

# Glen of Imaal Terrier Health Report 2023

Puppies registered in 2022 115 up from 83 in 2021, so far this year 47 puppies have been registered

Popular sires is something to be careful of, the registration figures are

18 litters, from 17 bitches by 12 sires

Coefficiency of inbreeding {COI} for 2022 is 10% slightly up from 9.2 in 2021.

I have noticed a rise in PRA(crd3) carriers while studying test results but thankfully none affected, please be aware you should check ALL health test results when planning a mating and request copies of the stud dogs certificates so they can be included with the dams in a puppy pack.

I have attended the following webinars this year , IVDD the fear and the facts, epilepsy , auto immune diseases and 'Managing the young animal birth to adult' by a leading chiropracter all were very interesting and if anyone wants to know more please ask.

Canine Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) is characterised by a non-painful progressive hind limb paralysis in older dogs. Canine degenerative myelopathy (DM) was previously known as chronic degenerative radiculomyelopathy (CDRM) and is a progressive degenerative spinal cord disease. Ultimately it is a fatal disease with devastating consequences for the dogs and can be distressing for owners caring for them. Degenerative myelopathy is associated with a genetic abnormality in dogs. The most common form is due to a genetic mutation in a gene coding for superoxide dismutase, a protein responsible for destroying free radicals in the body. Free radicals are part of the natural defence mechanism but become harmful when they are produced in excessive quantities causing cell death and a variety of degenerative diseases. The same gene mutation can also cause a form of motor neuron disease in humans.

Genetic testing is available through laboratories and breeding guidelines are available to identify dogs at risk of degenerative myelopathy. Test results identify dogs that are 'clear' i.e. the dog who is extremely unlikely to develop DM; those who are 'carriers' and are less likely to develop the disease and those who are 'at risk' of developing DM. It is important to understand this genetic test does NOT confirm degenerative myelopathy. In addition, some dogs that might be destined to develop the disease do not do so in their lifetime and pass away before getting degenerative myelopathy.

Lynne Fraser, the BHC for GOITA, and I are conducting a Degenerative Myelopathy Allele frequency test and it is going well, this will show how widespread DM is or hopefully isn't in Glens . we have over 60 test results so far, we intend to use as widespread of genetic diversity as possible and use dogs of unique parentage. We record all results from owners who send the DNA test certificates to us. Please do continue to test your dogs and send us the results if you haven't already, results will be held in confidence unless written permission is given otherwise by the owner. It is advisable to check the DM states of all dogs prior to breeding so think ahead, results are either homozygous (clear) heterozygous (carrier) or homozygous at risk, the "at risk" does not necessarily mean the dog will develop DM, it is thought other environmental things play a part too. This will be a long project as clinical signs do not usually develop until a dog is older so we will monitor any "at risk" results to see if the dog develops clinical symptoms as they age.

There is currently lots of interesting research going on in the USA at the moment which I am following.

An update on the BHCP plan of action...

The Breed Clubs continue to follow the plan of action set out in the BHCP.

The main update is that Breed Watch is still not running, I attended the webinar on this and it is still under review.

Elbow Incongruity/PCDU , I have not received any results from UK Glens.

Finish INC grading scheme....8 Glens reported results none with above a 1 .1 grading, a reasonable uptake of the scheme but the only glen breeders in Finland are exhibitors so are willing to do health testing. Further details are available online.

*"The Kennel Club to update the population analysis –(RKC) we are working on this at the moment as part of a breed-wide project my colleague Joanna has been running. We aim to have all of the new population analyses finished by the end of this year, and will begin consultation with the breeds in Q1-Q2 next year."*

The Kennel Club to produce a piece on the importance of considering genetic diversity and popular sires when breeding, specifically for numerically small breeds –(RKC) this will be covered within the above.

The Kennel Club to assist the breed in the relevance of other DNA tests available for the breed and whether there is benefit in formally recognizing these – (RKC) we have been in conversation with this with respect to DM.

The Kennel Club to monitor research projects and findings with respect to allergies and skin complaints – (RKC)there are no new groundbreaking research studies that I am aware of that have brought much more to light in terms of allergies/ skin issues.

Wendy Tobijanski (Breed Health Coordinator)