

Cairn Terrier Health Group, Report 2022

Many of you may not be aware that the Health Group was newly formed in February 2020 this was due to former members retiring etc.

Jennie Fairweather (Secretary) had been running the Group together with David Kippen for a while, until the Joint Cairn Terrier Working Party invited Mrs Maggie Shopland to fill the post of Chairman and Mrs Chris Roberts to fill the post of Coordinator.

Jennie arranged a committee meeting for the Group to be held at the S.C.T.C. Championship Show on the 2nd of February 2020, where titles/jobs were decided. Unfortunately, David retired sometime later due to health problems and Mrs Jane Metcalf-Sault was elected onto the Committee.

- Chairman: Mrs Maggie Shopland
- Secretary: Mrs Jennie Fairweather
- Coordinator/Treasurer: Mrs Chris Roberts
- Asst. Treasurer/Adviser: Mrs Jane Metcalf-Sault

We did have problems with the Bank account, but fortunately Jennie spent a lot of time and effort on sorting it out and eventually we were able to set up a new account with a new bank.

We are gradually building up health reports and collating the information.

The few health reports that we have received are: -

- S.A.R.D.S.
- Cancer
- Epulide tumours (on gums – benign))
- Liver Shunt
- Pancreatitis
- Cushings Disease
- Hip dysplasia
- Ocular Melanosis
- Splenic Haematoma
- Perthes Disease.
- Posterior lens luxation both eyes

If you have a pedigree Cairn Terrier that is showing any signs of illness/new behaviour issues, lumps etc, please don't wait until the symptoms get worse. You need to get your dog to a vet as soon as possible, and/or contact us cthealthgroup@aol.com

In October after receiving the following email from Adam Margetts via the Kennel Club, we started to assist in organising eye tests for Ocular Melanosis (edited version below).

"I am a specialist in training (resident) in Ophthalmology at Davies Veterinary Specialists in Hertfordshire and have been given your contact details by Cathryn Mellersh from the University of Cambridge.

Some time ago the Cairn Terrier breed club contacted the BVA eye panel working party regarding a desire to investigate Ocular melanosis-a sight threatening disease often leading to painful glaucoma, resulting in removal of one or both eyes- in the breed. Myself, Kerry Smith (an ECVO and RCVS specialist in Ophthalmology, my supervisor and a BVA eye scheme panellist) and Cathryn Mellersh are proposing to investigate this condition in the UK Cairn Terrier population and we're wondering if you might be able to help us with this research. We would initially need to coordinate with the Cairn Terrier breed Health club to firstly confirm that they would still be eager for us to investigate this condition, but also if we all collaboratively could try to organise an event (perhaps at a breed show or other Cairn gathering) for us to examine a number of dogs (50-60 or more if possible) to investigate this disease.

The examinations are painless, and last only a few minutes and would be carried out by myself (free of charge)".

In October, 30 Cairn Terriers were tested. Since then, Dr. Margetts has tested a few more Cairns that have visited the veterinary surgery where he works.

We have also arranged another eye testing session on the 22nd January 2023 at the Dog House, Worcester, WR3 8TJ.

The third and last testing session will be carried out much further north, and possibly in March, (details t.b.a.).

Ideally, we would like Pure Breed Cairn Terrier owners to email us, direct to our Health Co-ordinator Mrs Chris Roberts,

Email: cthealthgroup@aol.com

and give as much detail as possible on any health concerns that their Cairn has together with a copy of the pedigree. If we find some recurring problems, we will make enquiries if there are some relevant investigations that can be done into the possibility of a genetic link. Any relevant and worrying information will also be passed to the Health Co-ordinator and to the Kennel Club.

One of the hardest parts about carrying out research is trying to find owners and their dogs to participate in studies. More participants means more data, making it more likely that scientists can find solutions to current dog health problems. Your information helps us to monitor what is happening health-wise within the breed and hopefully detect any new conditions which might be emerging.

**Chris Roberts coordinator/Treasurer
Cairn Terrier Health Group**

