

English Setter Breed Health and Conservation Plan

Progress Report August 2019

The English Setter Health Committee has been working with all the breed clubs on the proposals agreed at the 2018 and 2019 meetings with the Kennel Club.

The actions agreed at the 2018 meeting were:

Action	Update
1. The Kennel Club to conduct additional population analysis for the breed, including PCA of coefficients of kinship. <i>This is to give us a better picture of the true inbreeding coefficients by splitting working and show lines</i>	This was reviewed at the 2019 meeting. The KC's geneticist has been unable to identify separate populations within the registration data. It has been agreed to close this action.
2. The Kennel Club to produce a plot of puppies per sire as a proportion rather than in terms of number of puppies produced. <i>This will give a better indication of whether the use of popular sires' is decreasing</i>	This is now in the final version of the BHCP
3. The English Setter breed clubs to continue to support the BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme and the use of EBVs	Ongoing.
4. Kennel Club to continue to monitor research on atopy at Nottingham University and feedback any outcomes to the breed clubs.	Ongoing. The health Committee are planning on a breed skin survey in Autumn 2019.
5. Kennel Club to continue to investigate if any relevant research into hypothyroidism is being undertaken.	Ongoing
6. The English Setter breed clubs to collect data relating to fertility	Work was done previously by David Parkin. The committee to consider further studies at its next meeting.
7. Skin irritation/dermatitis to be considered by the English Setter breed clubs to be added as a point of concern for Breed Watch	This was considered by all the breed clubs and was felt to not be a productive way forward at this time

<p>8. The English Setter breed clubs to consider a uniform age of breeding in their code of ethics'</p>	<p>The Health Committee made a proposal of bitches not to whelp before 18 months. Clubs have preferred 2 years as a minimum age at whelping. All clubs have now agreed 2 years. Complete</p>
<p>9. The English Setter breed clubs to consider adding health testing prior to importing dogs in their code of ethics', in particular for PRA4 and NCL.</p>	<p>This has been agreed by all clubs. Complete</p>
<p>10. The English Setter breed clubs to consider applying for recognition of PRA4 and NCL DNA tests by the Kennel Club to enable recording of results</p>	<p>This has been agreed by all clubs and the Kennel Club. Complete</p>

Additional Actions from the 2019 meeting	Update
<p>11. English Setter breed clubs to make a proposal for the ABS regarding recommended age of breeding</p>	<p>A proposal has been made to the ABS as a recommendation that bitches don't whelp before 2 years of age.</p>
<p>12. The English Setter breed clubs to consider making a proposal to the ABS for DNA testing for PRA4 and NCL</p>	<p>The Breed will not be making a recommendation to the KC as the committee doesn't believe requiring all dogs to be tested is currently warranted. The KC won't accept only a requirement for Imported dogs to be tested as an ABS recommendation or requirement. Action Closed</p>