing a **BREED HEALTH SURVEY** in the next few weeks that we would like everyone to complete so that we can get as accurate a picture of the state of the breed's health as we can.

The previous KC Breed Health Surveys in 2004 and 2014, which currently forms the basis of their reference, had a very poor response rate with insignificant numbers. For this very important project. The KC are very supportive of this action.

The BHCP will be a collaborative process between the KC and the breed bodies and representatives from all the breed bodies will be involved in a meeting to discuss the approach and final outcome. As BHC, I am the main liaison with the KC, but will be keeping you and the breed bodies up to speed and involved. The Breed Health Survey will be a way of involving everyone who owns a Wolfhound, whether or not they breed.

Please subscribe to website updates [here](#) if you want to be kept informed.

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/home.html>

Updates

We have been reviewing and updating a number of our publications and would like to draw your attention to these:

Breed Booklet – General advice on looking after your wolfhound

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/breed-guide.html>

Puppy Buyers Guide – Sound advice to anyone looking for an IW puppy

http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/files/GUIDE-puppy_8g5w6s93.pdf

Heart Testing Sessions – current dates available here –

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/dates-and-locations-.html>

Heart Test Booking Form – to book a session for your hound(s) on line (pdf and word versions available to download as well)

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/booking.html>



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