

GOLDEN RETRIEVER BREED COUNCIL

NEWS RELEASE

A meeting of the Breed Council was held on Thursday 19 October 2017 at the Kennel Club, London W1

The Chairman welcomed delegates from Eastern Counties GRC to the meeting on the Club's return to Council.

JUDGES COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK (JCF)

Mrs Iris Thompson-Burton/ KC Education & Training attended the meeting for a discussion and Q&A session on the JCF. Golden Retrievers had been accepted as one of the breeds in the small group piloting transition to the new Judges training system; and Council representatives had attended an initial meeting at KC in July. The two systems will run alongside each other for breeds in the Pilot up to December 2021.

The first steps are to arrange a new Breed Appreciation Day (BAD), with a new Multiple Choice Exam on the Breed Standard. This is being run by the Golden Retriever Club on 14 January 2018 and is a requirement for judges to progress to Level 2. From 2019, a breed will need to provide BAD at least every 2yrs; and it is envisaged these can be organised jointly between Clubs on a rotating, regional basis. Clubs also are required to nominate Mentors; and were asked to suggest shows in their areas to give a wide spread of 'Supported Entry Shows' across the UK - from 2019 each breed club will have to sponsor at least two a year.

One suggested change to the JCF that has been adopted was to increase the proposed Stewarding experience required to progress to Level 2, from 4 days up to 6 days. Updated information on JCF is on the KC website: <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/training/judges-education/breed-show-judges-training/judges-competency-framework>. Ideally, the KC wants a single point of contact per breed, similar to the Breed Health Coordinator and it's proposed that each Club will have a nominated 'Education Representative' to act at a local level and work with the Breed Education Coordinator (BEC).

KC ACADEMY BREED FILM

Work has been progressing and four short films are planned rather than one long film - ie an Introduction; Nose-to-Tail; Movement; and Working Golden Retrievers. Text for each section has been drafted and work begun on diagrams and image choices for the presentations. Once all the material is finalised it will go to the KC for approval before a date for filming can be arranged and dogs selected for inclusion.

JOINT BREED CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS

The next rotation cycle is due to begin in 2022 and Clubs are in discussions about which year they each would prefer to be the host. It is hoped this can be agreed at the next meeting.

JUDGES LISTS

Breed Council lists were approved, including 6 new candidates elected to the A3 list. Increasing divergence between Council's and Clubs' criteria for the number of dogs judged for B lists was noted and is due to be considered further next May.

HEALTH MATTERS

Glaucoma - Delegates previously had been advised of the latest news that "Gonioscopy / Glaucoma for Golden Retrievers is NOT to be added to Schedule A on the BVA/KC eye certification scheme from January 2018, or for any foreseeable date in the future based on current available information." However, concerns were expressed that this could change and there remains a need to be vigilant.

For those breeds currently gonioscopy tested under Schedule A, a grading scheme (0-3) which might replace 'Clinically Unaffected or Clinically Affected', is being piloted to better indicate the risk of developing glaucoma.

Ectopic Ureter project at Cambridge Univ. - so far 15 dogs and 32 bitches have been examined, with interesting findings of 8.5% incidence overall, slightly higher in males than females. Ectopic ureters DO exist in clinically normal Golden Retrievers: the mode of inheritance is complicated and DNA samples have been taken for subsequent analysis by the AHT. It was felt that it could be very useful to have ultrasound screening done for males before any stud work.

Give a Dog a Genome Project - (ref. http://www.aht.org.uk/cms-display/genetics_gdg.html). Sequencing and analysis takes a long time. Work on **Mast Cell Tumours** rests with Dr Mike Starkey. Regarding other conditions that might be investigated next; it could be Epilepsy as it is found across so many breeds although the difficulty of identifying underlying causes is acknowledged.

Breed Watch - Golden Retrievers are a Category 2 breed and it is mandatory for Championship Show judges to report visible exaggerations/conditions of concern relating to the health and welfare of dogs; but it is felt that some are reporting deviations from the Standard which do not cause discomfort or pain. Clarification is to be sought.

Date of AGM and next meeting - Thursday 17 May 2018

Christine Morrell - Secretary
