

## SCOTTISH TERRIER HEALTH

In 2008 all Scottish Terrier Breed Clubs were contacted by the Kennel Club and asked to appoint a Single Lead Breed Health Coordinator who would serve the breed as a whole.

Jenny Morris offered her time to devote to this new position and was elected as the “Single Lead Breed Health Coordinator”.

On health related matters Jenny is taking her directive from the Kennel Club. All information will then be passed onto the Breed Club Secretaries for discussion by the relevant Committee’s and forwarded to Club Members.

Should any Breed Club Member feel the need to contact Jenny with information etc, she can be contacted at [scotchmore@btinternet.com](mailto:scotchmore@btinternet.com)

### BREED WATCH:

*“Breed Watch is an area of the Kennel Club’s website that will serve to be a constantly updated alert to all interested parties, but with dog show judges in mind in particular, to any undesirable trends or exaggerations that may be emerging in particular breeds.” The Kennel Club*

By and large Scottish Terriers are healthy and robust dogs and it is pleasing to report that the Kennel Club has stated that there are no specific points of concern specific to the Scottish Terrier other than those covered routinely by the Kennel Club Breed Standard.

## KENNEL CLUB OBJECTIVE:

*“The aim of the Single Lead Breed Health Coordinator is simple: to facilitate, over time, the communication and collection of as much data on breed health as possible”*

*With this in mind, the Scottish Terrier Breed Clubs agreed that a Health Questionnaire be sent to all Breed Club Members.*

*The initial Surveys covered a 12 month period and the results of these initial surveys have been issued to all the Breed Club Secretaries.*

*In September 2012 The Kennel Club issued a Health Coordinators Tool Kit to assist with the collection of health data. A copy of this Tool Kit has been issued to all the Breed Clubs to assist with the updating of the Breed Health Questionnaire and a further questionnaire is being prepared.*

## KENNEL CLUB UPDATE:

**Dr Sarah Blott** of The Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust recently gave a lecture on the Kennel Club’s “Mate Select” online service. The following is a summary

- Breed health is a balance between reducing the prevalence of existing diseases and maintaining long-term health by managing the loss of diversity or rate of inbreeding.
- The online tool ‘Mate Select’ is designed to help breeders achieve this balance.
- Phase 1 of Mate Select, launched in May 2011, is concerned with the management of inbreeding. In phase 2 we will be launching estimated breeding values (EBVs), to help breeders reduce the prevalence of hip and elbow dysplasia by using more accurate genetic evaluation of risk. Phase 3 will introduce ‘optimum contribution’ technology allowing the

use of selection to reduce inherited disease while at the same time managing the rate of inbreeding.

Further details of this online service can be obtained from the Kennel Club's website: [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)

## **MELANOMAS (CANCER) IN SCOTTISH TERRIERS**

The Animal Health Trust has been carrying out research into melanomas (cancer) in Scottish Terriers. The research was initially funded by the LUPA Scottish Terrier-melanoma project. Whilst this funding has now finished, the Animal Health Trust are continuing with this research. To cover the costs of the research there will be a £5.00 fee for each swab kit.

The DNA samples are collected by using cheek swabs, which is a non-invasive procedure. The Animal Health Trust require samples from dogs of any age that has or had a melanoma or from a dog that is aged at least 7 years old that has never had any type of cancer.

For the research to be most effective and beneficial to the Breed the Animal Health Trust require random samples not just samples from "Show Kennels." Therefore samples collected from Rescue Scotties and Non KC Registered Scotties would greatly assist with the research

If anyone wishes to participate with the research then please contact Jenny Morris at the email address and telephone number below.

For further information on any health related matters please email Jenny Morris at: [scotchmore@btinternet.com](mailto:scotchmore@btinternet.com) or telephone 01704 840570

Dear Scottish terrier owners,

The School of Veterinary Science, University of Nottingham is pleased to announce a new collaboration with the UK Scottish terrier group. This is part of the School's longitudinal health initiative in pedigree dogs. The new project will look to recruit UK Scottish terriers as part of an ongoing review of the general health within the breed. The dogs enrolled in the study will have a lifestyle questionnaire completed along with an oral DNA swab taken. The information gathered from these will enable a picture to be generated up of the health of Scottish terriers in the UK. The breed is reported to suffer from a number of particular conditions for which we know very little in the UK population as most of the research and information is from the USA. We are therefore beginning this study to be able to understand more about the various conditions that affect the UK population of Scotties. In particular we hope to identify important factors that might influence the development of particular diseases including liver disease and various cancers. The diseases themselves are likely to be due to a combination of genetics, the lifestyles and the management of the dogs. It is therefore very important that information on both the lifestyle and management of the dogs is gathered as well as the genetics. As a result of this information we will be uniquely positioned to highlight the differences that exist between those dogs that are suffering with a particular disease and those that are free from it. By following the dogs over the length of their lives we will be able to review trends in particular diseases and also the long-term factors that may affect their development. Involvement in this project is voluntary but we hope very much it will be seen as a positive step in influencing the future of Scottish terrier health in the UK. The project is also anonymous and so only the researchers at the University of Nottingham will know those people taking part. It is hoped that by maintaining a strictly anonymous project we will encourage all Scottish terrier owners and breeders to get involved.

The health and lifestyle questionnaire will be available to participating owners and breeders via email, conventional mail or by completion online. Jenny Morris, the Scottish terrier health coordinator - will be responsible for sending out the DNA swabs and receiving the questionnaires. It is hoped that this particular project will begin early in 2016.

In addition to this initial phase of the study, we are looking to obtain samples from any Scottish terriers unfortunate enough to be suffering with cancer. Nottingham Vet School has active research projects investigating a number of aspects of cancer in dogs. These projects are investigating the factors that influence the development of cancer along with potential new treatments and

ways of improving the outcomes of dogs suffering with them. The current projects have made some very important discoveries in a number of canine cancers. These specific projects have been successful as a result of obtaining small tissue samples from suspected cancers when they are being biopsied or surgically removed by vets in general practice. These tissue samples are then further studied under the microscope and by genetic analysis. We are offering a free histopathology service for your vets to help with making the initial diagnosis of cancer. We would therefore ask those of you whose dogs are having biopsies taken of suspected cancers to be in touch with either Jenny Morris ([scotchmore@btinternet.com](mailto:scotchmore@btinternet.com)) or the Vet School directly using the dog breed research email address on [sv-dogs@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sv-dogs@nottingham.ac.uk)

We will then contact the vets directly and discuss the health initiative and provide them with all the supplies for the samples. Again the results will be anonymous however the identity of the tumour and the results of the research on each sample will be available to the owners of the individual dog.

We are very excited about working with such a wonderful breed and hope very much that the many aspects of this project will have a positive impact on the breed and that the results of can be translated into improvements in the health of the individual UK Scotties.

With very best wishes

Mark Dunning, Nigel Mongan and Simone de Brot  
On behalf of the Nottingham Canine breed health research group