

Glen of Imaal Terrier Health Report 2022

There was no BHC symposium this year, I continue to access health articles and discussions via the BHC facebook group which is very helpful group of knowledgeable people.

I did several online seminars covering amongst other things health and nutrition and allergies, if anyone wants to know more please contact me.

I continue to monitor Glen health and record all information given to me regarding health, illness ,breeding and cause of death and use the rolling health survey which is in conjunction with the GOITA. I propose compiling a further health database of Glens including names which will be totally confidential with only the BHC having access to and the health information excluding personal details like names added to the rolling health survey. It is very important that in order to monitor health that vets visits excluding vaccination are reported to the BHC also breeding problems and cause of death.

Registration figures

36 puppies registered in 2020 ,82 puppies registered in 2021.

Which consisted of 17litters from 17 bitches, sired by 9 dogs with 1 dog siring 4 litters, 3 siring 2 litters each 7 dogs siring 1 litter each.

As a numerically small breed we need to be aware of over using stud dogs, we need to take into consideration genetic diversity as well as health testing when planning to breed.

Annual coi calculated by the Kennel Club is 9.2 which is good.

Breed Health and Conservation Plan

The Breed Health and Conservation Plan has been completed and is available on the Club website. It took many hours of research and trawling through data to complete.

This is a project run by The Kennel Club that gathers all available health information and data about each specific breed and compiles it into a single document. This document is given to the breed clubs and is used as a basis to collaboratively create a strategy to tackle the health priorities of that particular breed.

What is the aim of the BHCPs project?

The breed health and conservation plans ensure that all health concerns are identified through evidence-based criteria. The plans provide breeders with useful information and resources to support them in making balanced breeding decisions that make health a priority.

What sort of subjects do the BHCPs cover?

The breed health and conservation plans take a complete view of breed health and include information about:

known inherited conditions

complex conditions (i.e. those involving many genes and environmental effects such as nutrition or exercise levels, e.g. hip dysplasia)

conformational concerns

population genetics

What information is used to create a BHCP?

Sources of evidence and data being used include:

Scientific publications and VetCompass findings

Agria insurance data

Breed Watch data

Data from BVA/KC health schemes and other breed health schemes, such as:

Hip dysplasia scheme

Elbow dysplasia scheme

Eye screening scheme

Chiari-like malformation/ Syringomyelia screening scheme

Respiratory Function Grading Scheme

Heart scheme for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

The Kennel Club's 2004 and 2014 purebred dog health surveys

Breed-specific health surveys conducted by The Kennel Club and the breed clubs themselves

This information is brought together to indicate the most significant health conditions in each breed, in terms of prevalence and impact.

Are the BHCPs a collaborative project?

The project involves collaboration across a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Breed health co-ordinators are central to 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 BHCP, a document that sets out all of the available health evidence is presented to the breed clubs. The second stage involves discussions between the breed clubs and The Kennel Club to decide on the breeds' main health concerns. The third stage of the project provides clear advice to breeders and breed clubs as to how the health of the breed can be improved.

BHCP stages

Stage 1: Identify

Stage 2: Prioritise

Stage 3: Advise

Stage 4: Develop

How do the BHCPs prioritise health concerns?

A spectrum of evidence-based measures are taken into consideration, 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.

The following is from the BHCP....

ACTION PLAN

Following the correspondence between the Kennel Club and the breed regarding the evidence base of the Breed Health & Conservation Plans, the following actions were agreed to improve the health of the Glen of Imaal Terrier. Both partners are expected to begin to action these points prior to the next review.

Breed Club actions include:

- The Breed Clubs to update the Kennel Club on findings from the rolling health survey, and the Kennel Club to share the link on the breed's A-Z page
- The Breed Clubs to continue to monitor the use of popular sires and raise awareness of the importance of considering genetic diversity when breeding
- The Breed Clubs to continue to encourage eye and DNA testing for PRA, and encourage the use of carriers to prevent further reduction in the breed's gene pool
- The Breed Clubs to consider putting forward a proposal for the addition of "excessively bowed legs" or "unsound movement" for Breed Watch to raise awareness of incorrect conformation
- The Breed Clubs to monitor the incidence of allergies in the breed
- The Breed Clubs and Kennel Club to monitor the uptake of the Finnish INC scheme and its relevance for determining elbow incongruity in the breed and providing breeding advice

Kennel Club actions include:

- The Kennel Club to update the population analysis
- The Kennel Club to produce a piece on the importance of considering genetic diversity and popular sires when breeding, specifically for numerically small breeds
- 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
- The Kennel Club to monitor research projects and findings with respect to allergies and skin complaints

There is a suggestion for Clubs to consider a proposal to the KC for the breed to be put on Breed Watch 2 “excessively bowed legs” or “unsound movement” for Breed Watch to raise awareness of incorrect conformation

Breed Watch is currently under review by the KC and judges are not currently submitting reports, findings of the review will be probably late in 2022 so this cannot currently be done.

I have asked the KC if the other actions they were going to do have been done, this is their reply “With respect to the BHCP our plan is to look at each breed with a genetic diversity concern in more depth and then develop a breed-specific report which we can share with you, this will build on the genetic diversity section in the plan so we can hopefully tease apart specific areas of concern to work on. My colleague Joanna Ilska (Genetics Research Manager) is working on these at the moment but please be aware we have some 60 breeds with genetic diversity concerns so it may take a little time, but of course I will update you in due course.”

I have also requested more information about the DNA archive, it’s purpose and uses and future plans for it so we know how best to support this initiative.