

EFG Health

www.efghealth.co.uk



Monitoring Glen health
How you and your Glen can help!

EFG Health Coordinator

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Hello everyone!

Welcome to the first EFG Health newsletter! Since the EFG became officially registered with the Kennel Club last May, there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes to set up various health monitoring initiatives ... and I hope that you and your lovely Glens can all participate in these important initiatives for the future benefit of our wonderful breed!

This newsletter will briefly outline our health initiatives ... and how you and your Glen can help ... but if you need more detailed information, you can visit the EFG Health website, or please do feel free to contact me either by email or telephone – *website and contact details on front page.*

HEALTH SURVEY

An online health survey, which has the support of both breed clubs, will shortly be emailed by the Kennel Club (KC) to all Glen owners on their database. If the KC does not have your email address, the link to the survey will be available on the breed club websites and the EFG Health website, and there will be reminders on the EFG Blog. If you do not have access to a computer to complete the survey, please do give me a call and we can do it over the 'phone.

This survey is for ALL Glens! Whether your Glen is a much loved family pet, or you work your Glen, or you show or breed, we would like to hear from you! Whether your Glen has serious, on-going or recurrent health issues, or if your Glen is fit and healthy; and whether your Glen is young or old, or if your Glen has sadly died, we would appreciate you completing this survey, please. *The survey is for at ALL Glens born on or after 1st January 2000.*

Data from this survey will help us to identify any health issues that may need further monitoring or research. The feedback from this survey may also influence future breeding guidelines.



LIFETIME HEALTH RECORD (LHR)

www.efghealth.co.uk/healthrecord.pdf

Breed health monitoring is an important, and integral part of the EFG Health Strategy ... and the more Glen owners who share their Glen's health information, the more accurate our health data will be.

We would like to encourage ALL Glen owners to keep a note of any health issues that occur over the lifetime of their Glen. To help do this, the EFG has put together the Lifetime Health Record (LHR). This booklet has a page for you to record and keep all your Glen's details e.g. Kennel Club name, registration number, microchip number, breeder contact details, etc. in one place. It is divided into sections – breed specific health information, a health section to record any health issues that may occur during the course of your Glen's life, and a breeders' sections to record litters and any fertility issues and/or problems with new-born puppies. An important, but sad, section is the end of life section. There is also a section for further information and veterinary notes.

We suggest that the LHR is kept with your Glen's vaccination record card. You can take it with you if you are taking your Glen to the vet for anything other than routine matters, and ask the vet to write down any unfamiliar diagnoses, some of which might be difficult to recall (or spell) when you get home!

To help us keep up-to-date with our health monitoring, we would also encourage owners to notify the EFG Health Coordinator of any newly diagnosed health problems as soon after diagnosis as possible, and end of life. Please see the EFG Health website for health update submission forms.

The LHR can be downloaded from the link above, or the EFG Health website, and printed off as a double-sided A5 booklet ... it has 20 pages and the A5 format will use 5 sheets of A4 paper.



DNA ARCHIVE

www.efghealth.co.uk/dna_archive.html

NB. This is not the DNA test for GPRA-crd3 ... and it is not a DNA test for parentage analysis.

Many readers will remember the 'Bochum project' to find the mutation that causes crd3, the Glen variant of progressive retinal atrophy (PRA). Initially, a detailed pedigree analysis was undertaken to identify the Glens we needed for the research project; and then began the process of collecting DNA samples from these dogs, and fundraising to help finance this international project.

A DNA archive has recently been set up at the Animal Health Trust (AHT), where Glens' buccal (cheek) swabs are 'banked' at the AHT. If, in the future, we need Glen DNA for a research project, the DNA can be extracted from the stored swabs and provided to the research team. If we can encourage everyone to submit swabs from their Glens, this will mean that future research projects can 'hit the ground running' with regard to DNA analysis.

Taking cheek swabs from your Glen is simple. One little tip ... it's much easier with two people ... one to hold the dog still and the other to do the swabbing! Swabs can be requested via the DNA ARCHIVE page on the EFG Health website ... a small donation of £5.00 per swab kit is requested, please, to go the AHT to cover the cost of the swab kit and long-term storage. Some documentation is requested by the AHT ... a copy of the pedigree and, if applicable, copies of any health certificates. Have all your documentation ready before you take the swabs! *If you would like me to swab your Glen/s at the EFG Fun Day, please see inside back cover for information about what documentation you need to bring with you.*

We hope that ALL Glen owners will submit swabs from the Glens they currently own ... and from those that they own in future years!



VETCOMPASS

www.efghealth.co.uk/links.html

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) VetCompass project is collecting specific data in order to investigate the range and frequency of small animal health problems. The data being collected includes breed, age, sex, weight, microchip code and partial postcode, plus clinical examination, diagnosis and treatment information. The project does **not** collect client names, addresses or financial details; and published results will be anonymised.

We encourage ALL Glen owners to ask their veterinary surgery to consider signing up for the VetCompass project because the more Glens that are 'on the VetCompass books' ... and there are currently only 18 Glens ... the more meaningful the disease prevalence data that is collected for our breed. We have enclosed a VetCompass leaflet with the newsletter, for you to have a look at and take to your veterinary surgery.



EYE TESTING

www.efghealth.co.uk/healthscreening.html

NB. *This page also has information for breeders ... and owners of unknown status Glens from unsafe matings i.e. sire & dam untested or from carrier x untested parents ... about the options, costs, etc. of the DNA test for GPRA-crd3. Responsible breeders will only breed from Glens that have been DNA tested for crd3, or who are known to be Hereditary Clear ... at least one parent must be Clear to ensure that puppies are not at risk of developing crd3.*

Although we now have a DNA test for one eye condition (GPRA-crd3), the breed clubs feel that it is important to continue monitoring for other inherited (and non-heritable) eye conditions. Breed monitoring does not just mean eye testing breeding stock, which ought to have up-to-date eye test certificates at time of mating, but ALL our Glens!

We encourage ALL Glen owners to have their Glen/s eye tested at least once during their lifetime ... and breeders, at the very minimum, to ensure that their breeding stock has an up-to-date eye test (and certificate) for each mating i.e. an eye test within the twelve months prior to any planned mating.

If you are coming to the Glen FunDay in July, please arrange to have your Glen/s eye tested ...

- **definitely** ... if your Glen is over 10 years old and has never had an eye test
- **definitely** ... if you are planning on breeding from your bitch, or using your dog within the next twelve months
- **consider** ... if your Glen is between 2 and 10 years old and has not been eye tested

The eye test involves your Glen having some drops in his/her eyes to dilate the pupil, so that the examining vet can easily examine the back of the eye in a darkened room. The procedure is quick and painless! *Please see inside back cover for information on whom to contact for an appointment and what documentation you need to bring with you.*



I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new friends at the EFG FunDay on Saturday 12th July at Hedge Green Cottage, Blackjack Road, Swineshead, Boston, Lincs PE20 3HH, *where there will be DNA swabbing and eye testing.*

I will be bringing swab kits for the DNA ARCHIVE. *If you would like me to swab your Glen/s, it would be helpful if you would print off & complete the two forms below, and bring them with you:*

- **AHT submission form** to go to the AHT with the swabs
www.efghealth.co.uk/ahtform.pdf
- **DNA swab kit request form** for our confidential health database
www.efghealth.co.uk/kitrequest.pdf

along with the supporting documentation requested by the AHT:

- Copy of pedigree
- *If applicable*, copies of crd3 result certificate (OptiGen or Bochum); latest BVA/KC eye test certificate; BVA/KC hip & elbow scoring certificates
- *If applicable* – (and if available) – copies of paperwork to support any health conditions e.g. scan reports, blood test results, etc.
- **NB.** *If you are unable to bring copies of your documentation, please bring along the originals and we can scan them for you.*

The AHT requests a donation of just £5.00 per swab kit, to cover the cost of the kit and long-term storage at the AHT. Please bring cash or a cheque made payable to 'EFG Health'.

EYE TESTING: *If you wish to have your Glen eye tested by Professor Bedford, please contact Sheila Atter:*

Tel: 01507 313904 or Email: ceskyterrier@ymail.com

*You will need to bring along your Glen's registration certificate ... and your Glen will have to have some form of permanent identification (PI), either microchip or tattoo. Please see **IMPORTANT NOTICE** (back page).*

The cost of the eye test is £37.00, a saving of £14.00 on the cost of a private eye test. Cash preferred, but if not, please make cheques payable to 'EFG'.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

JUNE

National Microchip Month

Microchipping becomes compulsory in Wales in 2015, and England in 2016

If you wish to have your Glen eye tested & certificated at the EFG FunDay but your Glen is not microchipped, please do arrange to have this done before the 12th July!

Best wishes to you and your Glens

From me, Alison ... and my Glens – Tierney, Tamar & Storm

EFG HEALTH FUND

The EFG now has a dedicated health account – ‘EFG Health’. The purpose of this account is to accumulate funds that can be used to help finance future breed health research projects ... like the Bochum project.

If you would like to raise funds for, or donate to the EFG Health account please make out cheques payable to

EFG Health

*and send to Alison Seall, EFG Health Coordinator,
13 Crawford Gardens, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5AZ*

Thank you!

A copy of this newsletter is available on the EFG Health website
for viewing or download

www.efghealth.co.uk