

JMSEF UPDATE

With the small number of cases per annum, is there really anything to worry about?

Well, of the 660 - 670 litters born every year, only about 40% are eye screened. Of the 35,000 - 40,000 Miniatures in the UK, less than 600 are tested each year. Yet, if all the adults in breeding programmes were tested, you would expect the number of eye tests to be in excess of 800

All of this means that, as we all know, there will be a significant number of 'carriers' in the gene pool. Whilst we all take every possible care with our breeding programmes (our breed has one of, if not THE, best record for eye testing), the best solution will be a successful DNA test for each condition.

That's why the JMSEF was set up by the NSC, the MSC and SCGB, to raise money to support this work. It's as important now as it was just 7 years ago.

In the meantime, the funds are securely held in interest-bearing accounts, safeguarded by the Constitution which has previously been agreed by the NSC, acknowledged by the SCGB and deemed appropriate for its needs (in writing) by The Kennel Club and, separately, by the Kennel Club Chairman.

Anyone wanting to see Bank Statements, certified Annual Reports or any other financial information, just ask any one of the JMSEF (Gill Ogburn, Liz Longdin, Ann Swallow, Sue McGrann or Tony McDerrnott).

We'd all be delighted to show you just how generous and successful Miniature Schnauzer Breeders, owners and supporters have been since 2002

The JMSEF is still waiting to hear from the Mini Club what it is about the Constitution that the Club's committee find '*unacceptable in its present form*'.

It's now over 4 years since we asked the question for the first time ... as soon as we know, we'll let you all know!

Have you got your copy of the 'Fun Time' cartoon?

Sue McGrann has just a few copies remaining - they make ideal Christmas Gifts

If you love Miniature Schnauzers, then you need to continue your support the fund raising activities of the JMSEF

The fund stands at £52,235 and by the end of this year, should reach £54,000.

Yes, this is an incredible total - raised by you and all supporters of the Miniature Schnauzer, who are determined to see that a solution is found to the three eye conditions - and includes the largest single donation of £2,500 from The Miniature Schnauzer Club of British Columbia, via today's judge, Don Emslie and Tim Døxtater.

Thank you to everyone concerned. The JMSEF will present Don and Tim with copies of the current Cartoon, as a small token of its appreciation of the support from the MSC of BC

Is the total now too much?

Very definitely it is **not**. Just look at the figures we may be involved with. Each one condition (CHC, HC or PRA) will, at 2002 prices, take at least £20,000 to start research, once we have sufficient samples in each.

CHC: There are now enough cases to initiate the research but further DNA swabs have been requested from some of those dogs. Once received by the AHT, the whole genome scan (WGS) work can commence. This now needs extra funding, as originally, it was being undertaken within existing research funds.

Is CHC still a problem?

Well, there have been at least two further litters diagnosed as affected in the last 12 months, sadly with 8 or 9 of the puppies having CHC, out of a total of 14.

HC: we are still gathering DNA samples and the numbers continue to rise. Samples have also been supplied by breeders overseas. The start of the WGS for this condition is a bit further off but there are sufficient numbers of cases to it represents the same sort of danger to Minis as CHC.

PRA: Fortunately, this condition doesn't present itself too often in the UK although eye specialists say it is seen in the normal course of events (though not under the eye scheme).

Again, the JMSEF have appealed to breeders throughout the world to contribute DNA samples of any affected dog to the AHT