

KC Breed Health Coordinator Seminar - 18 November 2011

Summary of Debate Session

During the last session of the day, Steve Green, the Bernese Mountain Dog Health Coordinator chaired a discussion where the attendees were invited to contribute and debate on various matters.

Steve began with an explanation of some of the difficulties that he had faced while trying to combat apathy to do with health issues in his own breed. He commented that he had found it frustrating that, at times, international interest had seemed higher than that of UK breeders. He pointed out that the Bernese Mountain Dog breed in the United States had compiled a massive health database, achieved largely by collecting information from pet owners.

The health section of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain can be found here:

<http://www.bernese.co.uk/Club%20Web%20Pages/health%20home.htm#Welcome>
[to the Health section of the BMDC of GB web site.](http://www.bernese.co.uk/Club%20Web%20Pages/health%20home.htm#Welcome)

Other breeds reported problems with apathy too, sometimes within the club committees themselves. It was commented that some clubs within breeds were better at communicating on health issues than others.

The suggestion of making Breed Health Rep details publicly available on the KC website was again raised and it was confirmed that, as part of the re-design of the KC website, there would be a facility (buttons) for contacting current Breed Health Reps.

For the purposes of circulating information to all breed health coordinators, such as announcements of health related seminars for example, it was reiterated that this could be easily achieved by requesting that the KC Health Coordinator should circulate the material to all.

The setting up of a Facebook group of health reps to stimulate discussion and idea-swapping was suggested. If such a group was set up, there would be issues about controlling access and ensuring that only current breed health reps were taking part.

The French Bulldog rep reported that the breed had been successful in setting up a breed health scheme that was enjoying improving levels of uptake. Further information on this can be found here:

<http://www.frenchbulldogclubofengland.org.uk/healthscheme.htm>

Bulldogs also have a similar scheme run by the Bulldog Breed Council. The Breed Council website includes a contact list of vets that have agreed to participate in the scheme:

<http://www.bulldogbreedcouncil.co.uk/healthscheme.htm>

It was suggested that there should be more focus on helping puppy buyers ask the right questions of breeders.