

2020 has been rather an odd year caused by the Covid-19 virus. A lot of things we needed to do for this group have had to be put on the back burner but as lockdown is easing slightly, this committee may now be able to progress with what we had decided earlier in the year at our first meeting as a new committee.

Up until 2019, the Health Watch consisted of Maud Hawks, Yvonne Catto and David Kippen, but with the resignation of Yvonne in 2018 as the Treasurer and Secretary, I was able to join the committee taking over as Treasurer and Secretary while Maud was still our Co-ordinator and David a committee member. However, in 2019 Maud decided that she had done enough for this group and also resigned. Our grateful thanks goes to them both for all the hard work Yvonne and Maud have done for our breed.

So, in 2019 we had Chris Roberts and Maggie Shopland join the committee and we held our first committee meeting on 2nd February 2020. At this committee meeting it was decided that I would remain as Secretary, Chris Roberts would become the Treasurer and Coordinator, Maggie Shopland would be our Chairman and David Kippen an Adviser.

What we decided at this meeting amongst other things was to re-vamp an information leaflet which would be sent to all six club Secretaries as well as being sent out with the Cairn Terrier Relief Fund Friends Newsletter. It would also be nice if it could be on the Midland Cairn Terrier website. But as Covid -19 kicked in soon after this meeting our actions were not able to be completed but all being well things have started to move.

The purpose of The Cairn Terrier Health Group (CTHG) committee is to monitor the wellbeing of the breed by collecting and storing information on any diagnosed cases that occur throughout the full life of Cairn Terriers in the UK. All this information is kept secure and confidential and anonymilised data is reported to the 6 Cairn Terrier Clubs when necessary. This is the only way to try and ensure the future health of our wonderful breed.

What can you do to help us?

It is important that all cairn owners report any health issues to our Breed Coordinator – Chris Roberts or to any of the other 3 committee members so that the information can be collated and stored securely so we can pick up any serious threats to the health of our breed early. This will also ensure we continue to have a healthy breed.

We would also appreciate if you could forward any veterinary reports regarding any conditions that your cairn has together with their pedigree to our Coordinator Chris Roberts.

So far this year, the notifications of diseases affecting our cairn have been as follows:

1. The first is a diagnosis of Primary Glaucoma caused by Ocular Melanosis. Both eyes have been affected. This cairn is 10 years old and blind in one eye with the other eye affected.
2. The second is a cairn diagnosed with Cushing Disease at the age of nearly 13 years old. Currently, this cairn is on medication and seems to be doing very well.

What we can do to help you:

1. Advice from the CTHG is always at hand, either via email or by telephone, but don't forget to also contact the breeder of your Cairn – he or she will no doubt want to be informed and offer you their support.
2. There was an Eye testing session held at The Midland Cairn Terrier Club Championship show on 8th December 2019. The only information I have received about this session is that just 40 cairns were tested. Such a shame so few were tested. This procedure doesn't hurt the cairn and can help with an early diagnosis if there is a problem with the cairns eyes. The cost to the owners was just £20 per cairn. Please be aware that the Kennel Club Health watch has cairns down as having a problem with Glycoma and Ocular Melanosis. These eye tests are the best way we can monitor this eye problem in our cairns. Early diagnosis means early treatment and can help reduce the pain our cairns may undergo.
3. We have been contacted by the Foundation of the Cairn Terrier Club of America asking if we can pool our resources in an effort to strengthen and insure the long-term health of our breed internationally. They have funded research into Renal Dysplasia and Ocular Melanosis. So far, we have been unable to do anything about this due to the lockdown.

If you have a problem with your cairn and want to speak to someone in confidence, then we are here to help. Our contact details are:

Chris Roberts – Co-Ordinator/Treasurer: Tel: 01283 712498 Email: chrismroberts1@gmail.com

Margaret Shopland – Chairperson: Tel: 01487 840037 Email: cherrycrackcairns@hotmail.co.uk

Jennie Fairweather – Secretary: Tel: 01869 322996 Email: ockcairns@yahoo.com

David Kippen – Committee Member/Adviser: Tel: 02392 465792 mail: chezakucairns@gmail.com

Jennie Fairweather
Secretary
Cairn Terrier Health Group
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