



# Review of the Confidential Health Survey 2010

The following is an interpretation of the discussion from the HWVA/AHT Confidential Health Survey of HWV 2010 and uses information from this and from the Kennel Club Purebred survey conducted in 2004.

## *General observations of survey*

- There was a good response rate of 57% (compared to 40% in the KC survey)
- The most commonly reported conditions in this health survey were similar to those reported in the previous purebred survey conducted in 2004
- Aural and dermatological conditions would appear to be on the increase (could an element of this be due to increased awareness of such conditions???)

The following are health problems that have been reported in Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla in the survey:

## *Atopy*

- The results of the survey suggest the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla may be predisposed to atopy (as is the Hungarian Vizsla)
- Atopy typically appears in the Hungarian Vizsla between 6 and 12 months. The most common clinical signs are ear problems (otitis externa), eye problems (conjunctivitis) and redness in the face (facial erythema) but it can appear as foot licking or chewing.
- Atopic dogs are more prone to bacterial or fungal infections, secondary to their condition. The majority of dogs who suffered from these conditions were atopic.

## *Food Allergies*

- Food allergy is reportedly the third most common skin allergy in dogs (after flea allergy and atopy). Dogs presenting with signs of atopy should try an elimination diet to rule this out since the symptoms are difficult to differentiate.
- Nearly a fifth of dogs in the survey were being fed a diet with a single source of protein so figures for the number of dogs with food sensitivity may appear artificially low.

## *Otitis Externa*

- This is an inflammation of the skin of the ear canal, therefore is often a sign of skin disease.
- The prevalence of this appears to be higher in HWV 25.8% as compared to the average of all purebreds 18.9%
- Causes of this are foreign bodies, parasites and atopy. It is thought that the most likely cause of recurrent problems is atopy.
- There is an increased risk from factors that increase moisture in ears such as long pendulous ears and swimming.
- Once this condition is present other problems can establish themselves eg bacterial and fungal infections.

### *(Idiopathic) Epilepsy*

- Idiopathic epilepsy occurs usually between 6 months and 10 years of age, with most cases diagnosed between 1 and 5 years.
- The 2004 KC purebreed survey suggested an average incidence of idiopathic epilepsy in all breeds as 1.4% although more recent reports suggest figures between 0.5% and 5.7%. The incidence in HWV was 3.9% in the 2004 purebreed survey and 4.2% in the 2010 breed survey.

### *Affect on quality of life*

A scale has been devised to assess the impact on the quality of life of different conditions. Below are the figures given for some of the reported conditions in HWV. The figures are out of a maximum of 16, the higher numbers indicating more impact on the quality of life.

<b>Condition</b>	<b>GSID score for Mild Cases</b>	<b>GSID score for Severe Cases</b>
Atopy	2	8
Entropion	2	9
Food allergies	8	11
Hip dysplasia	5	10
Idiopathic epilepsy	4	10
Otitis externa	4	11

### *Breeding Recommendations relating to results*

- The current guidance is that direct relatives (parents, siblings, progeny) of dogs with idiopathic epilepsy should not be bred from.
- There appears to be a genetic predisposition to atopy and offspring of atopic parents would appear to be at greater risk of developing atopy. However, the extent of the genetic influence is currently unknown and therefore, it is difficult to make breeding recommendations at this stage.