

UKC Bloodlines Magazine March 2004

Why we need a Health and Medical Research Committee Lo Binkley - Chair

Because the Alaskan Klee Kai is a young breed, it is quite logical that the original breed club, The Alaskan Klee Kai Association of America, Inc. (AKKAOA), would want to do all in its power to protect and preserve this wonderful breed of dogs.

Since its recognition by the United Kennel Club as a duly licensed organization, with the rights and responsibilities inherent within these rights, AKKAOA established a Health and Medical Research Committee (H&MR) to identify potential problems within the breed and thereby provide important clinical information that would protect the breed.

In December 2003, an extensive search of the veterinary literature failed to reveal any published case reports or articles dealing with the recognition of health problems or any identification of potential problems in the Alaskan Klee Kai. There were articles that addressed health issues specific to some of the Northern breeds, but no particular pattern that could be remotely connected to the Alaskan Klee Kai. Because of this dearth of information, the H&MR Committee has recruited the expertise of a practicing clinical veterinarian, Patrick Connolly, DVM, and an expert in the development of human clinical studies, Donna Mapes, DNS, who have agreed to serve as consultants to the committee.

Over the next several months, this committee will be developing study protocol and designing a questionnaire to provide AKKAOA with comprehensive data about the Alaskan Klee Kai as a breed. Based on data supplied by AKK owners, the committee plans to share clinical information that will enable breeders and owners to make those decisions that encourage the best possible health care for the breed. Obviously, the success of this endeavor will be dependant upon the cooperation of the AKK owners.

Please refer to <http://akkaoa.org/health.html> for periodic progress and updates.

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