



Founded 1985
australiancattledogsociety.co.uk

HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE 2013



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Terms of Reference

MAIN PURPOSE OF SUB-COMMITTEE:

To develop policy on health and welfare of the breed, including the prevention of ill-health, the promotion of fit and healthy lifestyles and the reduction of health problems; and make recommendations as necessary, to the Breed Clubs.

KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- To keep track of emerging information in relation to H&W issues relating to the breed and circulate this information to the Breed Club in a timely manner
- To liaise with Breed Club Officers, Sub- committees and Club delegates in order to develop H&W policy
- To define H&W issues which should be addressed by the Breed Club
- To recommend to the Breed Club those health and welfare issues which should be pursued as a matter of urgency
- To investigate and, if necessary, initiate research into current and potential breed health and welfare issues
- To develop recommendations for all breed owners (breeders, exhibitors and pet owners) to follow to ensure their dogs can lead fit and healthy lifestyles
- To provide advice to Breed Club on H&W matters
- To ensure articles and information published on H&W matters reflect a fair, honest and positive representation of the work being done by the Breed Club

Liaison with:

- All Officers, Sub-committees and Club representatives
- Subject matter specialists (e.g. AHT, KC, Vets)

The H&W Sub-committee will be responsible to:

- The Chairman of the Breed Club

Meetings to attend:

- Breed Club Meetings
- Annual General Meetings
- H&W Sub-committee meetings, as required
- H&W seminars and symposia, as appropriate

Membership and Term of Role:

- The H&W Sub-committee will be appointed for three years at a time, with its membership reviewed and confirmed at an Annual General Meeting of the Breed Club
- The Chair of the H&W Sub-committee will be appointed by the Breed Club
- The H&W Sub-committee may second additional members, as required, to deal with specific H&W issues

Other Information:

- All Sub-committee correspondence should be copied to the Breed Club Secretary

Breed Health Coordinator: Role Description

1. Provide a central point of contact between the Breed and the Kennel Club for all matters concerning health;
2. Provide advice, help and support, in complete confidence, to owners/breeders on health matters affecting their dogs;
3. Provide accurate, reliable and consistent information to breeders/owners and the general public, in order to educate and raise awareness about health issues that affect or could affect the Breed;
4. Liaise with the Breed Club to inform, update and consult with them over the breed's health and other relevant general canine health issues, and to act jointly on their behalf to enable a co-ordinated approach to Breed health matters;
5. Research, compile and publish information and updates on all health matters affecting the breed, via Breed Club websites, newsletters/leaflets/flyers, yearbook and any other relevant publications;
6. Receive, record and monitor input from owners/breeders concerning reported cases of illness/ disease and causes of death, in order to keep abreast of current health issues affecting the Breed and be alerted as early as possible to any significant new issues that may be emerging;
7. Compile annual health reports on behalf of the Breed Clubs for submission to the KC with their annual returns, and provide additional interim health reports to the Breed Club as and when necessary;
8. Communicate and liaise with professional associations and institutions (including The Kennel Club, British Veterinary Association and Animal Health Trust), veterinary practitioners, referral clinicians, researchers, geneticists, charities and other regulatory or advisory organisations concerned with canine health & welfare;
9. Keep abreast of developments in canine research, legislation, disease knowledge, both within the UK and worldwide;
10. Attend meetings, health related seminars, conferences etc. as and when necessary.

Breed Health Plan

The Australian Cattle Dog Health & Welfare Sub-committee was formed in July 2013.

The plan for its first term is as follows:

	Action	Deadline
1	<p>Improve Breed health information on website.</p> <p>Include, as minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the Breed health plan • Who to contact for advice or to report a health issue • Main health issues in the Breed • What is being done about these issues • How health surveillance is conducted • Recommended screening schemes with dates of upcoming events • Advice to people wishing to breed • Link to KC Breed Information Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Add breed-specific health information • Link to Health Survey 	December 2013
2	<p>Distribute Breed Health Survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover letter • Online: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BBVL9QF • Paper based (see Appendix II) 	<p>Publicise September 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in newsletter • KC Gazette • ACD Website/Facebook
3	<p>Collate Results of Breed Health Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine with breed statistics collected by Stella Smyth 	January 2014
4	<p>Create an A4 glossy ACD Health Report 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings of Breed Health Survey and recommendations • Priorities for Breed health improvement • Suggested actions, e.g. updated CoE 	<p>Distributed to members free of charge at 2014 AGM with accompanying Breed Health presentation.</p> <p>Distributed to non-members at Open Show 2014 for £5 (proceeds to ACD Welfare)</p>
5	<p>Use above steps to inform the development of a Breed health strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use health strategy to inform key topics for education events and online resources 	Included in ACD Health Report 2014
6	<p>Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACDS review board • Karlton Index (see Appendix I) 	ACD Health Report 2015

Useful References

The Kennel Club Breed Health Improvement Strategy: A step-by-step guide

<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/download/13823/bhcbreedhealthimpstrat.pdf>

The Kennel Club Breed Health Surveys Toolkit

<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/download/13822/bhcsurveystoolkit.pdf>

The Breed Code of Ethics are available in full on the Society's website at:

australiancattledogsociety.co.uk/code-of-ethics

Alison Skipper's Health Status Report for the Australian Cattle Dog (2008)

australiancattledogsociety.co.uk/cattle-dog-health

Dr Nicola Rooney & Dr David Sargan (2009) Pedigree dog breeding in the UK: a major welfare concern?

<http://www.rspca.org.uk/pedigreedogs>

Patrick Bateson (2010) Independent Inquiry into Dog Breeding.

<http://www.ourdogs.co.uk/special/final-dog-inquiry-120110.pdf>

A healthier future for pedigree dogs – The Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare inquiry

<http://www.apgaw.org/images/stories/PDFs/a-healthier-future-for-pedigree-dogs.pdf>

Dog Breeding Report Update – The Associate Parliamentary Group <http://www.apgaw.org/reports-and-publications/pedigree-dog-report-2012>

The Karlton Index Survey of breed club websites

www.thekarltonindex.com

Survey Report and Health Report 2012

www.dachshundhealth.org.uk

The Dachshund Breed Council Health Inherited Conditions in pedigree dogs. Part 1. Asher, Diesel, Summers, McGreevy & Collins. Veterinary Journal 182 (2009) 402-411

Inherited Conditions in pedigree dogs. Part 2. Asher, Diesel, Summers, McGreevy & Collins. Veterinary Journal 183 (2009) 39-45

Appendix I – Measure of ACD Breed Health

According to **The KarltonINDEX™** 2013.

This will act as a measure of impact during review of the current Breed health plan.

	Leadership	Communication and Engagement	Participation	IMPACT	TOTAL
2011	5	4	2	0	11
2013	6	4	3	0	13

The health agenda for this breed in the UK is being led by [The Australian Cattle Dog Society](#) and it is clear that they have taken health matters seriously for some time. For leadership, marks were awarded on the basis that the Society has a clearly labelled health section which outlines some of their key health priorities such as PRA, deafness and hip dysplasia. The society is to be applauded for having a very strong [Code of Ethics](#) that has unequivocal guidance for breeders.

For communication and engagement, points were awarded for the collaborative work done on the recognition and awareness of PRA and for the encouragement of testing protocols through the website and the Code of Ethics.

Statistics on the actual participation levels are difficult to find. The health report on the website is, for instance dated 2008 so the only available data is for hip scoring. A total of 93 Cattle Dogs are listed as hip scored. Consequently the marks reflect the available data rather than the true participation levels.

Development Points

It will not be difficult to improve the score against the framework for this breed. Things to consider are:

- Establishing and communicating the ways in which the Society undertakes health surveillance. Is it through health reporting by breeders and owners, is it by carrying out a health survey, is it through working with projects such as Vet Compass?
- Updating the published health report. 2008 is now five years ago.
- Making it clear on the website how owners can report health issues and to whom they should report.
- Report on the participation levels currently within the breed for all the relevant testing protocols.
- Use all the above steps to help inform the development of a health strategy for the breed as outlined in the [Kennel Club's health strategy toolkit](#).

Appendix II – Health Survey 2013



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The Australian Cattle Dog Society of Great Britain have formed a Health and Welfare Sub-Committee to develop policy on the health and welfare of our breed, including the prevention of ill-health, the promotion of fit and healthy lifestyles and the reduction of health problems. Full details are at:

australiancattledogsociety.co.uk/cattle-dog-health/

In order to protect our breed's health in the future, we need information on which health conditions are a problem in ACDs in the UK. Therefore we are conducting a Health Survey over the next few months to get a realistic view of which conditions are most prolific within the gene pool.

The data gathered will be used to create a comprehensive Health Report which will be published in March 2014. The last such report was in 2008. The report will be distributed to Society members free of charge at the AGM (23rd March 2014) and will also be available to non-members for a small fee (which will go into the ACD Welfare Fund).

Answers will be completely confidential and fully anonymised.

The questionnaire should not take longer than 5 minutes to complete per dog. We welcome information about any ACD you own or have previously owned, no matter how long ago. Please use a different form for each dog.

The deadline for completion of questionnaires is the 31st December 2013. Please circulate to any ACD owners you know. If you have any questions, please contact Adam Beral via email: ACDSecretary@gmail.com or by phone: 07739460012.

Surveys can also be completed and submitted online; see the ACD Society website:
australiancattledogsociety.co.uk/cattle-dog-health

Return completed forms to:

**Adam Beral
57 Henry Doulton Drive
London
SW17 6DB**

About Your Dog

1. What is your dog's date of birth? (please estimate if unknown)

____ / ____ / _____

2. What is your dog's sex?

Neutered Bitch

Date neutered:

Neutered Dog

____ / ____ / _____

Entire Bitch

Entire Dog

3. Has this dog been bred from?

Yes

No

4. Date of Death? (if applicable)

____ / ____ / _____

Health Tests

6. Has your dog been hip scored? If so, please enter the score below (e.g. 3:7)

- No
 Yes _____

7. Has your dog been elbow scored? If so, please enter the score below (e.g. 1:0)

- No
 Yes _____

8. Has your dog ever been tested for prcd-PRA? If so, please enter the result below.

- Not Tested
 Normal/Clear
 Carrier
 Affected
 Obligate Normal (but no test carried out)
 Other (please specify)

9. Has your dog ever had a hearing test? If so, what was the result?

- Not Tested
 Normal/Clear
 Deaf (one ear)
 Deaf (both ears)
 Other (please specify)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

The following information is entirely optional but if completed will be kept entirely confidential.

10. What is the registered name of your dog?

