

# HEALTH REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE WSS JOINT HEALTH GROUP HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2016

## CHAIRMAN

The JHG is delighted that Miss Jane Sansom BVSc CertVOphthal DVOphthal DipECVO FRCVS has agreed to act as Chairman of the Group for the next 12 months.

Her qualifications are as follows:

- Batchelor of Veterinary Science (1977 Bristol)
- Certificate in Veterinary Ophthalmology (1983)
- Diploma in Veterinary Ophthalmology (1986)
- Diploma of European College of Veterinary Ophthalmology (1997)
- Fellowship of Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (2004)

She also sent these few sentences which seem to say a lot about her:

*I am 63, single and have a black Labrador. Over the years I have acquired a variety of dogs (Terriers, Bichon frise ,Labradors) as one does in this job .*

*I started off my career in Bristol where I qualified and gained experience over 10 yrs in general practice. I then went onto specialise in ophthalmology and I have spent most of my time working for the AHT.*

*I hope to arrange work on a part time basis in the near future.*

*Since leaving the AHT I have spent my time trying to resurrect a very large garden much of which could be described as wilderness (so lets say devoted to wildlife) and patching up a 16th century property.*

*I think that means I like a challenge but maybe I am unrealistic in what can be achieved?*

The JHG looks forward to working with Miss Sansom in future.

## DONATIONS

A number of donations have been received for the JHG funds, many of these have come via the WSSC Website. Each and every one is much appreciated and will be put to good use.

## JAMES OLIVER'S STUDY

James Oliver has had his paper published recently in the Journal of Small Animals Practice. A precis of this is set out below. Permission has been gained from the BSAVA to print the Paper in the WSSC Year Book where it will be available in full.

## **‘Prevalence and progression of pectinate ligament dysplasia in the Welsh Springer Spaniel**

**J. A. C. Oliver <sup>1</sup>, A. Ekiri and C. S. Mellersh**

**Centre for Preventive Medicine , Animal Health Trust , Lanwades Park , Newmarket , Suffolk CB8 7UU**

**O BJECTIVES :** To determine the prevalence of pectinate ligament dysplasia in a large group of Welsh springer spaniels; to investigate associations between pectinate ligament dysplasia and age, sex and intraocular pressure and between intraocular pressure and age and sex; and to investigate progression of pectinate ligament dysplasia in individual dogs.

**M ETHODS :** In a prospective study, gonioscopy was performed in both eyes of 227 Welsh springer spaniels and intraocular pressure measured by rebound tonometry. Eyes were classified as “unaffected” if 0% of the iridocorneal angle was affected with pectinate ligament dysplasia (grade 0), “mildly affected” if 20% was affected (grade 1), “moderately affected” if 20 to 90% was affected (grade 2) and “severely affected” if 90% was affected (grade 3). In a retrospective study, progression of pectinate ligament dysplasia over time was investigated for 65 dogs.

**R ESULTS :** One hundred and thirty-nine of 227 dogs (61.2%) were affected by pectinate ligament dysplasia (grades 1 to 3) and 82/227 (36.2%) were moderately or severely affected. There was a significant association between pectinate ligament dysplasia and age. There were no associations between pectinate ligament dysplasia and intraocular pressure or pectinate ligament dysplasia and sex. Thirty five of 65 dogs (53.8%) demonstrated progression of pectinate ligament dysplasia.

**C LINICAL S IGNIFICANCE & C ONCLUSION:** Prevalence of pectinate ligament dysplasia was high despite widespread screening and selection against the condition. Our data indicate that gonioscopic features of pectinate ligament dysplasia can progress in the Welsh springer spaniel. Dogs deemed unaffected at an early age may subsequently be diagnosed with pectinate ligament dysplasia. Based on these results, the authors recommend that the traditional advice of performing gonioscopy as a “once in a lifetime” test should be reviewed. Currently, under the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme, gonioscopy is recommended every 3 years in the Flat Coated Retriever, and we recommend a similar testing frequency for Welsh Springer Spaniels.’

On the back of this study, and following discussion with James Oliver, it is very likely that the recommended frequency of gonioscopy testing under the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme will soon change to every 3 years in our breed also. The BVA and KC are currently in discussion about this and we expect to be consulted about any proposed change in due course.

Bearing this in mind, remember that the WSSC is hosting an Eye Testing at the Ch. Show on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the Sky Blue Connection, where James Oliver is able to re-test if required. This has now been opened to all breeds. Bookings should be through Julie Revill on [julita@furzelanddemon.co.uk](mailto:julita@furzelanddemon.co.uk) or 07764 157381.

#### **FITTING**

One dog has been reported as fitting, confirmed by the owner and veterinary Surgeon. Details to be published in due course.

#### **GLAUCOMA**

One dog has been reported to have developed Glaucoma, confirmed by the owner and Veterinary Surgeon.

DAISY (Unregistered) (Aindrea Achilles x Highclare So Precious at Gemill).

#### **CANINE GENOME PROJECT**

The Joint Health Group is pleased that Welsh Springer Spaniels will be involved in the first phase of this Project where 75 breeds will be involved.

The following has been received by the JHG from the AHT:

“The main aim of this research is to gain a much better understanding of which DNA changes are neutral and those which are likely to have a negative effect on dog health, by using whole genome sequencing technology to look very closely at all 2.4 billion letters of DNA in a dog’s genome. We believe this will have profound effects on our ability to identify mutations which cause inherited

diseases in purebred dogs, and the rate at which we can develop new DNA tests as tools for breeders in the future.

“We’re really grateful to the Kennel Club Charitable Trust for continuing to support this project. The 75 places have already been filled for 2016 as so many breeds were keen to be included in this project when it was first launched. However, we have started a waiting list for those breeds who may want to be involved in Give a Dog a Genome next year if we’re able to run a ‘phase two’ of the project.”

Steve Dean, Chairman of Trustees at the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, said: “We are very excited to announce this extra funding from the Kennel Club Charitable Trust for the Give a Dog a Genome project.

“The project will revolutionise canine genetics research and is a hugely important project for the future of dog health, and is another example of the pioneering and fantastic work being carried out by the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust.”

For more information on the Give a Dog a Genome initiative, please visit [www.aht.org.uk/gdg](http://www.aht.org.uk/gdg).’

### **BREED HEALTH SURVEY**

The Breed Health Survey on Welsh Springer Spaniels has been published, it is possible to access this direct from the Kennel Club Website.

**JULIE REVILL**

**Secretary**

**WSS JOINT HEALTH GROUP**