

## INFORMATION SHEET ON THE JOINT HEALTH GROUP



### **JOINT HEALTH GROUP**

**Incorporating:**

**The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club**

**The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of South Wales**

**The South Eastern Welsh Springer Spaniel Club**

**The North of England Welsh Springer Spaniel Club**

The Welsh Springer Spaniel Joint Health Group was formed in 1994 and is made up of Delegates and Trustees from each of the four breed clubs along with a Treasurer and an independent Chairman. The JHG meets three or four times a year to discuss anything that affects the health of the breed. An appointed Secretary of the group deals with the enquiries and correspondence.

#### **WHAT DO WE DO?**

We monitor and keep records of any health issues that are notified to us and work with research establishments such as The Animal Health Trust and The University of Nottingham and also The Kennel Club to improve the health of our beautiful breed. For us to be able to do this we need owners to help us by telling us about any health issues that their dogs may suffer from.

#### **WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED AND WHAT DO WE DO WITH INFORMATION?**

Three main conditions are under investigation at present these are Glaucoma, Fitting and Hip Dysplasia. Information sheets on these conditions are available here today and on all four breed club websites or by contacting The Welsh Springer Spaniel Joint Health Group Secretary (details below).

All information is useful to enable us to know what conditions need further investigation. Conditions that are not at present under investigation will be kept on file pending reports of further cases in the breed. When a condition is seen in a number of dogs specialist advice is sought to consider if any research is available that could help or if any further action can be taken,

With conditions that are being investigated such as Glaucoma (and Fitting) the secretary will send out a DNA mouth swab kit for the owner to take a mouth swab and send to The Animal Health Trust to include in the research. The breed clubs and the JHG have donated several thousand pounds towards the research into finding a DNA test for Glaucoma for our breed.

#### **WHAT IS OUR AIM?**

To see tests available for conditions such as primary Epilepsy and Glaucoma so that no more dogs need to be produced that will go blind or suffer from epileptic fits due to hereditary conditions. Whilst this is some way off at present with help from more owners of affected dogs it brings this goal ever closer. Please help us to help our beautiful breed!

We are here to help and we would like to say that the owner or the breeder is not to blame for these conditions it is something that happens from time to time.

#### **HOW CAN OWNERS HELP?**

We know that it is difficult and upsetting for owners who have a much loved pet diagnosed with Glaucoma or that is suffering from hereditary fitting but please help us to help the research into these conditions. If you have an affected dog then please, please contact the Secretary of The Joint Health Group:

Mrs Arlene Tester

Email: [arlene.testers@mailfence.com](mailto:arlene.testers@mailfence.com)

Tel: 01954 780820

or your regional club delegate who will be listed on the club's website.

Use the above also to notify us of any condition that you would like to tell us about.

We have recently been working with Nottingham University who are undertaking work into Cancer in spaniels. Other areas have also requested help from us.

Whilst the Joint Health Group has a small amount of money we are mainly reliant upon support from the breed clubs and donations from breed members. When large sums of money are required like the £5000 for the Glaucoma research we have to go to the breed clubs to provide this.

We really appreciate the support provided to us in the form of donations from events like Fun Days and fund raising events.

### **DELEGATES**

Mrs Arlene Tester (Sec. JHG) Welsh Springer Spaniel Club  
Mrs Heather Michie Welsh Springer Spaniel Club  
Mr Stephen Pick South Eastern Welsh Springer Spaniel Club  
Mrs Julie Revill South Eastern Welsh Springer Spaniel Club  
Ms Judy Yacoub North of England Welsh Springer Spaniel Club  
Mrs Honor Harrison North of England Welsh Springer Spaniel Club  
Mrs Jan Rees Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of South Wales  
Mrs Jan Janes Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of South Wales