

# Advising Breeders on Pedigree Dog Breeding: 'Do Vets need more Information?'



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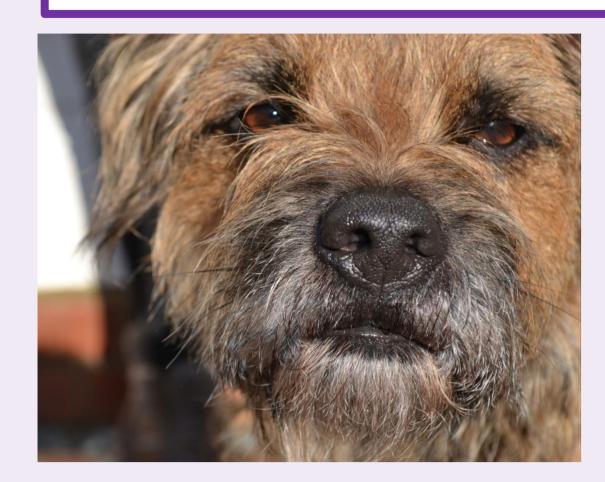


VETERINARY MEDICINE

Putting research into practice

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Introduction: Pedigree dog health has become an increasingly controversial topic in recent years due to the welfare implications caused by some selective breeding practices.

## **Study Aims:**

- To determine how much information veterinary surgeons (VS) felt was available to them on pedigree dog breeding and inherited diseases when compared to pedigree dog breeders (PDB)
- To identify how comfortable VS feel when dealing with various aspects of pedigree dog care.

### **Methods:**

#### **Data Collection Tool Questions Asked Population** Electronic **Pedigree Dog Breeders** Question 1: VS and PDB were asked how much information was available to SurveyMonkey Sources: them on a selection of topics relating to pedigree dog health. A 1-10 scale was Questionnaire Champdogs website used where 1 = none at all and 10 = enough. **Veterinary Surgeons** Sources: Electronic Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons SurveyMonkey register of practices Question 2: VS were asked to rate how comfortable they were with a variety Questionnaire VetsNow Newsletter of aspects of pedigree dog care using a similar 1-10 scale where 1 = very Existing contact list from previous Centre uncomfortable and 10= very comfortable.

## **Results:**

surveys

• A total of 150 VS and 351 PDB returned useable questionnaires (useable response rates: VS: 2.6-25.1% [varied between different distributions] and PDB: 13.8%).

Table 1: VS and PDB responses to Question 1.

	Rated information availab	
Topic	Veterinary Surgeons (n=149)	Pedigree Dog Breeders (n=334)
	Median (Min, Max)	Median (Min, Max)
Selection of suitable pedigree dogs for breeding	5 (1,10)	8 (1,10)
Hereditary disease testing for pedigree dogs	5 (1,10)	8 (1,10)
Breed-associated hereditary diseases	6 (1,10)	8 (1,10)

# Table 2: VS and PDB responses to Question 2.

Aspect of pedigree dog care	Rated comfort in managing task	
	Veterinary Surgeons (n=150)	
	Median (Min, Max)	
Dealing with PDB in practice	7 (1,10)	
Discussing breeding options with PDB clients	6 (1,10)	
Advising puppy buyers on pedigree dog health	8 (1,10)	
Diagnosing hereditary diseases in pedigree dogs	7 (1,10)	
Managing hereditary diseases in pedigree dogs	7 (1,10)	
Advising on screening programmes for canine hereditary disease	6 (1,10)	

# **Conclusions:**

- Data indicate that VS feel less information is available to them on aspects of pedigree dog health than their PDB counterparts do.
- This may explain why VS are less comfortable with advising PDB clients on the breeding and screening of their dogs than they are with giving general health advice, diagnosing and managing health complaints.
- Further investigation is needed to establish whether better provision of information is required for VS and if this would positively
  influence vet-breeder interaction in the consult room.

Acknowledgements: The Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine is supported by an unrestrictive grant from Novartis Animal Health and The University of Nottingham. Many thanks also to the vets and Champdogs breeders who have taken the time to participate in this research and to Caley Martin for the use of her photography.