**Breed Health Coordinator's notes on the 2022/23 Saluki Health Survey**

Firstly I wish to thank all of you who contributed selflessly to our new Health Survey.

With reference to Table 2 of the survey report: “Top Specific Health conditions reported in the survey”, I would make the following comments:

**Allergies**

Whilst 20 identified cases were reported there were also 3 undiagnosed cases. The good news is that 20 of 23 cases were resolved by saluki owners and their vets. Dealing with allergic reactions requires a very methodical approach. You need to be patient and persistent in ruling out possible causes.

**Phantom Pregnancy**

This affects all breeds to a greater or lesser extent.

If your dog is showing mild symptoms of phantom pregnancy, you can provide them with lots of [dog exercise](https://www.purina.co.uk/articles/dogs/health/exercise/exercising-to-stay-healthy) to distract them from mothering.

Mild symptoms of mothering can usually be managed by removing toys she is protecting. You’ll need to do this in a non-distressing way by distracting her with a game or a Kong toy and getting someone else to quietly remove the toys she is mothering. It’s important to not punish your dog for mothering.

Your dog may be licking her nipples to increase milk production. This can cause some irritation, and even [dog mastitis](https://www.purina.co.uk/articles/dogs/health/symptoms/mastitis-in-dogs), so a protective vest may be needed.

In more persistent or severe cases, the vet might recommend a treatment to help restore the hormonal balance.

**Aggression, fearfulness and nervousness**

We have seen a reduction in poor temperament in salukis over the last 30 years. This should act as a reminder that temperament should be kept uppermost on the list of matters to consider when breeding.

**Dllated Cardiomyopathy (DCM)**

This is possibly the most disappointing result to see from the survey. DCM was quite prevalent back in the 1990’s. Since then many breeders have taken action, successfully, to reduce incidence.

Heart testing is recommended as part of the Breed Clubs’ voluntary code of breeding. I intend to produce an improved guide to heart testing for our breed clubs to consider to help reverse the upwards trend of this disease.

**Mammary Tumour**

Cancer remains the major cause of death for all breeds. The Kennel Club and their health and genetics centre are constantly looking for ways to counter this disease.

If you suspect that your saluki has initial signs of cancer, the best advice is to act fast with your vet.

**Itchiness/ skin irritation**

Often caused by lying on material cleaned with biological washing powder. If using non bio doesn’t sort it, please contact your vet.

**Not coming back when called**

Only 5 ?????????!

**Otitis externa**

Usually dealt with using good ear drops and twice daily cleaning with cotton wool pads.

**Sebaceous cysts**

These are non cancerous and can usually be dealt with using a warm compress.

**Dirty teeth**

From personal experience I have found that a daily dental chew all but eliminates the risk. We have not had dental problems with any of our salukis for more than 20 years using this regime. A lot cheaper than dental treatment!

Finally if you have any useful knowledge on countering any of the common health issues here please let me know on [salukibreedhealthcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:salukibreedhealthcoordinator@gmail.com)

John Davies