

Breed Health and Conservation Plan

After the recent comments made on FB concerning the recently published Breed Health and Conservation Plan, we have had the following response from the, Kennel Club's Health and Welfare Department.

"I am sorry to hear there have been some concerns raised with regard to the Breed Health & Conservation Plan for the Coton De Tulear.

The plan has been developed by the Breed Health Coordinator and breed club, with my input, and is designed to give a current overview of health and welfare concerns in the breed at this time. When I met with the BHC we discussed the plan and agreed that there does appear to be concerns in the breed, but that these require further monitoring and collection of information before we introduce testing, as there is little scientific data available for the breed to date.

These areas are specified in the action plan, where among other things, the breed will monitor DNA tested dogs and whether you as a breed are seeing the problems that DNA tests are available for; the importance here is ensuring the breed put forward recognition for only conditions that are relevant to the breed, as it can be incredibly detrimental to select against DNA tested conditions that are not actually a concern, by decreasing the genetic diversity of the breed. Further, the Breed Club is also looking to rerun a health survey, with the KC's assistance, to ensure all breeders/ owners are given the chance to report health concerns that have affected their dogs. It is hoped this survey will be launched this April. There are also action points regarding a review of the breeding code of ethics, requirements and recommendations under the Assured Breeder Scheme, and for the KC to keep the breed updated on any advancements in the neurology scheme, which among other conditions, will be looking at IVDD.

It is important to consider that the BHCPs are a fluid project, and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Therefore, it is hoped that at the next review we will have a more accurate picture on applicable health concerns in the breed and will be able to build on the current action plan".

If you have any queries the please email: health@thekennelclub.org.uk"

This is the first stage of a Breed Health Strategy as required by the Kennel Club and we hope that the above goes some way to explain why we have produced this document.

Corrine Hanson-New
Breed Health Coordinator
Coton de Tulear Club of the United Kingdom