

## HEALTH REPORT 2013

You now have a Health Committee comprising of myself, Rae Ganna and Vera Lyons and we have met twice since they were appointed and discussed everything that has been done in the past and how we move on from here. We have tried to attend relevant Health Seminars during the year and have been awaiting the KC Breed Health Improvement Strategy, we now plan to have a meeting in the New Year to personalise this to our breed in the hope of presenting it to the membership in time for your input at the AGM.

I opened my report last year by mentioning two young hounds who had died from kidney related disease. This year Maria Lerego had problems within one of her litters and we are very grateful to her for giving us the full results of all the tests carried out on the 4 out of 5 small puppies who survived beyond 6 days (unfortunately Mum sat on one). The rest of the litter of 11 were normal and progressed as expected. Two puppies showed normal when tested for Liver Shunt. Four puppies were scanned for Kidney abnormalities; all had "increased thickness of the digestive system, also possible enlarged mesenteric lymph nodes. Liver seems large, but kidneys look abnormal. Difficult to confirm whether there are 2 separate kidneys or whether they merge. Unable to palpate kidneys as too far under ribs." Blood results showed some abnormalities so tests doing protein/creatinine ratio, cortisol (Addisons) were suggested. 3 puppies had raised creatinine levels. The litter (very unusually) showed an infestation of Cheletyella indicating possible depression of the auto immune system. At 8 months all puppies had grown to normal size, are healthy and doing very well. They will be tested again to be able to make a comparison of results.

I intend to make enquiries into the possibility of finding an expert who can advise us on canine kidney disease and possibly give us a talk in the not too distant future. I only wish every hound owner would give us such comprehensive reports on the treatment of their hounds for any problems that arise.

I am taking the liberty of setting out here the communications I received from yet more owners who have been happy to report on health issues in the hope that it will help other owners. Ingrid and Will wrote in November 2012 as follows:-

"At the Health Seminar we were particularly interested to listen to Lorna Lazonby speak about pseudomonas as poor Coracle has had the infection since July. She started with a grass seed in her right ear, it was removed two days after entry and she started on antibiotics as a precaution. Her ear became worse as the weeks went on and she was prescribed steroids along with the antibiotic, an ear flush and easotic to administer into the affected ear.

She had two anaesthetics to clean out the ear and swabs were taken, but the infection persisted. After the seminar we contactd Lorna who suggested that we contact Sue Patterson at St. Helens on the Wirral. My vet wrote a referral and we saw her last week. I think she is one of the top people in her field of dermatology.

Coracle had a CT scan, with another general anaesthetic, a massive wash out and a good look into the ear. It was a mess, very swollen and ulcerated, no ear drum left and very reduced shearing. Sue said she must have been in great pain.

She mixed her a solution of flamazine, triz aural and marbocyl which we needed to drizzle into the affected ear once a day. But when the swabs came back the pseudomonas was resistant to marbocyl, but more bad news she also has streptococcus as well. More drugs came through the post today and we are starting them tomorrow, we have to mix Timentin with sterile water and drizzle this into the affected ear and we are hoping that this will treat both of the infections.

We are feeling a bit desperate at the moment, and although we have a very good vet we feel that she is in excellent hands with Sue Patterson. She has been an amazing girl throughout these awful months, they are a very stoic breed, no wonder we love them so much.”

Ingrid and Will then wrote “we have just had our second visit to Sue, she is sort of pleased with Coracle’s ear – it is much improved. We have to carry on with the Timentin once a day and also she now has Posatex once a day. Both administered to the ear. Sue stressed again that it was a serious infection and we only had a choice of 4 antibiotics to use. The worry, of course, is if the bacteria become resistant to Timentin and we run out of options. We go back on 28<sup>th</sup> January.” At that visit Coracle’s ear was declared clear and she is no longer in any pain, she has to stay on medication for the time being to ensure there is no return, but we are all very relieved to hear that this awful infection has cleared up. Please be in no doubt about the seriousness of pseudomonas, many vets will immediately attempt a major ear operation which invariably is not successful, also it is (much to my surprise) not necessarily confined to ears, Ingrid and Will saw dogs at the clinic whose feet were similarly infected. Where a cure has not been able to be effected the consequences for a hound can be awful.

I have received a report that a vet considers that some otterhounds may be allergic to Catgut stitching. Should your hound need stitching please discuss this with your vet on the basis that they may use a different medium as, where there has been a problem, it is thought that the Catgut has considerably interfered with healing, particularly internally.

I have two reports from the AHT which I am unfortunately unable to copy into this document. The Population analysis of the Otterhound Breed and a powerpoint presentation on The Otterhound DNA samples at the AHT. Should you be interested in these please do not hesitate to get in touch with me and I will email them on to you. I also have the presentations at this year’s KC Breeders Symposium and I would be happy to send them on to anybody who is interested. On the subject of DNA samples, please make sure your hound has his DNA stored with the AHT, I can send you kits and the form at any time, this should not be necessary for young puppies as your breeder should have sent your puppy’s DNA in before you took it home, but please check.

I have received the unfortunate information that WILDAN JITTERBUG has had a fit. Her sire is Uisneach Absolute Joker and her dam Wildan Jeannie. Her siblings are Wildan Jack Splash, Jus Bruin Trubul, Jus Jazz, Justin Thyme, Jigsaw, Jingle, Joyful at Ottaryx and Jus Jokin.

Shortly after publication of last year’s Health Report I received an additional list of US fitters, which you will find at the end of this report.

As mentioned above in November I held a Health Seminar which covered the subjects “Canine Thyroid Disease” (which I discussed last year) presented by Carmel Mooney, Current World Health Survey presented by Katy Evans, Update on Epilepsy Research in Otterhounds provided by Cathryn Mellersh and presented by Katy Evans. New Breeding Strategies for our Vulnerable Breeds presented by Katy Evans on behalf of Sarah Blott, Living with an epileptic Dog by representatives of the Phyllis Croft Foundation, Pseudomonas presented by our Otterhound owning vet, Lorna Lazonby and the “Harry Baxter Tribute Lecture” presented by his great friend Ton Popelier. There is a film of the entire day available by emailing [jeashworth@btinternet.com](mailto:jeashworth@btinternet.com). With regard to the the World Health Survey, Katy is not receiving anything like enough forms from this country, please remember to add your puppy to the Survey and send in an update report on your hound’s health each year so we know the progress of all our healthy hounds as well as being able to pick up on any problems; in addition please complete a Mortality form if you are unfortunate enough to lose a hound during the year. Thank you very much.

### **US Epilepsy List additions**

ACTAEON’S JEZEBEL (Amber)

ACTAEON’S JIGSAW (Josie)

Sire: Actaeon’s P’Nash      Dam: Ottersdream Patsy of Actaeon

Littermates: Actaeon’s Jasper, Actaeon’s Jazzy with Wildans, Actaeon’s Jynx

KALEVALA JOLLY GOOD SHOW (Tris)

KALEVALA WINDFALL (Lily)

KALEVALA’S HOWLING SUCCESS (Lucas)7

KALEVALA HUNTER TANQUERAY

Sire: Kalevala’s Protector’s Legacy      Dam: Vison Hornet

Littermates: Kaleval’s Cricket’s Aviator, Kalevala’s Protector’s Pilot, Kalevala’s Lone Star Legacy, Kalevala’s Limehouse Blues, Kalevala’s Queen Boudicca

KALEVALA GUINNESS MACKESON

Sire: Wag N’ Hollows Demon Rum      Dam: Vison Hornet

Littermates: Kalevala’s Tedi Bear Tuckerman, Kalevala’s Nelliue Sunshine, Kalevala’s Rosie, Kalevala’s The Road to Hannah, Kalevala’s Xela Ju

Approved by the Otterhound Health Committee.

SCENTASIA’S THE PRICE IS RIGHT (recently announced by the owner)

Sire : Cheery OH’s Return to Scentasia.      Dam : Scentasia’s Liberty Lady

Littermates : Col.Ch. Scentasia’s Bingo Grumbler, Scentasia’s Jasper Sez, Scattergories, Skiing in Switzerland, Texas Hold ‘Em, Wheel of Fortune, Surf’ N’ Sea Ayre, Jumping Rope with LuLu.

JUDITH ASHWORTH

[Health Co-Ordinator.](#)