

## Tibetan Spaniel Health Update January 2021

2020 has been a year not without its challenges, however as a breed we have managed to put together a Mortality survey covering the last 10 years. We have had 130 responses altogether. The average age at death is 13 years of age, of the 130 deaths reported 1 could not be counted as only the year was given and not the age, 20 were under the age of 10 and the remaining dogs reported were between 10 and 19 with 66 of those being between 14 and 16.

The health reps of all 5 Breed clubs together with some members of their committees had a zoom meeting to discuss the Breed Health and Conservation Plan which the Kennel Club require us to produce. The result of this was a consensus of opinion on the health priorities for the breed as well as issues which require watching. All breed clubs were sent copies of the finished document to make sure it was what was agreed, and this document is now with the Kennel Club for finalisation, hopefully it will be available for others to see once the Kennel Club have agreed to the changes requested. There is also in this document 4 points of action for the breed clubs to take on board, I am not going to give details at this time as we need to be sure that everything is agreed by the kennel club and the breed clubs before the information is made public but fear not the health reps and their respective clubs are working hard to make sure that everything in this document is for the benefit of the breed.

2020 was a difficult time for anyone requiring eye testing as very few sessions were held, those held with the Club shows were cancelled as were the shows themselves, however I understand the kennel club is making allowances for this.

This year should have the Breed Health Survey going out, the final format of this has still to be agreed but I would urge everyone to fill it in and send it to their puppy owners to fill in as one thing that became clear when we were doing the Breed Health and Conservation Plan was that there is more health information for the breed coming from Scandinavia and the USA than there is from the UK, not all of this information is totally relevant to the breed in the UK and therefore we must gather as much information on any health issues as possible, and continue to do so at regular intervals. Following on from this everyone must let their club Health reps know when something new or at least out of the ordinary crops up, it is the only way we can know what is going on in the breed.

For those wishing to have PRA3 DNA testing done, the following labs offer the service:

Combibreed purchased through the Kennel Club shop at a cost of £50, results go directly to the KC

Animal Diagnostics at a cost of £48

Pet Genetics Lab at a cost of £40

Genomia at a cost of \$56 plus VAT

Other than Combibreed owners will have to send results to the KC themselves.