

Health Committee Report – January 2018

Members are Helen Ingher, Chair; Laura Liscum, Assistant Chair; Shelley Barclay; Karen Clugston, Peggy Evanich; Stephanie Holoubek, Pat Koprovic; Linda Murray; and Veronica Scheer.

The past month, the Health Committee (HC) focused on the following issues:

1. **Reno National Clinics.** Cathy Craft is still working on engaging an ophthalmologist to perform eye tests. Jo Quintenz secured a vet tech for the blood draw and Helen has communicated with her.

2. **AKC Registration Data.** In mid-November, the Club received charts documenting AKC registration data for PBGVs over the past decade. The HC found the data confusing; therefore, Laura contacted Mark Dunn, AKC Senior VP Registrations and Customer Development, for clarification. He responded that many people had questions and they were re-working the charts. The new charts, received mid-December, were much clearer. They included statistics on hounds and all breeds, in addition to PBGVs. The PBGV data are appended to this report.

Mr. Dunn's email explained that the charts show the counts of litters, litter complement, and dogs registered for our breed since 2008. They also show, for each year, the number of dogs registered as Limited, the % of registered dogs that are Limited, and the number of Revoked Limited dogs. Additionally, there are data on the count and the percentage of dogs born in any given year since 2008 that have been bred or that have been shown in Conformation. These latter numbers will increase over time as dogs mature and are then shown and/or bred for the first time. [Note: Complement is the count of pups from each AKC litter.]

Key take-home points are the following. The number of registered litters have dropped dramatically since 2008. There were 369 PBGVs born in 86 litters in 2008, but only 173 born in 43 litters in 2016. The number of unique dogs in conformation has reduced from 354 in 2008 to 170 in 2016. The unique number being bred has also declined. This is not exclusive to our breed, but is a concern of many breed clubs. Reduced numbers of dogs in any breed has potential impact on the genetic diversity in the breed.

The AKC is concerned about this trend and is beginning to take steps to help breed clubs with this issue. Helen and Anne Gallant met with Mark Dunn while at the 2017 AKC National Championship in Orlando. They learned that the AKC is developing programs to assist low population breeds to conduct genetic diversity testing as part of their DNA program.

3. **Breeder mentoring.** To counter the declining number of PBGV breeders and its long-term effect on the health of our breed, the HC is discussing a breeder mentoring program. We are drafting an application for breeder mentors and a document of expectations. These will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

4. **POAG clinical trial.** Bruce Toenjes is a PBGV owner in Iowa who has a POAG affected dog being treated by Dr. Rachel Allbaugh at Univ of Iowa. He reports that Dr. Allbaugh has been in contact with Dr. Andreas Komáromy at Michigan State regarding gene therapy for POAG affected dogs. Dr. K has developed a virus that expresses the canine gene encoding the ADAMTS17 protein, which is deficient in POAG. He has treated some POAG affected, pre-symptomatic Beagles and one Beagle with increased pressure. His results so far are encouraging. He is monitoring for side effects in the Beagles, but already reports that pressure is decreased in the one symptomatic Beagle. He proposes to treat one pre-symptomatic PBGV in one eye and monitor side effects for 6 months. Because an immune response would be mounted in the treated dog, the second eye of that dog could never be treated. If all looks okay, both eyes of PBGVs that are pre-symptomatic or that have low increased pressure could be treated. PBGVs would not have to travel since the injection could be performed by any veterinary ophthalmologist.

The HC is putting together a list of POAG affected dogs and owner contact information. Once more details of the treatment are known, we will make preliminary contact to see which dogs might be eligible for the trial at this time. There are many remaining questions, not least of which is the cost to treat the dogs and who will pay. Bruce did not know who was paying for the Beagle treatment. Dr. Allbaugh would be the contact person for PBGV owners. She has yet to prepare a protocol and get approval from the Univ of Iowa animal committee, so any treatment will not begin for several months. We do not know, at this time, if dogs outside of US/Canada will be included. That may depend upon country-by-country oversight of gene therapy protocols.

Dr. K would like to come to a PBGVCA National Specialty to speak about the therapy. We would probably book him for 2019, giving the timing of the trial.

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	Metric	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Notes
Litter Stats	Registered Litters	86	65	65	62	58	42	43	32	43	# AKC litters registered each year
	Litter Complement	369	256	269	275	250	184	171	153	173	# Pups in the litters (known as the Complement)
	Average Complement	4.29	3.94	4.14	4.44	4.31	4.38	3.98	4.78	4.02	Average # of pups per litter
	Individually Registered Pups	262	153	169	186	175	108	115	101	118	# Pups from each year's litters individually registered (to date)
	Actual Return Rate	71.0%	59.8%	62.8%	67.6%	70.0%	58.7%	67.3%	66.0%	68.2%	% Pups from each year's litters individually registered (to date)
	Limited	66	36	34	41	43	52	33	33	31	# Limited Registrations from each year's litters (to date)
	% Limited	25.2%	23.5%	20.1%	22.0%	24.6%	48.1%	28.7%	32.7%	26.3%	% Pups from each year's litters Registered as Limited
	Limited Revoked	2	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	# Limited Revoked Dogs from each year's litters (to date)
	Revoked Litters	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	Litters involving Revoked Limited Dogs and/or Bitches each year
	Complement Bitches in Conformation	78	46	51	53	44	24	31	31	30	# Bitches from each year's litters in Conformation (to date)
	Complement Dogs in Conformation	56	30	47	47	44	27	23	27	33	# Males from each year's litters in Conformation (to date)
	Total Complement in Conformation	134	76	98	100	88	51	54	58	63	Total from each year's litters in Conformation (to date)
	% Complement in Conformation	51.1%	49.7%	58.0%	53.8%	50.3%	47.2%	47.0%	57.4%	53.4%	% of each year's litters in Conformation (to date)
	Complement Bitches Bred	34	19	25	21	19	10	5	3	-	Bitches from each year's litters that have been bred to date
	Complement Dogs Bred	19	10	8	14	14	6	6	3	1	Males from each year's litters that have been bred to date
	Total Complement Bred	53	29	33	35	33	16	11	6	1	Total from each year's litters that have been bred to date
	% Complement Bred	14.4%	11.3%	12.3%	12.7%	13.2%	8.7%	6.4%	3.9%	0.6%	% of each year's litters that have been bred to date

Dog Stats	AKC Dog Registrations	264	170	180	183	193	127	106	119	105	# Registered from AKC Litters during each year
	FSS Registrations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	# of FSS Dog Registrations each year
	Conditional Registrations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	# of Conditional Registrations each year
	Open Registrations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	# of Open Registrations each year
	Foreign Registrations	11	9	6	10	12	16	12	13	14	# of Foreign-born Registrations each year
	Total Dogs Registered	275	179	186	193	205	143	118	132	119	Total Dog Registrations each year
	Unique Bitches in Conformation	177	170	162	156	151	129	110	91	93	Unique # of bitches in Conformation each year
	Unique Dogs in Conformation	177	141	118	126	125	119	93	86	77	Unique # of males in Conformation each year
	Total Unique in Conformation	354	311	280	282	276	248	203	177	170	Unique # in Conformation each year
	Bitches Bred	83	63	59	55	54	40	43	29	42	Unique # bitches bred each year
	Dogs Bred	55	44	45	47	46	32	36	24	33	Unique # males bred each year
	Total Bred	138	107	104	102	100	72	79	53	75	Unique # bred each year

% Change YOY		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	These %'s are calculated to show the change each year from the previous year.
Litters		N/A	-24.4%	0.0%	-4.6%	-6.5%	-27.6%	2.4%	-25.6%	34.4%	
Litter Complement		N/A	-30.6%	5.1%	2.2%	-9.1%	-26.4%	-7.1%	-10.5%	13.1%	
Registered Pups		N/A	-41.6%	10.5%	10.1%	-5.9%	-38.3%	6.5%	-12.2%	16.8%	

% Change Relative 2008		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	These %'s are calculated to show the change each year compared to 2008.
Litters		0.0%	-24.4%	-24.4%	-27.9%	-32.6%	-51.2%	-50.0%	-62.8%	-50.0%	
Litter Complement		0.0%	-30.6%	-27.1%	-25.5%	-32.2%	-50.1%	-53.7%	-58.5%	-53.1%	
Registered Pups		0.0%	-41.6%	-35.5%	-29.0%	-33.2%	-58.8%	-56.1%	-61.5%	-55.0%	

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