

Schnauzer Breeds Health Survey

The results are in and continue to show an encouraging picture of the health of the three sizes. Health Coordinators of the 4 clubs congratulate all Schnauzer owners and express their grateful thanks for the continuing support of this important ongoing study into the Health status of the Schnauzer family.

There were 140 new respondents (58 Giants (G), 31 Schnauzers (S) & 51 Miniature (M) owners) giving details of a further 331 dogs to add to the data on 734 dogs held from the previous survey. The data now covers 809 respondents and 1,065 dogs (29% males /71% female) made up of 278 G (26%), 159 S (15%) and 628 M (59%). Average respondent reported on 1.31 dogs each, slightly higher than the first survey (1.29 dogs per respondent - G: 1.41, S: 1.54, M: 1.23).

99.9% of all dogs had been vaccinated at least once, with 73.4% being vaccinated annually and 98% receiving some form of worming treatment (2% higher than last year), the most regular being every 3 months (73%).

Over 91% were reported as having no obvious defects (G 90%/S 92.5%/M 91.7%) against 95.5% last time. Those that did reported on similar lines: teeth, undescended testicles, ears or conditions that were age related. Generally all 3 sizes continued to register 'good health' (G 86%/S 93%/M 96%), the breed average being 93%, marginally lower than the 94.2% last time.

Only 17.6% of all respondents reported 'chronic problems' (G 20%/S 19%/M 16%). These covered a number of conditions; any incidences above 1% in each size were noted as follows: Epilepsy (G 4%), Hypothyroidism (G 3.25%), Cancer – undetermined (G 3.6%/S 5%/M 2.4%), Heart disease (G 2.9%/S 3.8%/M 1.6%), Gastrointestinal (M 3.7% - reporting on haemorrhagic gastroenteritis, pancreatitis or colitis), Eyes – mainly age-related conditions, (G 2.2%/M 2%), Spondulitis (S 3.1%). 17.3% of all respondents reported surgery (G 12%/S 9.5%/M 26%) although this may include double counting of spaying or neutering (24% across the board but Minis being highest at 26.4%).

86% reported no unusual or undesirable behaviour problems but of the 14% that did, problems noted were: 'Aggression' (G 2.1%/ S 1.7%/M 6.7%). 'Timidity' (G 1.8%/S 3.6%/M 5.1%) 'Destructive' (G 4.2%/S 1.7%) and 'Noisy' (M only, 6.6%!!!! – as we noted in the last survey – seems like a typical Mini to us).

For the first time, the survey collected data on dead dogs and found very similar results to the KC/BSAVA survey of 2006. It was a small sample with just 108 cases being recorded: 29 Giants (26.8%), 11 Schnauzers (10.2%) & 68 Miniatures (63%). Average age at death:

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Giants: 10 years (earliest 2yr 2mth/oldest 15yrs 3mth);

Schnauzers: 10yrs (2yr 5mth/15yr 2mth)

Miniatures: 12yr 6mth (1 yr./18yr 2mth). This ties in with the previous (KC/BSAVA) UK study, although the Mini result suggests an improvement on the earlier 12yr 1mth response

29%, across the sizes reported cancer as the cause; 8 Giants 2 Schnauzers & 21 Miniatures, although heart disease was the highest cause in Schnauzers (4) and also high in Minis (14).

Finally, I know Karen Carroll (GSC) & Barry Day (MSC) will join me in thanking Chris Ellingworth (NSC) for her commitment to analysing the response received from Schnauzer owners. All of these figures are easy for me to present simply because Chris has done all the hard work.

Tony McDermott