

Bracco Italiano Kidney Disease Update, a potential problem for the breed.

There have been 9 confirmed cases of Kidney failure in the Bracco Italiano reported to the society, 7 of which are UK bred stock. The latest 4 have all been reported since the society started to collect information in October.

Of the four dogs reported, all of the owners have agreed to name the dogs and all of the owners have sent information to be used in the study. We would like to take the opportunity to thank these individuals.

Sentling Acquaria, owned by Bill Gunn died recently of kidney failure at the age of 9.

Indijazz Constant Trouble, owned by Amanda Bell died recently of kidney failure at the age of 5.

Homstar Castellina has died of amyloidosis at the age of 8, Joanne Weddle - Wheatley has agreed for all the information to be shared with the society. Biopsies were taken which confirmed the amyloidosis.

Bella, who is owned by Lee Shevills, has been diagnosed with Kidney failure, and is currently receiving treatment. Please note she has no kennel name because she is a rescue.

Our referral vet, Lisa Gaudbaum, of Bath Vet Referrals, is working with the information from all of these cases.

The more information we receive the quicker Lisa will be able to draw conclusions from her data.

To this end the committee would like to ask owners of dogs who have kidney failure to contact them in order to gain as much information as possible. We would ask that owners do the following

1. Allow the health co-ordinator and our vet access to kidney test results and biopsies.
2. Members to ask their vet to use Langford vets to do all kidney pathology if your vet thinks biopsies are needed. Langford vets are the commercial arm of Bristol University. Using one pathology lab for all samples will ensure continuity of pathology reports and will assist our vet in forming final opinions on the nature of kidney problems in the breed.
http://www.langfordvets.co.uk/diagnostic_laboratories.htm
3. Allow the society to take kidney biopsies from dogs that have died from kidney failure, when live samples were not taken. The society will pay for the post-mortem costs to do this.
4. Allow the society to pass on pedigree details to our vet which would be confidential to the vet.

Although several dogs that have been reported with kidney failure are related it would be presumptuous for us to think this is a familial problem restricted to one line. Therefore all members need to be aware of kidney issues within the breed. To this end the health committee would like to make the following recommendations to members.

1. All dogs have a kidney function test with their annual health check

2. All dogs have a kidney function test before they have any surgery
3. All dogs have a kidney function test if they are failing to recover from other conditions
4. All dogs have a kidney function test before they are to be bred from
5. Any dog with poor kidney function is not bred from

Kidney function tests vary from vets to vets. On the advice of vets and veterinary laboratories the following would be the minimum requirements.

1. Urinalysis
2. Blood creatinine
3. Blood urea nitrogen (BUN)

Unfortunately even blood and urine tests will not always show the very early stages of kidney failure therefore regular testing should be the norm.

Positive test results do not mean the dog will go into kidney failure. There are a host of other reasons that kidney function tests could vary from the norm. Many cases are the result of infection and can be cleared by antibiotics. Your vet will be able to advise you in individual cases. However, regular testing will ensure that any possible problems are picked up early and can be managed by your vet to give a better prognosis in the longer term.

Finally we would like to thank those members who have come forward with information on the death of their dogs at what must have been truly traumatic times. Their bravery will help other dogs in the breed.

Produced with information from the health committee.

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