

The German Longhaired Pointer Club

NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN/WINTER 2007



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Committee 2007/2008

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*Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year
Prettige Kerstdagen en Gelukkig Nieuwjaar*

From the Chairman

As ever, our shooting years starts proper with the trek north each August. Like most other people, we try to cram in a little training during the warmer months, but often the intention is stronger than the doing, so once again, this year, we set off with enthusiastic though slightly wild dogs. Fortunately they were not too fit, so with two weeks of undivided attention all was anticipated to turn out well. In the event it did not. The vagaries of the weather dictated that we fished nearly every day rather than went up on the hill. After all, it is a total waste of time trying to nail grouse when it is wet because they are sitting up on top of the heather trying to keep dryer than they would down in the roots. This means. Of course, that they see you coming from afar and fly away long before the hunting dog gets in contention with them. Never mind – we caught a lot more salmon this year!

It was not all really doom and gloom – the dogs did get fit and we did quite a lot of basic training. It was just the grouse bit that was lacking.

Since we have been home we have been out at every opportunity. By that I mean almost every day, quartering the sugar beet for wild birds, at least. By the time of the Longhair training day in October the dogs were fit. This year we have had access to a superb ground with many, many acres of sugar beet (perhaps too much?) surrounded by blocks of woodland. Each block has at least one pheasant release pen in it so there are plenty of 'tame' birds on the ground for dogs to find – not the wild version that leg it out of the field before you have even got out of the car. The most difficult bit was finding them in such vast areas, but find them the dogs did.

There was an entry of six dogs, though in the event one did not run, so the remaining five had plenty of work to do. I am sure that valuable lessons were learned by all, both dogs and handlers, and the training opportunity was fantastic. We are extremely grateful to Rob Gould for his patience and experience in tutoring on the day. I will endeavour to get the same ground again next year.

Although our Club, together with all other HPR societies, have lost the trial ground at Launton this year, we have managed to find another at Fenstanton in Cambridgeshire. It is owned by Roger Everdell, an old friend who has kindly invited us there for a Novice stake. It is easy to find, just off the A14 near Huntingdon, and by the time this newsletter is circulated we will know the outcome. I am told that many societies have had trouble in filling their cards this year. Our Club has had a very good entry, so we must be doing something right.

You will be pleased to learn that the Kennel Club, in a continuing effort to improve and standardise the interpretation of J Regulations, has now trained a small number of people as presenters with the intention of them being used at seminars relating to the Kennel Club Rules. Ultimately all potential judges will be expected to attend such seminars and pass a written examination.

This can be nothing other than good in the sense that everyone involved in assessing dogs in the field will be doing so in the same way. Two of the five hpr presenters are Sheila Kuban and I.

The Hunt, Point and Retrieve Field Trial Association held a non-panel Judges training day and Rules Seminar in October, led by

Sheila and which was attended by six potential judges. The feed back is that it was very well received. I also understand that all participants successfully passed the written test, so things look good for the future.

From the Questor Kennel there is news of one more recent adventure – a four day trip just after a full moon to the Isle of Man to chase woodcock and snipe about at the invitation of Shaun Gelling, one of our new puppy owners. To say we were made to feel welcome is an understatement. We enjoyed excellent company throughout, and caught up with a few wild birds on some extremely interesting and varied terrain, ranging from thigh-deep heather and sphagnum moss (three steps and rest; three steps and rest) in clearings in the forestry, where many woodcock drop in, to open heather moor land with a good sprinkling of snipe. There were also many wild, uncultivated patches; small fields with bramble and bracken hedges and little burns with steep, bracken and bramble clad sides, which proved a haven for wild pheasants and woodcock.

It was on the moor land that I overheard one of the guns say that if he ever fell in a hole he would hold his gun up high so he could protect it and also indicate where he was. It was just as well it could not happen up here, I thought.

Ten minutes later the ground disappeared and it is incredible that all I could think of was to hold the gun up high! It took two strong men to haul me up far enough to roll me out sideways – rather like beaching a whale – during which I gave no help at all, being overcome by uncontrollable laughter. (As was everyone else).

The gun was O.K.

Before long it will be Christmas and we shall be bemoaning the end of the season, but the wheels of time must inevitably grind on.

I wish you all an excellent season in the field; a fantastic Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

David Winser
Chairman



Questor Hermione (Ruby) at 4 months old
A bird's eye view of her new playground

Working Test

Rain, rain, rain and more rain was the order of the day for most working tests this summer I cannot remember a worse summer. David commented in the spring Newsletter that it was the driest season he could remember which did not help dogs to find birds but it has certainly been the wettest summer.

Gill Mill was the exception and our working test on 8th July was a beautiful warm and sunny day. I think it was the best year ever and thanks to all the competitors for a great atmosphere and competitive spirit. I have never had so many emails and letters to say thank you and how much the day was enjoyed. These events take some organising but when so many people enjoy it the effort is so worth while.

The Puppy test attracted 12 entries, a record 43 in Novice and 16 in Open.

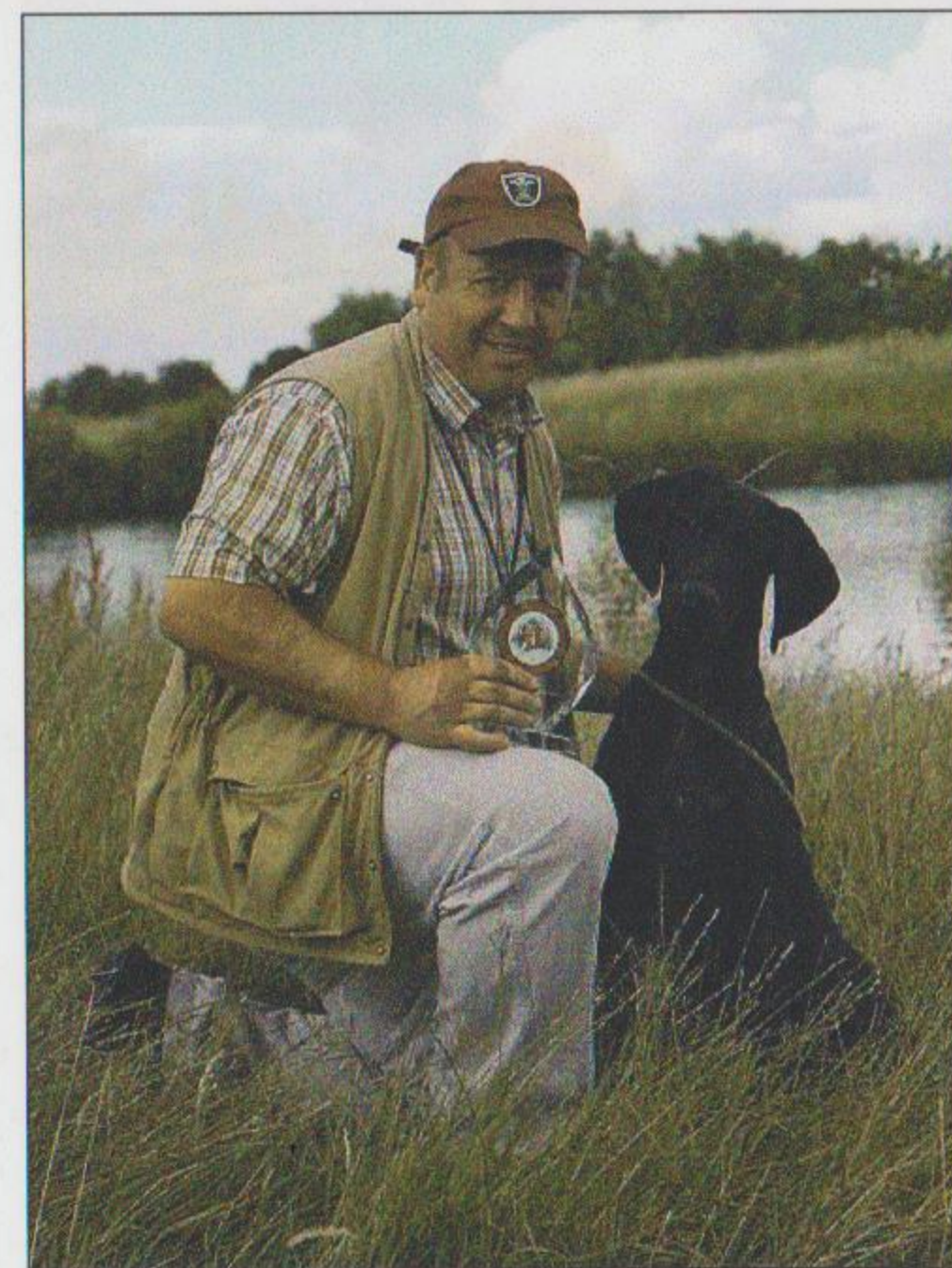
Many thanks to the Judges Janice Hawkes – Puppy
Lee Loveridge, Steve Harvey, and David Winsor - Novice
(the latter two appointed to help with the number of dogs entered.
Thanks to Steve and David for stepping in at very short notice).
Rob Gould – Open.

A very special thank you to Mark Firmin who as always was on hand to help with the arrangements, setting up and taking down. And for making sure everything went smoothly on the day. We are most grateful for his friendship.

Only three Longhairs ran in the tests and they took first in Novice
3rd in Novice and first in Open.

The Puppy Winners

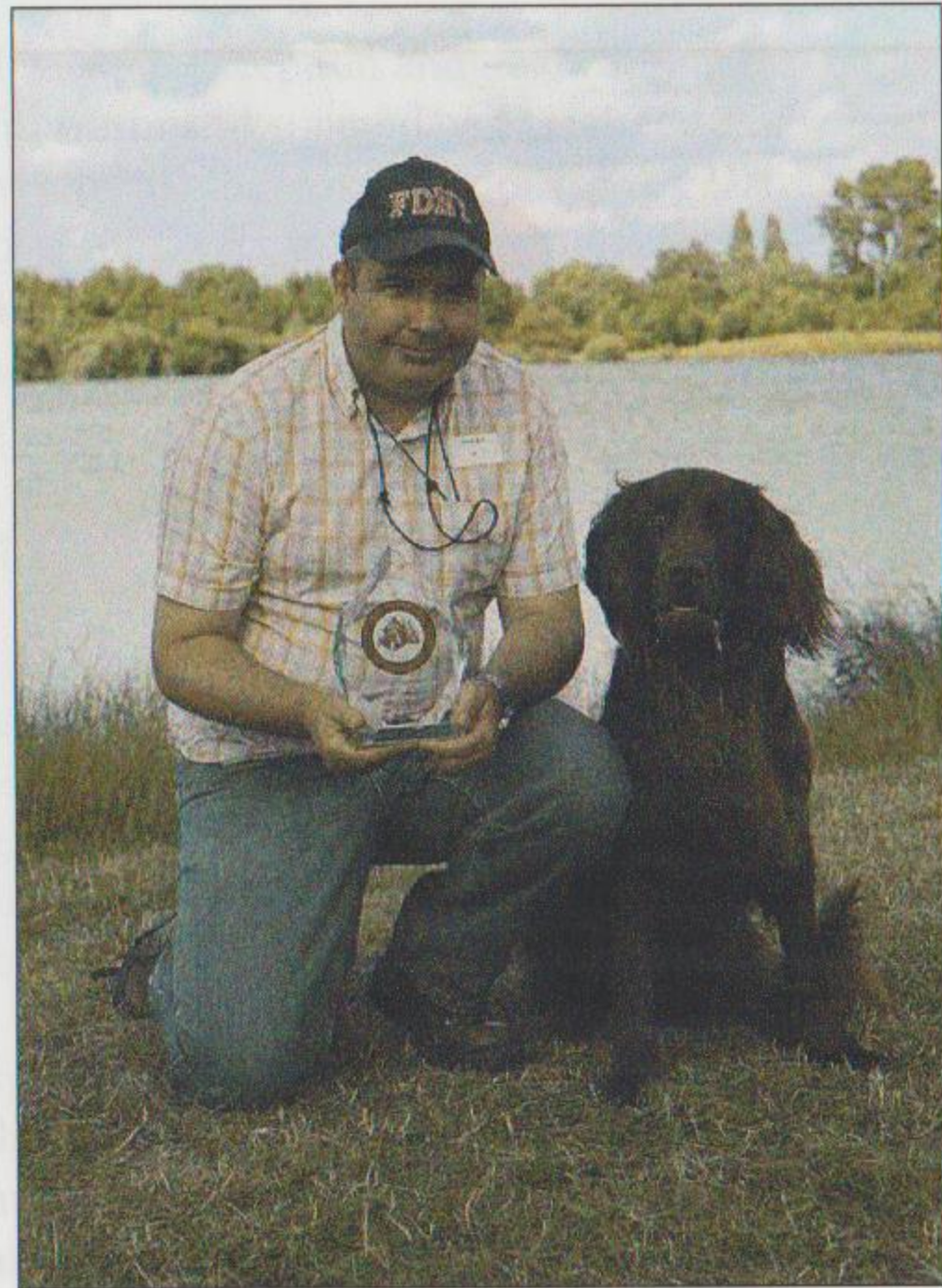
- 1st Rudrypark Tom Sawyer at Huwlin dragon G.S.P. handled by Huw Kirby
- 2nd Moricroft Mimosa H.W.V. handled by M. Caine
- 3rd Witham Friary Alma G.S.P. handled by G. Pillinger
- 4th Swifthouse Morse G.S.P. handled by D. Bowns



Rudrypark Tom Sawyer at Huwlin dragon G.S.P.
handled by Huw Kirby

The Novice Winners

- 1st Questor George G.L.P. handled by Andy Hollick
- 2nd Witham Friary Ailsa G.S.P. handled by G. Pillinger
- 3rd Wamilanghaar Elixir G.L.P. handled by Theo. Gould
- 4th Moricroft Mimosa H.W.V. handled by M.Caine



Questor George G.L.P. handled by Andy Hollick

The Open Winners

- 1st Questor Eros at Swifthouse G.L.P. handled by Madge Simons
- 2nd Gunfield Foxi H.V. handled by S. Scott
- 3rd Tiptopjack Flotilla G.S.P. handled by Huw Kirby
- 4th Aldom Red Grouse H.V. handled by Nigel Dear



Questor Eros at Swifthouse G.L.P. handled by Madge Simons

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the German Longhaired Pointer Club held at Pointers, Wistow, Huntingdon, Cambs, on Sunday 17th June 2007, at 11am.

1) Present:

Rob Gould, Theo Gould, Sheila Kuban, Sarah Bond, Chris Hartnoll, Eileen Winser, David Winser, Richard Winser, Jennifer Winser, Andy Hollick, Madge Simons, Lyn Armitage, Barry Armitage.

2) Apologies for absence:

Richard Kuban, Luisa & Stephen French, James & Wendy Walker, Stephen Winser, Emma Kelly, Catherine & Allan Drysdale, Sue Berry, Rhod & Frances Smart, Norman & Daphne Papworth, David Greenwood, Cliff Simons, Andy Bond, Dawn Gibson, Michael & Elizabeth Phillips, Ray Davies, Maureen & Jill Court, Julia Cooksey, Jean Bates, Alison Siviter, Jens Termansen, Wendy Bailey, Kim Severn, Jennie Wisher, Jon & Tanya Bone, Larry Wilks, Brenda Moss, Rachel & Nicolas Lethbridge, Jeremy Fletcher Morris, Suzi Burton, Anthony & Jacqueline Hutchings,

3) Minutes of the AGM on Sunday.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting had been previously circulated in the newsletter. It was agreed that they were a true record of the meeting.

4) Matters Arising

Mock Trial. Nothing more has been heard about a mock trial with competitors from Holland.

5) To receive the report of the Committee and the Statement of Accounts

David Winser spoke about general activities of the Club over the last year. Our Annual working Test was held again at Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxfordshire with a record entry of 72 dogs. The Club's first Field Trial was held at Launton where Madge Simons was awarded a third place with Swifthouse Crispin (G.S.P.) David thanked Madge and Cliff Simons for their support by giving the Club its first Field Trial ground and the spring pointing test held at Tusmore Estate in Oxfordshire

A letter from the Kennel Club was read regarding the application for the change to the Breed Standard. The Club asked for the addition of the phrase "the colour black is not permitted" to the Breed Standard. The Kennel Club Sub-Committee did not support this, as it is not Kennel Club policy to include disqualifying faults within its Breed Standard. However, the following addition was agreed: Black highly undesirable.

The training day for Longhairs was not well supported in 2006, but as there are a lot more young dogs coming on and could be ready for field trials this coming season up to two training days will be held on sugar beet. The first day will be preference to Longhairs and, if necessary there would be a second day also open to members with other breeds. Peter Rushbrook will be asked to host a day for 6 dogs on sugar beet.

The meeting agreed there should be a field trial again this year. After a discussion it was further agreed that the Committee should look into the possibility of an alternative field trial ground as we no longer have the ground at Launton.

The accounts for the year had been checked and signed by Sheila Kuban as an accurate record of the transactions for the year ending September 30th Rob Gould proposed the accounts be accepted. Seconded by Barry Armitage. Vote unanimous.

6) To elect a Committee

The meeting was told that the four committee members (Sheila Kuban, Sarah Bond, Rob Gould and David Winser) currently serving were prepared to offer themselves for another term. In light of the fact that there had been no other nominations, they were elected unanimously, en bloc.

7) Auditors

Sheila Kuban proposed that Eileen Winser be elected to audit the accounts. Seconded by Chris Hartnoll. Vote unanimous.

8) To elect a legal adviser and Veterinary Surgeons

The Chairman proposed Howard Llewellyn, Barrister, who had served the Club well in past years. There were no other nominations. Howard was re-elected legal adviser unanimously.

Both Rob and Theo Gould, our Veterinary Surgeons in previous years were present and agreed to advise the Club on veterinary matters for a further term. There were no other nominations and both were re-elected unanimously

**9) To discuss the following Resolutions from the Committee:-
(a) Alterations to the Rules (Proposed alterations in bold)**

Rule 4) a) The affairs of the Club shall be managed by (delete *the officers of the Club and*) a Committee consisting of four members, each of whom shall retire annually but are eligible for re-election *and who shall be elected by postal ballot prior to the Annual General Meeting. The members of the Committee shall hold office for one year, but shall be elected individually. In addition the President (without vote) and the Executive Officers shall be members of the Committee.*

Rule 4) d) The Committee may appoint *any qualified person* to fill honorary posts, such as Legal Adviser, Veterinary Surgeons (*delete and liaison Officer*) and have power to co-opt any member, and shall ensure that all the interests of the Club are represented.....

Rule 4) i)..... Except in the case of a retiring member of the Committee seeking re-election, nomination for membership of the Committee shall be *duly* proposed and seconded by two fully paid up members and shall be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary 28 days before the day of the Annual General Meeting. The *proposer must state that his nominee is willing to serve.* The nominee must signify his/her willingness to serve in person at the A.G.M.

Rule 10) b) To elect Officers and Committee *as required and to declare the results of postal ballots for Executive posts and Committee membership.*

Rule 8)

- a) SINGLE FULL MEMBERSHIP - Must own *or have owned* a German Longhaired Pointer and will be entitled to one vote and will receive all benefits and publications.
- b) JOINT FULL MEMBERSHIP - Two adults at one address who own *or have owned* a German Longhaired Pointer and will be entitled to two votes and will receive all benefits and one copy of all publications.

The above rule changes were proposed by the Management Committee and the meeting voted unanimously in favour of them.

9(b) A proposal to increase the cost of Associate membership from £5 per annum to £8.

A proposal from the Management Committee to increase the Associate Membership from £5 to £8 failed. A counter proposal to increase the Associate Membership from £5 to £10 was voted 12 in favour 1 abstention. Increase to £10 carried.

9) Any Other Business

It has been suggested that our very generous host Mr John Smith at Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxfordshire, may not be able to offer the ground for our working test in the future due to the lake being stocked for fishing. Therefore help in finding an alternative ground would be appreciated. (Secretary's note: since the AGM Mr John Smith has said the fishing should not prove a problem and has invited the Club back for a working test next year.)

David Winser thanked the Committee for their help during the last year. Sarah Bond volunteered to do the organization for events, i.e. Discover Dogs at Earls Court and Crufts. The Game Fair, and other Country Fairs during the year.

The Bryantscroft Trophy for excellence in Field Trials was awarded to Rob Gould and Morgan again this year.

An advertised two day working test at Loton Park was discussed and Rob Gould informed the meeting he had been asked to take part by entering a Longhair.

The Meeting closed at 1.15pm followed by lunch and a fun day with the dogs.

Secretary's note (A letter has been received from the Kennel Club agreeing to the rule changes)

The results of the fun day retrieving test judged by Sheila Kuban and David Winser were:

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| PUPPY | 1 st | Cara handled by Rob Gould |
| | 2 nd | George handled by Andy Hollick |
| | 3 rd | Cagney handled by Madge Simons |
| NOVICE | 1 st | Ellie handled by Theo Gould |
| | 2 nd | Lilly handled by Rob Gould |
| | 3 rd | Pip handled by Sarah Bond |
| OPEN | 1 st | Morgan handled by Rob Gould |
| | 2 nd | Ross handled by Madge Simons |
| | 3 rd | Tarn handled by Sarah Bond |

Health Matters

I recently attended the 2007 Breeder Symposium held at the Royal Veterinary College in Hertfordshire. The topics this year were:

Epilepsy in Dogs, the speaker was Dr Luisa de Risio from the Animal Health Trust talking about the clinical aspects of epilepsy in dogs.

Genetics of Epilepsy in Dogs, Dr Cathryn Mellersh from the Animal Health Trust exploring the genetics of epilepsy in dogs.

Vaccination, A talk on vaccinations by Professor Michael Day of Bristol University.

Heart Disease in Dogs, Dr David Connolly, Lecturer in Cardiology at the Royal Veterinary College speaking about various aspects of heart disease in dogs.

I found the subjects extremely interesting and have with the speakers permission reproduced the summaries of their talks. The first of the topics is.

Epilepsy in Dogs

Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological disorders in dogs. The word epilepsy originates from the Greek word epilepsia meaning to be taken, seized or attacked. Epilepsy is defined as a condition characterized by recurrent seizures (two or more). An epileptic seizure is a clinical manifestation resulting from an abnormal and excessive discharge of a set of neurons in the brain. Three main characteristics of epileptic seizures are: the loss of control (in various degrees e.g. altered muscle tone and movements, loss of consciousness, loss of bladder control), the episodic (paroxysmic) nature of the attacks (they start suddenly and they terminate suddenly), and the repetitive clinical pattern (attacks tend to be identical from episode to episode). When dealing with seizures or suspect seizures

the first step is to determine if the dog is actually having one. Other neurological (e.g. movement disorders, vestibular attacks) and non neurological disorders (e.g. syncope and other cardiovascular disease) may result in clinical manifestations that may look like a seizure to the owner. Video footage and detailed description of the events can help determining the nature of the "abnormal episodes". Electroencephalography can help the result of different pathologic processes affecting the brain directly (structural brain disease) or indirectly (extra cranial diseases that result in abnormal brain activity). The structural brain diseases include: brain tumour, infection, inflammation, malformation, stroke, degenerative disorder and trauma.

The extra cranial diseases that result in abnormal brain activity include metabolic diseases such as liver, kidney diseases and other diseases resulting in electrolyte imbalance or hypoglycaemia. Seizures may result also from exposure to toxins, however in this case there is no repetitive clinical pattern, unless exposure to toxin is repeated. Epileptic seizures may also result from an abnormal brain function that is not due to extra cranial diseases (that result in abnormal brain activity) or to structural brain disease. In these cases we refer to idiopathic epilepsy. The diagnosis of idiopathic epilepsy is one of exclusion after ruling out all known intra and extra cranial causes of seizures. This can be done by full physical and neurological examination, haematology and serum biochemistry, urine analysis, chest radiographs, abdominal ultrasound, MRI of the brain and cerebrospinal fluid analysis. Idiopathic epilepsy may have a familial predisposition. Dogs with idiopathic epilepsy are normal neurologically in between seizures and tend to have seizures with a fixed pattern. It is very important to keep a detailed seizure diary specifying all the animal does before, during and after a seizure and the date and time of the day when the seizure occur. In dogs with idiopathic/familial epilepsy seizures tend to occur mainly at rest, generally in the evening or at night.

Epilepsy can occur in any canine and feline breed as well as in mixed breeds. A familial predisposition of epilepsy in dogs had been reported for many breeds, e.g., Beagle, Keeshound, Belgian Tervueren, Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Vizsla and Shetland sheepdog. The hypothesis of polygenic, recessive mode of inheritance has been suggested in the Bernese mountain dog and in Labrador Retrievers. It has been suggested that a single locus with a large effect on the incidence of seizures may be segregation in the Belgian Tervueren dog. In Vizslas an autosomal recessive trait has been suggested.

Luisa De Risio, DMV PhD DeCVN

Head of Health Department honoured by pet charity

Dr Jeff Sampson Bsc.Dphil, head of the Kennel Club's Health and Information Department, which oversees the Accredited Breeder Scheme has been presented with the annual Blue Cross Welfare Award. Dr Sampson was chosen by the pet charity to receive the award in recognition of his work improving the health and wellbeing of future generations of dogs. Thanks to Dr Sampson's work, many inherited diseases in dogs – which were life threatening only decades ago – can now be controlled.

From a report in the August 2007 Accredited Breeder Newsletter announcing the winner of the Blue Cross Welfare Award.

Dr Sampson is a well deserved winner and we send our hearty congratulations.

Bill King also writes: "Over a long and dedicated career, Dr Sampson has made a valuable contribution to the understanding and control of inherited diseases in dogs. His work had done much

to raise the profile of canine genetics and has helped to improve health of dogs across the country."

Although German Longhaired Pointers are not a breed with any history of hereditary health problems we cannot be complacent and the Club recommend taking advantage of the screening tests that are currently available to all breeds.

In the August 2007 Accredited Breeder Newsletter there was an article about DNA Profiling and the information on how to send for a testing kit. This information follows:

DNA Profiling

For many people DNA is the stuff of American Police programmes of high profile cases involving the parentage of 'celebrity' babies. It is certainly not something that dog breeders need to concern themselves with. But DNA profiling is actually a large part of dog ownership and responsible breeding. As Accredited Breeders will know, under the terms of the Scheme, a DNA profile is one of the three accepted methods of identification for breeding stock, the others being a tattoo or a microchip.

So What is DNA profiling?

Well, to put it in its most basic form, it is a unique canine fingerprint which can be used to identify a particular dog and just as importantly, it can be used to certify parentage provided that DNA profiles are available from both parent dogs.

The procedure itself is simple, non-invasive (so need not be carried out by a veterinary surgeon) and costs just £15. To obtain a kit please complete a request form, which is available online at www.thekennelclub.org.uk, by calling 0870 606 6750 ext 312, or

by email info@thekennelclub.org.uk. You will then be sent a kit from the laboratory which will be marked up specifically for use on that particular dog.

The kit contains a mouth swab that you use to collect cells by rubbing the swab (it looks like a large cotton bud) against the inside of the dog's cheek. Full instructions about sampling are included with the kit but it is suggested that you might not want to swab a dog on a hot day just after it has been drinking or you might end up with a swab full of saliva as opposed to cheek cells.

Once you have swabbed the dog you return the swab to the laboratory and within about 4 -5 weeks you will receive a DNA profile certificate from the Kennel Club.

The profile itself is stored at the laboratory and does not currently give any information on disease status as DNA testing for disease is done entirely separately to profiling.

The Kennel Club is trying to get more people interested in joining the Accredited Breeders Scheme. This scheme can only work if responsible people take it on board and for that reason the Kennel Club have produced "Your Questions Answered".

Accredited Breeder Scheme - Your Questions Answered

Kathy Wilkinson the Honorary Secretary of the Border Terrier Club poses the questions.

Why did the Kennel Club first introduce the Accredited Breeder Scheme (ABS)?

To reinforce the basic concepts of responsible breeding practice for novice breeders and puppy buyers as tried and tested by experienced breeders over many years. In so doing, to promote relevant health screening across all relevant breeds and to provide greater substance to the perceived value of a Kennel Club Registration Certificate in the eyes of the general public.

A number of people already look after the welfare of their puppies and their prospective owners and feel they do not need to join such a scheme as they are already "good" breeders. Why should they consider joining the scheme?

One of the messages that will hopefully emerge during this Q&A is the central importance of this scheme to the future of dog breeding in this country and the way that is perceived in the outside world, which actually represents the vast majority of people in the UK. We have enjoyed self-regulation for quite some time and if this is to continue, the rest of the world has to be convinced that we deserve that right.

Increasing membership of the ABS and the inclusion of those experienced and well-established breeders who currently see no advantage in joining, will greatly strengthen the case for continued self-regulation. Furthermore, if more such people joined the scheme the criticism that it represents the less experienced side of the dog scene would be severely undermined.

Is the perceived threat of intervention in breeding by government-led legislation a real worry? How is your thinking here influenced by actions taken by other governments, which have attempted to introduce measures to curtail dog breeding and bring legislation in to force regarding the sale of companion dogs?

Yes and this is really not based entirely on what other governments are doing, but what they are doing paints a very sad picture. The Kennel Club's concern regarding the threat of government-led intervention in the UK comes from extensive discussions with DEFRA and UK Government officials. Often ministers will quote the ABS in parliamentary responses to questions relating to dog breeding.

Do you anticipate that these measures and this type of legislation may spread to the UK if we do not do anything? In essence, what are the likely prospects for dog breeders if we do nothing?

If we cannot show that we are capable of responsible self-regulation, in a way that will satisfy our doubters, then government will intervene and regulate for us. If anyone doubts that this will happen and the consequences, then they should read the recent Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) 2006 report (www.cawc.org.uk/documents/CAWCModifications.pdf).

In breeds where health issues deem it necessary for tests to be carried out before breeding takes place, such as eye tests, hip scoring etc, does the Kennel Club indicate that these tests should be done on all stock before breeding, if the breeder is an Accredited Breeder (AB)? At present, what is the situation concerning those tests, now or in the future, may results of tests be taken in to account before that litter can be registered under the Accredited Breeder Scheme?

The intention of the Scheme is that Accredited Breeders ideally use all of the health screening schemes, both 'required' and 'recommended' for their particular breed on all breeding stock. Checks on 'required' testing, however, only become feasible and are done on sire and dam at the time an AB registers a litter. These 'required' schemes represent those official schemes where the KC can independently check for breeder compliance. In addition, some breeds have 'recommended' health checks, which usually represent breed schemes that the KC cannot independently check. They are 'recommended' in order to raise the profile of the schemes in the breeders' and the puppy buyers' eyes.

In the early days of the ABS, we adopted a degree of flexibility in this regard, particularly with the dogs that the AB didn't own, usually the stud dogs. However, as the scheme has become established, we are becoming tighter on this particular requirement of the scheme.

Scheme development is ongoing and all breed clubs are invited to participate actively. Clubs could request, for example, that particular health tests be added to 'requirements' or 'recommendations' for their breed.

At present, the requirements are simply to *participate* in the health screening programmes so that information is available to breeders and puppy buyers; it is felt that in the future, the scheme may evolve to be able actually to impose some restrictions on the outcome of such tests. For example, those health screens that involve DNA testing for the presence or absence of a disease-causing allele. Some time in the future we could consider imposing a requirement that states that not only should both parents be DNA tested, but also that one should have a 'normal' result. Decisions to control registrations in this way would not, of course, be taken lightly. It may be that in the future, some breeds will choose to limit the acceptable hip score for breeding stock. Other breeds will no doubt choose not to do this. One of the advantages of the way that the ABS is designed is that certain requirements can be breed-specific. We actively encourage breed clubs and councils to work with us on tailoring the scheme to best suit their breed.

What is the present situation regarding DNA profiling, or other means of identifying dogs, such as microchipping and tattooing, if their progeny is to be registered under this scheme?

The initial intention of the scheme was to make DNA profiling of *both* parents mandatory for the registration of a litter under the scheme. We have yet to implement this because the take up of DNA profiling has still some way to go. So, at the moment parents have to be identified by either microchipping, tattooing or DNA profiling.

The Kennel Club charges a nominal fee to join the scheme and also an amount for the purchase of puppy packs. Please outline the current costs to breeders in purely monetary terms and outline any benefits included in the scheme.

At present it costs £15.00 to join the scheme and, on acceptance, the member receives 10 free Puppy Sales Wallets (PSW), a certificate of membership and is entitled to use the scheme name and logo in certain agreed circumstances. We think that it is fair to say that Accredited Breeders enjoy a high level of support from the Kennel Club, particularly from the Health & Information Department who are on hand to help with various issues when these arise. Annual renewals cost £10.00. Members can defer renewal i.e. lapse their membership, if they think, for example, that they will not breed in a particular year, and can renew later, still at a cost of £10.00. One of the monetary advantages to scheme membership is free access to the Kennel Club's Puppy Sales Register (PSR). Puppy Sales Wallets are smart scheme folders that are specifically designed to hold the written information and Registration Certificate that Accredited Breeders are required to pass to each puppy buyer. The wallets each contain a feedback form that new owners complete and return to the Kennel Club. This is another very effective way of monitoring breeder compliance with the scheme requirements. But undoubtedly the main benefit of the scheme to breeders will eventually be acceptance of it by the puppy buying public, rather than some form of imposition of regulations by Government or by local authorities who know little or nothing about the practical aspects of dog breeding.

Some consider this to be a "money-making" scheme for the Kennel Club. Does the administration of the scheme actually cost the Kennel Club more money than it collects from those Accredited Breeders and if so, how are the costs estimated and what is involved?

We can't really understand how people could possibly imagine that this scheme makes money for the Kennel Club! The joining fee is £15.00, but on joining the member receives Puppy Sales Wallets in a welcome pack, which all costs around £10.00 each to produce and post. So, approximately £5.00 of the initial fee is left to pay for all of the administration surrounding the scheme.

Start-up costs aside, the efficient running and development of the scheme currently demands two full-time members of staff, one part-time Accredited Breeder Advisor, a significant proportion of two senior staff members' time not to mention a proportion of the KC Accounts Office time. Then there are the promotional, marketing and printing costs, which, from time to time, will be considerable as well as the cost of steadily

reducing income from the Kennel Club Puppy Sales Register due to free inclusion of litters that are bred by Accredited Breeders. Where could people get the idea that there's a profit in this for the Kennel Club?

Why have you allowed people to join the scheme who have not yet bred a litter of puppies? How can the scheme assist those people, the puppies they may breed and the public who may buy the puppies?

It is certainly true that some of the early members of the scheme had little, if any experience. Their memberships were accepted, and still are, because it was felt that the scheme would give them some very useful guidance towards becoming responsible breeders and indeed guide members of the public who might consider buying from these breeders to ask the pertinent questions.

In any event, we believe that the proportion of such inexperienced breeders on the ABS is steadily being reduced as more experienced breeders realise that, if the public are to be given the greatest opportunity of buying from a responsible breeder, then they need to support the Kennel Club in this sincere venture and stand on their breed's 'platform' along with all other breeders who have declared that they will follow good practice as a minimum. Experienced breeders can of course use the basic scheme definitions to demonstrate just how much more than the basics they do and the recently introduced Accolades are proving effective in highlighting breeders with more knowledge and involvement.

Talking of the three Accolades you have introduced for members of the scheme - one of those is that the breeder has bred five or more litters. Some people are worried that this is encouraging people to breed. What was the thinking behind the inclusion of this Accolade? Please describe the reasoning behind the introduction of the other two accolades.

All three Accolades were introduced following specific criticism of the scheme by breed clubs and breeders that there was no way of distinguishing experienced Accredited Breeders from those without much knowledge. The 'five or more litters' Accolade was introduced to try to differentiate the experience of scheme members in the light of criticism based on the substance of your previous question. We were anxious to give clarity to the quantity of experience that an Accredited Breeder had and provide the puppy buyer with immediate visibility. Of course, we could have stated simply the number of years experience that a breeder has had, however someone who had bred perhaps two litters say ten years apart could then claim to have ten years experience which may not necessarily give them in depth experience. We felt that five litters was a reasonable number and would usually ensure that someone would have a good understanding of what is required.

The 'breed club membership' accolade and the 'stud book entries' accolade were introduced following criticism from breed clubs that the membership did not reflect commitment to the breed and to the production of 'quality' stock, 'quality' being measured by progeny performance in the show ring or in trials.

Importantly, all three accolades also had to be considered in the light of whether or not we could actually verify a breeder's claim to be assigned one or more of them.

The notion that anyone would go to the trouble of breeding five litters just to be able to attain membership of the ABS, is not one we would readily agree with.

Some people are concerned about the title 'Accredited' and feel it may mislead members of the public into thinking that the Kennel Club has assessed each breeder and their premises and that the breeder then being accepted on to the list means that they are 'recommended' by the Kennel Club. Would you consider changing the name of the scheme, so that the general public would be better informed as to the manner in which breeders attain listing?

We debated long and hard about a name for this scheme and the Accredited Breeder Scheme was finally accepted.

One of the definitions of the verb 'to accredit' is "to certify as meeting official requirements" (Chambers

Dictionary), which is exactly what the scheme is, members are agreeing to abide by a set of requirements which we feel form the basis for responsible breeding practices.

The Kennel Club tries to make scheme requirements clear and easily accessible to all, on promotional material as well as the website www.thekennelclub.org.uk so that no one should be under any misconception as to what it actually means to be an Accredited Breeder.

We are continually aiming to improve the scheme in any sense, and are therefore always open to suggestions.

At present you have one Accredited Breeder Advisor for the whole of the scheme. Please describe the duties and advise if you would consider adding to the number of Accredited Breeder Advisors in the future, say as the number of breeders joining the scheme increases?

At present, the Accredited Breeder Advisor is contracted to undertake approximately 50 visits per year, both randomly and also where there may be cause for concern. This involves visiting establishments, discussing the outcome of the visit with the members and preparing a report of the visit, with appropriate recommendations. Occasionally the Accredited Breeder Advisor is able to provide tips or advice which have been very willingly received even by those with many years of experience!

In addition, the Accredited Breeder Advisor is collecting and preparing examples of good practice and novel ideas that will form the basis of a document that will be made available to all scheme members.

Hopefully as the scheme grows, it will be possible, and indeed even necessary, to appoint further Accredited Breeder Advisors so that we can work towards that ultimate goal of having visited every single Accredited Breeder's premises.

Some people see the details of Accredited Breeders and the numbers bred by them and feel that they have joined the scheme purely to aid their puppy sales. Others feel that if enough people joined who could tick all three boxes of accolades, that this would ensure that the scheme was a more fair representation of the breeders in the UK who already care about their puppies and their welfare. Would you consider it essential that more people join the scheme, including those breeders who belong to breed clubs, so that any government sees that the majority are willing to self-regulate?

Absolutely, we believe that the government will need to see that a healthy majority of breeders, irrespective of how regularly they breed litters, have signed up to the scheme in due course. While many breeders have been doing far more than the basics required by the Accredited Breeder Scheme, until now, there has not been a formal way of recognising and showing this officially to the outside world.

If you had to list three benefits to dogs, their breeders and buyers, which come from having such a scheme being universally accepted and used by the majority of breeders, what would that list include?

The ABS provides a platform from which Accredited Breeders may legitimately be promoted by the Kennel Club to the general public, and to other breeders. Importantly, it will also provide valuable guidance to new puppy buyers and increase their chances of purchasing a puppy that will live a long, happy and healthy life and give the best possible dog owning experience.

Are there any other significant points you would like to make about the scheme?

Joining the Accredited Breeder Scheme is a simple process and really any breeder or prospective breeder can apply. Remaining on the scheme is altogether more challenging and only those breeders who comply with the requirements and operate within the 'spirit' of the scheme will endure. Active policing, Accredited Breeder Advisor visits and puppy buyers' feedback will help to weed out irresponsible breeders and, in time, the Accredited Breeder Scheme will become an essential banner for any reputable breeder.

Club Shop Items

Available from Eileen (email eileen@winser.go-plus.net)

Car Stickers	£1.50
Grooming Video	£10.00
Club Lapel Badge	£2.50
Notelets Cards	£2.00
Embroidered Blazer Badges	£6.50
Greetings Cards	£1.00
Engraved (German Longhaired Pointer) Pens	£2.50
Gilet with GLP Logo Terracotta made by Oxford Blue	£30.00
Fleece with GLP Logo Terracotta made by Oxford Blue	£25.00
New stock from the Dutch Club	
Dummy Bags with GLP motive	£8.50
Umbrella with GLP motive	£8.50
Pewter GLP Brooch	£3.00
Pewter GLP Key Fob	£4.00

Available from Brenda Moss (email brenda-arany@tiscali.co.uk)

In Sporting Green with Deutsch Langhaar logo

T Shirts	Sweat Shirts	Fleeces
Caps	Ties	



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