

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE WELFARE ISSUES OF DOG BREEDING**

**PROGRAMME FOR 2013 AND FORWARD LOOK TO 2014-15**

Description	Lead members	Deadlines	Comments
<b>PROJECTS REQUIRING COMPLETION</b>			
<p>1. Research projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- data collection;</li>   <li>- heritability of temperament.</li> </ul>	<p>DS</p> <p>RC</p>		<p>Data collection projects based on insurance data and VetCompass project submitted to Dogs Trust for a Bateson Award. The VetCompass element of the project has been granted funding. Other funders have been approached regarding the work based on insurance data.</p> <p>Project on heritability of cognitive bias and association with occurrence of SRB submitted to BBSRC at January round. The project received excellent reviews but was not funded</p>
<p>2. Advice on legislation to be provided to governments.</p>	<p>CL supported by HLP</p>	<p>15/02/13</p> <p>15/03/13</p> <p>1/9/13</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> consultation with patrons and the Expert Panel.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> consultation with the broader stakeholder group</p> <p>Submission of advice to governments – on schedule.</p>
<p>3. Agree a single breeding standard with the KC.</p>	<p>CL</p>	<p>Nov 13</p>	<p>Single standard agreed in principle at Joint Working Group. Now await further discussions with the Kennel Club.</p>
<p>4. Complete advice on further priority welfare conditions</p>	<p>Chairman to edit</p>	<p>1/10/13</p>	<p>All contributions received and text now being edited for publication.</p>
<b>NEW PROJECTS</b>			
<p>5. Highlight and develop advice on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- phrases/descriptions in breed standards which are likely to cause health and welfare issues;</li> <li>- breed-related and inherited disorders that may affect health and welfare.</li> </ul>	<p>SMC</p>	<p>Phase 1 by 1/2/14</p>	<p>A revised approach was agreed at the meeting on 2 July. Starting from the published Council advice on priority conditions and with reference, where relevant, to terms used in breed standards, the Council will submit its advice on conditions with health and welfare implications for peer review before publication.</p> <p>The possibility of forming a joint working group to assist in transposing the Council's advice into practical and proportionate recommendations will also be considered.</p>

6. Develop advice designed to avoid unnecessary abandonment or re-homing by helping the retention of dogs in families	RC	Initial draft discussed 20/8/13 Further drafting under way.	Draft document/web pages for first opinion veterinary practices on the "Eight things every new puppy owner should know", and liaise with AWF on linkage with the puppy contract.
7. Lead stakeholder discussions on taking forward the advice on priority welfare conditions	DS, LC, CM, CR and RC	From 01/04/13	Several meetings held with further meetings in hand for Autumn 2013. Action ongoing.
<b>Future Projects</b>			
8. Review the Standard for Breeding Dogs and develop as a statutory Code of Practice	CL	2014	
9. Consult with KC and RCVS on new guidance on reporting caesareans and surgical modifications	CL and SMC	2014	
10. Ongoing work with breeders to implement the advice on priority welfare conditions	DS, LC, CM, CR and RC	2014-15	
11. Respond to governments responses on the recommendations for legislation and develop instructions for drafting Counsel.	MR supported by HLP	2014/15	
12. Draft a Code of Practice for the advertising and sale of dogs	MR, CL	2015	
13. Draft a Code of Practice for Pet Shops	MR, CL, RC	2014-15	
14. Draft guidance for Local Authorities on the enforcement of dog welfare standards	LMcC	2015	
15. Work with LANTRA to develop recommendations for the training of LA enforcement officers	LMcC supported by HLP	2015	
16. Review information from the data collection research and formulate advice	DS	2015 - 2016	Initial data from this project should be available from mid 2014 and thereafter