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Introduction to the Bloodhound Breed Health Group

The Bloodhound is numerically small in the UK and we have only a handful of dedicated Bloodhound breeders. As the Bloodhound matures at a slower rate than many other breeds and we advise not breeding before a bitch is two years old, changes we wish to make for health reasons can take considerably longer. Much consideration is taken before breeding a litter as the Bloodhound is 'not for everyone'. Both breed clubs are united in their efforts and work, dedicated to improving the health in order to remove the Bloodhound from the High Profile Breed list.

In May 2014 an independent health group was formed :-

Keith Long - Breed Health Co-ordinator to the KC and collator of the eye reports.

Sue Harrison - Breed Health Assessment Administrator

Sue Shaw-Browne - KCAB -Puppy Buyers and Breeders guide author

Evelyn Burnside - Website Manager

Lorraine Priestley - Breed Health seminar organiser

Joan Corner - public and members education promoter

Our aims this year have been:-

To advertise the Breeding Strategy programme at all opportunities.

To launch the Bloodhound Health Assessment programme and encourage as many Bloodhound owners as possible to participate.

To hold health and eye clinics open to all Bloodhounds at both Breed Championship Shows.

To create a breed health website and update with all necessary information.
www.bloodhoundhealth.co.uk

To organise a Health seminar and a Breed Specific Judging seminar for early 2015

Breed Standard

General Appearance Noble and dignified expression, characterised by solemnity, wisdom and power.

Characteristics

Possesses in a most marked degree every point and characteristic of those dogs which hunt together by scent (Sagaces). Very powerful, standing over more ground than is usual with hounds of other breeds. Skin relatively loose.

Temperament

Affectionate, neither quarrelsome with companions nor with other dogs. Somewhat reserved and sensitive.

Head and Skull

Head narrow in proportion to length and long in proportion to body, tapering slightly from temples to muzzle, thus when viewed from above and in front having appearance of being flattened at sides and of being nearly equal in width throughout entire length. In profile upper outline of skull is nearly in same plane as that of foreface. Length from end of nose to stop not less than that from stop to back of occipital protuberance. Entire length of head from posterior part of occipital protuberance to end of muzzle 30 cms (12 ins) or more in dogs and 28 cms (11 ins) or more in bitches. Skull is long and narrow, with occipital peak pronounced. Brows not prominent. Sufficient stop. Foreface long, deep and of even width throughout, with square outlines when seen in profile. Head furnished with only a small amount of loose skin. Nostrils large and open. In front, lips fall squarely making a right angle with upper line of foreface.

Eyes

Medium size, dark brown or hazel, neither sunken nor prominent, the lids being oval in shape and meeting the cornea – front window of the eye – perfectly without any irregularity in their contour. Eyes should be free from any interference from the eyelashes. Any obvious signs of eye irritation must be heavily penalised. The eyesight of the hound should be unimpeded.

Ears

Thin and soft to the touch, long, set on low and falling in graceful folds, lower parts curling inwards and backwards.

Mouth

Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Neck Long

Forequarters

Shoulders muscular and well sloped. Forelegs straight, large, round in bone with elbows well set in. Pasterns strong.

Body

Ribs well sprung, chest well let down between forelegs forming a deep keel. Back and loins strong, the latter deep and slightly arched.

Hindquarters Thighs and second thighs very muscular. Hocks well let down, bent and squarely set.

Feet Strong and well knuckled up.

Tail

(Stern) Long, thick, tapering to a point, set high with moderate amount of hair underneath. Carried scimitar-fashion, but not curled over back or corkscrew any time. When moving carried high.

Gait/Movement elastic, swinging free.

Coat Smooth, short and weatherproof.

Colour

Black and tan, liver and tan (red and tan) and red. Darker colours sometimes interspersed with lighter or badger-coloured hair and sometimes flecked with white. Small amount of white permissible on chest, feet and tip of tail.

Size

Height of adult dogs: 66 cms (26 ins); bitches: 61 cms (24 ins). Dogs usually vary from 63-69 cms (25-27 ins); bitches from 58-63 cms (23-25 ins). Mean average weight of adult dogs in fair condition 41 kgs (90 lbs); bitches: 36 kgs (80 lbs). Dogs attain the weight of 50 kgs (110 lbs); bitches: 45.5 kgs (100 lbs). Hounds of the maximum height and weight preferred, providing that quality, proportion and balance combine.

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Note Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

Genetic Variations and Trends

The Bloodhound gene pool consists of 6 genes according to the findings of the DNA pilot scheme carried out some years ago. This represents a genetic population of 6. We cannot increase our gene pool but we can make it smaller. A small closed gene pool will sooner or later suffer from inbreeding depression. This comprises of reduced fertility, smaller litter sizes, higher mortality and a weaker immune system.

By using a popular sire the related offspring will all be carrying the same alleles. As a recessive mutation, the individual hound may appear a good representation of the breed but an animal inherits 50% of their genes from each parent and if both parents are carrying the same recessive alleles then offspring will inherit the undesirable trait. This can take three generations to appear.

As a breed with a small annual registration it is all the more important that we make use of all available bloodlines. This is where information from pedigrees is valuable to the prospective breeder. By studying the pedigree and checking the survival and general health of previous ancestors/offspring an understanding of the ancestry can be obtained. Inbreeding co-efficients are a valuable source of information in order to maintain an open gene pool.

Opinions vary on what or what may not be a “good” COI and how much inbreeding is appropriate to maintain the traits which breeders wish to preserve. In the case of Bloodhounds the COI must be taken into consideration because of the close relationship of many of the hounds available for breeding. Below you can see the average breeding co-efficients for the last 5 years taken over 16 generations, where information allows, for the bloodhounds born in that particular year in the UK.

Year	No. Litters Born	Total number of Offspring	Av. Inbreeding Co-efficient
2010	7	55	9.4%
2011	9	59	6.3%
2012	4	50	7.2%
2013	11	51	8.5%
2014	8	54	4.9%

There has been a marked reduction in the inbreeding co-efficient during the last year and breeders are heeding the advice of the breeding strategy programme written in the report of 2013. The average inbreeding co-efficient for 2013 belies the efforts made by some breeders. Of the 11 litters born, 3 litters had an inbreeding co-efficient of over 20% , 3 had an average of 8.4% and the remaining 5 litters born, which is 46% , had an average inbreeding co-efficient of 0.2%. All of these 5 litters made use of imported sires, so these outcrosses may help to keep our gene pool open. This trend must continue with the progeny being used with unrelated ancestors in the future to ensure that some genes are not lost completely.

Bloodhound Deaths – 2014

Cancer still remains the biggest cause of death during 2014 as in past years, followed by Bloat. The figures shown below are for the 27 hounds of which I have been informed.

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>No. of hounds</u>	<u>Average Age</u>
Old Age	6	9.75
Cancer	7	6.5
Bloat	5	5.5
Skeletal disorders	3	
Kidney failure	2	
Heart failure	1	
Virus	1	
Septicaemia	1	
Poisoning	1	

The overall average age of death for information received is 6yrs 6mths.

Health Assessment – 2014

This year saw the launch of the Bloodhound Health Assessment Scheme. As a newly tried initiative the health assessment programme has experienced a slow but steady start and hopefully 2015 will show greater response to our efforts. This supersedes the bi-annual survey which was conducted by the Association of Bloodhound Breeders for members.

By inviting all Bloodhound owners to participate we hope to reach pet owners as well as those who attend the shows and also include the hunting fraternity and owners of rescue hounds. The Kennel Club has raised concerns on the conditions of the skin, the eyes and the hindquarters in our breed and these have been taken into consideration when conducting our surveys along with areas of concern by Bloodhound owners and breeders. By analysing data from the assessment forms we can identify factors which are common. Initiatives can then be introduced to look more closely into these areas and hopefully find any underlying cause.

Vets have been in attendance at the Bloodhound Club Championship Show and the ABB Championship Show to conduct a visual health assessment of the hounds present for those wishing to participate. Eye examinations were also conducted by eminent ophthalmologists and their findings are published in this report .

Health Analysis

Of the total 32 hounds examined, all backgrounds were represented:-

Show	7	(21%)
Show/Work	10	(33%)
Work	8	(25%)
Pet	7	(21%)

The findings of the vets on the health of the 32 hounds examined are listed below :-

<u>Cause</u>	<u>No. of hounds affected</u>
---------------------	--------------------------------------

Dermatitis	6
-------------------	---

Ear Disorders	9
----------------------	---

Excess wax was the main reported concern with 2 of the hounds having infection.

Eye Disorders	13
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Entropion/Ectropion are the main faults. More exact results can be obtained from the eye report as they are taken from the same hounds.

Body Condition	2
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Both described as slightly overweight.

Heart	2
--------------	---

Murmurs were detected

Temperament	2
--------------------	---

One was reported as nervous and the other of uncertain temperament.

Mouth	2
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One with minor calculus and one with gum deterioration.

Movement

All 32 hounds were reported as having sound movement.

1 dog had retained testicles and 4 hounds were neutered. 2 of the 32 hounds were reported as having suffered from Bloat or Cancer.

Sample of Bloodhound Health Assessment Form

Part 1 to be completed by the owner. (All information is Confidential)

Kennel Club Name	D.O.B.
Kennel Club Registration Number	Import Yes/No
Microchip No.	
Tick all that apply. Pet Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Show Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Other Canine Activity <input type="checkbox"/> Please Specify.....	
Name and address of owner (optional)	
E-Mail:	Phone :

**Part 2 to be completed by the Veterinary Surgeon
Please refer to guidance notes before completing.**

Dog <input type="checkbox"/>	Birch <input type="checkbox"/>	Colour Black/Tan <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Liver/Tan <input type="checkbox"/>
Is this dog neutered <input type="checkbox"/> testes present <input type="checkbox"/> retained <input type="checkbox"/>	Is this bitch spayed Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Signs of dermatitis Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Comments if any. (Location)		
Has this Dog sound movement Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Comments if any.		
Signs of Ear disorders Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Comments if any.		
Are the eyes free from interferences from the eyelashes Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Comments if any.		
Refer to Ophthalmologist Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Body Condition Under ideal 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/>	Mouth /Teeth Condition Comments if any.	
Ideal 5 <input type="checkbox"/>		
Over ideal 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/>		
Heart Normal Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Comments if any		
Do you have any concerns about the dogs temperament Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Comments if any		
Has this dog to your knowledge suffered from any of the following: Bloat <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer <input type="checkbox"/>		
Comments if any (Bloat or type of cancer etc)		
Additional comments:		
The above dog shows the physical characteristics as described on the date shown. The above report and its results are not a warranty against any hereditary or acquired condition that may develop in the future. These results are the findings of a basic visual examination.		

Signature of Veterinary Surgeon Date:	Veterinary Stamp or contact details.
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Distribution: White - Owner **Print:** Owners use **Yellow** - Breed health.rp. Susan Harrison, "Garth Close" Oukroyd Terrace, Churwell, Morley, LS27 7SZ

© Bloodhound Health Committee

This form has been sent to all registered Bloodhound owners
by the K.C.

GUIDANCE NOTES TO VETERINARY SURGEONS

The aim of the health assessment is to encourage all owners and breeders to have their dogs assessed for visible conditions that may cause pain or discomfort. The health assessment forms will provide The Bloodhound Breed with valuable data regarding the health of the breed.

The Health Committee will only accept results on the above health assessment form supplied by the Committee with the completed identification details of the dog being examined.

All dogs must have their microchip number scanned by the vet and it must correspond to the one written on the form before the examination commences.

The Vet is required to comment on;

Visual assessment of the skin - Please comment if there are signs of dermatitis, hair loss, scarring or excessive amounts of skin if causing a health or welfare concern. Below is a list of the possible areas to examine;

- Ears
- Periocular
- Lip-folds
- Neck
- Face
- Anal glands
- Feet
- Axilla
- Groin
- Perineum
- Thorax
- Abdomen

Visual assessment of the movement - please comment if any of the conditions are present and the severity;

- Lameness
- Ataxia
- Weak hocks
- Weak hindquarters

Visual assessment of the eyes - Please comment on the eye, adnexa and eyelid conformation for each eye individually.

Please list if any of the below conditions are present and the severity;

- Entropion
- Ectropion
- Damage to the cornea
- Keratitis
- Conjunctivitis
- Epiphora
- Trichiasis
- Signs of pain or discomfort
- Other (please specify)

If you have a concern during the eye assessment an option is listed for you to refer the dog to an ophthalmologist. In this instance please give a brief description of the reason for referral.

Body condition score please refer to the attached scale.

Temperament- Please make a basic assessment of the dog and comment if the dog is excessively shy or aggressive.

The following clause will apply to the assessment form: "The above dog shows the physical characteristics as marked. The above report and its results are not a guarantee against any hereditary or acquired condition that may develop in the future. These results are the findings of a basic visual examination relating to the date specified."

This examination will take approximately 15 minutes.

A copy of the form should be given to The Bloodhound Breed Health Assessment Administrator. This is for data collection purposes. The owner of the dog should retain a copy of the form for their own records.

Susan Harrison (The Health Assessment Administrator)
'Garth Close' Oakroyd Terrace
Churwell, Morley
LS27 7SZ

Sample of Bloodhound Club Eye Assessment Form

THE BLOODHOUND CLUB

Eye Assessment Scheme Statement of Assessment



This scheme is organised by **The Bloodhound Club**. It is **not** part of, and should not be confused with the BVA/KC eye scheme

Report No _____	Reg Name _____
Owner's Name _____	KC Reg No: _____
Address _____	Date of Birth _____
_____	Sex _____
_____	Sire _____
_____	Dam _____

Ophthalmic Examination

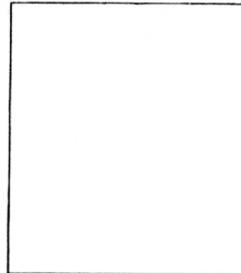
Palpebral Fissure (Eyelid Aperture/Opening) _____

Trichiasis _____

Entropion _____

Ectropion _____

Other Findings _____



Date of Examination _____

Examiner _____



BCEA/PB/04

Eye Assessment Summary 2014

The scheme was initiated in July 1992 when Professor Peter Bedford looked at the eyes of 42 hounds, of age range under 12 months to ten years. The examinations were followed by a talk by professor Bedford and a question and answer session. As a result of these examinations he devised a scoring scheme for bloodhound eyes which was used for the first time in 1994.

There were an incredible number of 65 hounds examined in June 1994 by Professor Bedford where the scoring scheme was used for the first time. Further clinics were held in 1998 with 24 hounds, and 2002 with 27 hounds present.

Peter Bedford's work load precluded him from continuing with the scheme and after a gap of several years we decided to proceed with further clinics with other specialist from the KC/ BVA eye scheme panel. With this in mind a further clinic was conducted in 2007 by John Goodyear who examined 35 hounds. Unfortunately scoring was not used on this occasion.

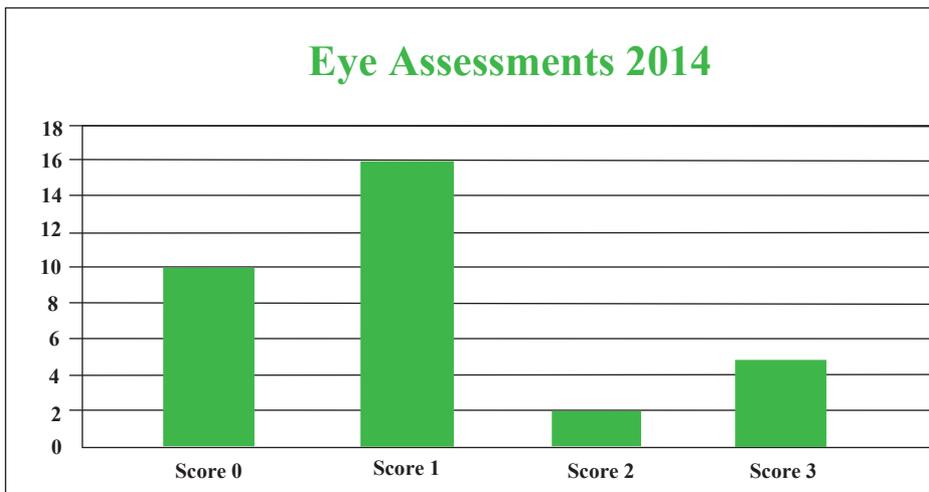
To bring us right up to date Ian Mason, chief panellist on the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme conducted his first examinations in 2012 where he scored 29 hounds and followed this in June 2014 by examining and scoring 18 hounds. The scheme was further enhanced when Rachael Grundon, Senior Clinician in Ophthalmology & Deputy Head of Department at the Animal Health Trust examined 19 hounds in September 2014. Of these 4 had previously been seen at the earlier clinic so have only been included once. Where scores differ the lower score has been used in the accompanying charts summarising the 2014 results.

Over the course of 12 yrs the bloodhound eye scheme has seen a total of 259 examinations and this shows the level of support given by bloodhound breeders and owners. The improvement in results seen since its inception has been considerable.

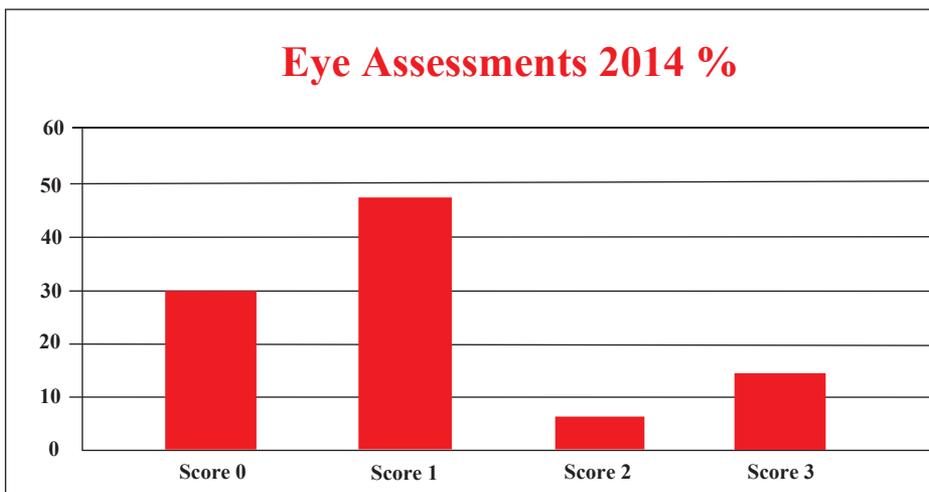
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Eye Assessments 2014

Score	0	1	2	3
No. Of Hounds	10	16	2	5



Score	0	1	2	3
No. Of Hounds %	30.30	48.49	6.06	15.15



Turnout was again good in 2014 with a total of 37 examinations over the two clinics. The resulting scores showed the continued progress that has been made since the first examinations in 1992. The improvement shown over the years vindicates the vision of those who initiated the scheme, and the efforts of breeders who have worked with us to reach this position. 78.79% of the hounds examined achieved a score of 1 or less.

Report of Ocular Examinations at the September Show 2014

On Sunday 7th September, eye and health checks were completed on 19 dogs (14 females and 5 males) at Tollerton, Nottinghamshire. One dog just had a health check alone.

All dogs were marked on the sheet as having macroblepharon (overlong eyelids). This is typical for the breed and is not pathologic in itself. The macroblepharon in bloodhounds is what allows the eyelids to collapse and rotate in or out giving entropion and ectropion respectively.

Nine dogs (48%) were also marked as having ptosis. This is drooping of the upper eyelid. When pronounced this becomes upper lid entropion. (5 dogs ptosis alone, 4 with entropion).

Eight (43%) were marked as having lower lid ectropion and a further five (27%) as a combination of ectropion and entropion. In the latter dogs the ectropion becomes so marked as to allow inturning of the adjacent lid.

Eight dogs had corneal changes indicative of inflammation and damage (keratitis), often associated with poor lid conformation.

Eight dogs had a variety of lens opacities (cataracts). There did not appear to be a consistent pattern of distribution but the sample size examined was not large.

Three dogs had focal or multifocal lesions consistent with retinal dysplasia. These may be benign folds but cannot be distinguished without histologic examination or OCT.

Six dogs had iris atrophy. This is a benign change, usually associated with age in other breeds, however was noted in one very young dog in this case as well. The iris thins and the pupillary light response will therefore reduce and as it progresses, the pupillary aperture gets larger.

Comment: in general the older dogs had poorer eyelid position as the skin will sag over time, exacerbating any lack of support. Some dogs will have had visual impairment due to the upper eyelid obscuring the visual axis. There were some older dogs with good eyelid position however. It was encouraging to see most of the younger dogs had a less exaggerated eyelid conformation. This suggests that real progress is being made in selecting for, and breeding towards, more functional lid conformation.

The lens and retinal changes noted have not been previously reported in this breed. If we can continue with the eye examinations, hopefully more data will allow us to be clearer on whether these are an inherited issue. For future use we also hope to be able to collect genetic material so if a heritable basis is suspected we can investigate the possibility of a genetic test being developed.

I would like to thank all owners for allowing us to examine their dogs. Without this support, now and in the future, it will be hard to appreciate if any progress is made in eliminating exaggerations in conformation that can cause disease. It would be lovely to have greater numbers of dogs to allow us to perform analysis of the data more effectively.

Rachael Grundon, Roser Tetras Pont.

PUPPY BUYERS AND BREEDERS INFORMATION.

BLOODHOUND HEALTH NOTES :

- A) For Novice Breeders;
 - 1. Points to consider when thinking of breeding a litter.
 - 2. Before Breeding.
 - 3. Before and After Whelping.
 - 4. Keeping Records.
 - 5. Sale of Your Puppies.
- B) The Experienced Breeder.

SAMPLE OF A STUD DOG CONTRACT.

SAMPLE OF A PUPPY SALE CONTRACT.

SAMPLE OF A PUPPY DIET SHEET.

SAMPLE OF A PUPPY APPLICATION FORM.

FOR THE NOVICE BLOODHOUND BREEDERS:

The aim of all Bloodhound Breeders should be to improve the breed by responsible breeding and to maintain high standards of care – please be aware of the Animal Welfare Act of 2006 and 2011.

Responsible breeders believe that each litter that they breed should be an improvement on the parents.

Breeders should also accept responsibility for a puppy which they have bred and make themselves available to give advice and help to the new owners.

All breeders should adhere to the K.C. General Code of Ethics. (Visit the KC website for details)

If you are thinking of breeding a Bloodhound litter take a little time to consider the following points:

1. Would I be able to find good homes for the puppies and would I be able to re-home any puppies if it becomes necessary.
2. The age and health of the Dam and Sire. Are they in good physical and genetic health? Is the Dam between 2-7 years of age and the Stud dog between 2 – 8 years old?
3. Do not mate related hounds i.e. Mother/Son, Father/Daughter or Brother/Sister.
4. The Kennel Club advises that you do not breed from a bitch that has previously whelped four litters or has had two litters by caesarean section.
5. Is your bitch of the right temperament to whelp a litter of puppies?
6. Do you have the knowledge and facilities to whelp and rear a litter of puppies?
7. Do you have the time to devote to rearing a litter of puppies?
8. Have you the finances in place? Remember to take into consideration the costs of a stud fee, worming, vaccinating, microchips, registration, Veterinary costs, food costs, advertising, heating and bedding/equipment.
9. Gaining as much advice as possible, do back ground research on the breed lines that you want to use, speak to other experienced Bloodhound breeders and your Veterinary surgeon. The Kennel Club web site has also got advice on breeding a litter.

BEFORE BREEDING:

Check that all your paperwork is in order i.e.

You are the registered owner of the bitch.

Your bitch is microchipped, Vaccinated and Wormed to date.

You have a registered kennel name.

That there are no Breeding Endorsements on your bitch's records.

Consider taking out Insurance for breeding risks (visit www.kcinsurance.co.uk)

It is wise to get your Vet to give your hound a general health check prior to breeding.

You may choose to get your hound Hip Scored, DNA tested, Elbow graded or Eye tested but not all Breeders go this far.

Study the pedigrees of both the Dam and the Sire and obtain the breeding co-efficient for any possible mating this will help to avoid inherited diseases by not breeding from genealogically related hounds.

Question whether the Dam and Stud dog are fit for function. Do they have any breed weaknesses or exaggerated features? Have they got any proven health related issues?

Talk to the Breeder of your hound – they may be able to advise you.

BEFORE AND AFTER WHELPING:

Ensure that your bitch has the freedom to demonstrate her natural behaviour in a clean, quiet and comfortable environment. You have a duty of care to your bitch.

Ensure that you have all the necessary equipment to deal with the whelping.

You should maintain an adequate exercise and feeding routine from mating to weaning.

Your help should be readily available to the bitch during and after whelping.

Your Veterinary surgeon should be informed of the whelping date and you should have their number readily available.

You should also check that all worming and vaccinations are kept up to date for the bitch and her puppies.

The puppies should be microchipped before going to their new homes. Visit the Petlog website for details of their database and its benefits etc.

Puppies should be socialised as much as possible prior to leaving for their new homes.

Register your litter with the Kennel Club - ideally in time to give the new owners the documentation.

Ensure the puppies leave with 4 weeks Insurance for the new owners.

KEEPING OF RECORDS:

The Kennel Club advises that all Breeding records are kept for a minimum of 10 years, especially if you are a member of the Assured Breeder Scheme, these should include:

1. The Registration details of your breeding bitch and the stud dogs used and those of the off spring from each litter.
2. Pedigrees of Dam and Sire.
3. The Mating dates.
4. The Whelping dates.
5. Puppy details – colour, sex, weight, health etc.
6. Any deaths – date, reason, treatment etc.
7. Details of any Health checks or Veterinary treatment carried out.
8. Vaccination details.
9. Microchip details.
10. Worming details.
11. New Owners details – name, address, email, phone etc. And date of sale.
12. A copy of the Sale Contract.
13. Contract of Stud dog Service.

SALE OF YOUR PUPPIES:

When selling your puppies you should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the purchaser is able to provide a suitable home and that they are committed to caring for the dog for the whole of its life. This can be done by asking prospective new owners to fill in a Puppy Application form, by doing home checks / Vet checks, by asking prospective owners to visit for an interview or by asking for references.

Before the puppy leaves you should:

1. Make sure that it is over 8 weeks old.
2. Get it Health checked and provide any health reports necessary to the new owner.
3. **Supply a puppy pack** which ideally includes;
 - a. Diet Sheet.
 - b. Vaccination Record.
 - c. Worming Regime.
 - d. Exercise/Training Advice.
 - e. Socialising Advice.
 - f. What to expect of a Bloodhound Puppy.
 - g. Health and Grooming Advice.
 - h. Microchip details and how to register the new owner's details.
 - i. Any Insurance details that may apply to the puppy.
4. Include the Registration Documents for the puppy.
5. Advice on any Pedigree Endorsements – a signature is advisable to confirm that you have explained what this means.
6. A Contract of Sale which should be signed and dated by each party and a copy to each.

7. Explanation of your return or refund policy and any time restrictions.
8. Provide the new owner with your details for any after sale advice they should need.

THE EXPERIENCED BLOODHOUND BREEDER:

The more experienced Breeders will have their own form of best practice and a well tried and tested routine. They will have considered reasons for choosing to breed Bloodhounds and have their own priorities in making good breeding decisions in order to further improve the Bloodhound as a breed.

Their wealth of experience is invaluable and should not be under estimated, however as new scientific advances become available to breeders it is worth taking time to investigate the tools that may help to make good breeding decisions.

The Kennel Club is running Breeder Education Seminars with a number of highly regarded professionals in the world of canine health. See the KC website for details.

Details of the Assured Breeder Scheme, Artificial Insemination, DNA Profiling & Parentage Analysis and the new Puppy Socialisation Plan are also on the KC Website.

A list of Bloodhound Breeders can be found on the Association of Bloodhound Breeders website www.associationofbloodhoundbreeders.co.uk or on the Bloodhound Club website www.bloodhoundclub.org.uk



STUD DOG CONTRACT

Ideally there should be two copies – one for the owner of the bitch and one for the owner of the stud dog.

A simple contract will avoid any misunderstandings in the future. Here is an example of a simple format which can be copied from the Kennel Club web site:

Section 1.

The Stud Dog's details i.e. Registered Name and Number, Breed, Colour, Date of Birth and Microchip number.

Section 2.

The Bitch's details i.e. Registered Name and Number, Breed, Colour, Date of Birth and Microchip number.

Section 3.

The Details of the owners of the Stud Dog and the Bitch. i.e. their Names, Address, Telephone number and email address.

Section 4.

The Stud dog owner has taken every care with the welfare of the stud dog and confirms that to the best of their knowledge the stud dog is both fertile and in good health. The Stud dog owner gives no warranties regarding the birth of any puppies arising from the mating(s) covered by this contract.

Section 5.

The stud service took place on (Insert Date).

The bitch owner will pay the Stud dog owner the sum of £ or (Specify any other arrangement made for the stud service i.e. choice of puppy).

In the event of the bitch not conceiving the stud dog owner agrees to (Insert your own details).

The Stud dog owner undertakes that they will sign and complete all Kennel Club documentation to confirm the date of the mating and provide any other information that the Kennel Club may require within 7 days of a written request.

Section 6.

a) Declaration of the Owner of the Bitch.

I confirm that I have read and fully understand this contract and its purpose.

Signed Date

b) Signature of the Stud Dog Owner.

I confirm that I am the owner of the Stud Dog and that the contents of this contract are accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signed Date

PUPPY SALES CONTRACT

It is strongly recommended that all Bloodhound Breeders provide a puppy sales contract and that they explain it fully to the new owner so that they may sign the declaration to show that they fully understand its contents.

Here is a sample of a contract as guided by the Kennel Club; you may decide to amend it to suit your own criteria.

Section 1.

Bloodhound puppy details i.e. Registered Name and number, Colour, Date of Birth and Sex. The registration documents and pedigree are enclosed in the puppy pack.

Section 2.

Breeders name, address, email and phone numbers.

New Owner's name, address, email and phone numbers.

Section 3.

The Breeder has taken every care with the breeding, rearing and welfare of this puppy and it is believed to be in good health. It is sold in good faith but the breeder makes no warranty as to the health or disposition of the hound. Every effort has been made to avoid any inherited conditions and I know of no health or temperament problems relating to the bitch. *(or stud dog)*

This puppy has been wormed with *(name wormer)* on *(dates)* and is fully vaccinated to date. My Veterinary surgeon gave this puppy a health check at weeks of age, this included the ears, eyes, lungs, heart, conformation and general well being. Your puppy was judged to be in good health and I am enclosing the Veterinary report and its vaccination certificate.

Section 4.

I would advise that you have your puppy examined by your Veterinary Surgeon within the first 10 days of purchase. If any defects are found by your Vet and a written report is produced a full refund of the purchase price will be given for the puppy within the first 10 days of purchase. You must return the puppy to the Breeder in order to receive the refund.

Section 5.

No warranty is given for the ultimate show/trial/breeding potential on maturity of this hound.

Section 6.

This puppy has an Endorsement placed on its record which restricts registration of any of its future offspring. *(The Breeder may also put an Endorsement on which prevents the issue of an export pedigree)* Endorsements can only be lifted by a written letter to the Kennel Club from the person who placed them i.e. the Breeder. *The new owner must have this fully explained and be aware why this has been done, he must also be made aware that the Breeder may remove these conditions in the future, at his request and at the Breeder's discretion.*

Section 7.

The new owner agrees that if at any stage in the hound's life he needs to be rehomed the Breeder will be the first to be informed and be given the option to assist in finding the hound a new home or to have the hound back free of charge.

Section 8.

The new owner agrees to keep in regular contact with the Breeder. All contact details for the Breeder are enclosed in the puppy pack. The Breeder is available for advice at the given times.

Section 9.

DATE OF SALE:

PURCHASE PRICE PAID: £

I confirm that I have read and fully understand the meaning of this contract prior to me purchasing this puppy.

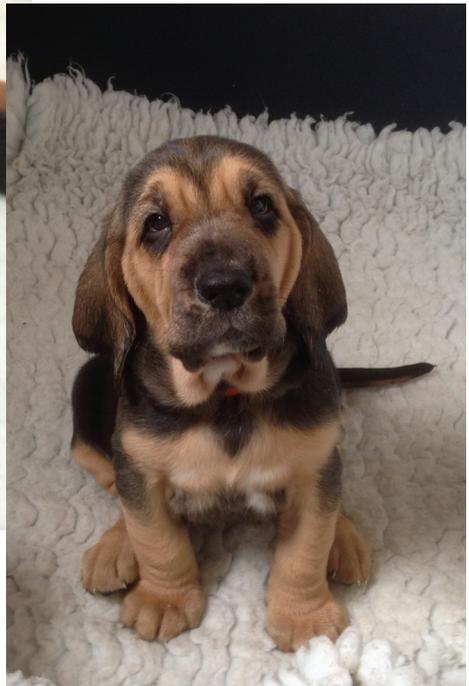
Signed by the new owner

.....
.....

I can confirm that I am the Breeder of this puppy.

Signed by the Breeder

.....
.....



A SAMPLE DIET SHEET:

Feeding your puppy sensibly and correctly is very important to its development and health. Here are a few guidelines for his diet:

Now that your puppy is over 10 weeks of age he is having three feeds a day at approximately 8 am, 3 pm, and 10 pm. These times can be varied to suit you/your puppy's individual needs.

You may need to feed three meals a day until he is approx 6 month of age when it can be dropped to two meals a day i.e. at 8 am and 6 pm. This will continue into old age when his dietary requirements may alter due to health issues, his slower metabolism or his inability to take as much exercise – please consult your Veterinary Surgeon if you are in any doubt.

Puppies can be greedy or picky with their food so it can sometimes be difficult to gauge how much to give them. Care should be taken not to over feed your puppy. I would advice that you get your puppy weighed regularly and continue this into adulthood – possibly every 6 to 12 months to keep an eye on his waistline! (Your Vet will usually allow you access to their scales without charge).

At present your puppy is being fed: *List his daily food intake.*

Fresh clean water should always be available to your puppy.

Remember that little and often is always preferable to one big meal. If he does not eat up please remove the dish until next feed time. If he is off his food altogether seek Veterinary advice (Vets do not charge for advice over the phone).

Leave the puppy in peace while it is eating from his bowl. Do not take the bowl away while he is eating as this can cause anxiety and food aggression. If you want to teach your puppy to be comfortable in you approaching him during mealtimes, add a little food to the bowl while he is eating, so he sees it as an asset rather than a threat.

Never feed your hound from the table or off your plate as this encourages begging.

If he develops Diarrhoea please check that he has not had anything unusual to eat. Offer him a bland diet for 24 hours (i.e. Boiled rice, chicken pieces, boiled white fish, tuna, scrambled eggs or milk) and if he does not recover consult your Vet as he may have an infection. Even if he will not eat always ensure that he has sufficient water to drink.

Remember that stability in the diet will help maintain good digestion. It is best to avoid changes in your puppy's diet, if he likes his diet and it works – stick to it. To get the best out of your puppy's development choose a food that is specially designed for puppies. If you have to change your puppy's diet please do it gradually and be aware of his delicate tummy. Keep an eye on his stools for any changes in colour, consistency or smell. Phone your Vet if you notice blood in the stool – it may be nothing but best to be on the safe side.

Wait for about ½ hour after exercise before you feed your puppy and never exercise immediately after feeding. Do not feed before travelling in the car or it may cause travel sickness.

As your puppy grows (up to six months old) you may need to increase his biscuits to allow for his increased development and exercise. Bloodhound puppies often need more than they require as an adult however after 16 weeks of age he should be on roughly the same quantity up to his old age. Use the manufacturers feeding recommendations as a guideline to the quantity of biscuits required.

Be aware that Spayed or Neutered dogs may be inclined to put on weight.

Treats can be given as a reward and to encourage the type of behaviour that you want. You can buy ready made treats or use either small cubes of cheese or hot dog sausages. Raw hide chews are believed to help teething/prevent him chewing the wrong things i.e. your dining table legs! And dental sticks are often used to prevent dental diseases but remember to use them in moderation!

Do not allow your hound to eat chocolate or grapes/raisins as they are poisonous to dogs (beware around Christmas and Easter time!!). Plants and bulbs in the garden can also prove dangerous – always supervise young animals in your garden!

Please keep all your dog bowls clean and any opened tins/cartons of milk etc sealed and in the fridge. Flies and bacteria can cause infections in dogs as well as humans.

Like humans, some dogs are sensitive or intolerant to certain foods and this can cause a variety of problems. In extreme cases, they may develop Colitis (slime and blood in the stools). Always consult your Vet if you suspect a food allergy.

Bloodhounds are prone to **Gastric Torsion or Bloat**, so please feed your hound smaller meals and often, never before exercise and avoid big meals that can swell in the gut. Possibly feed an adult hound 2 soaked meals a day and make sure that the last meal is not too late in the evening (i.e. about 6 pm). Some people recommend feeding Bloodhounds on a stand to aid digestion. Bloat can be very quick to appear and is life threatening. ALWAYS seek Veterinary advice if you suspect your hound is suffering from Bloat. The symptoms are varied but can include attempting to vomit, swollen abdomen, pain and discomfort, restlessness, trying to pass a motion, moaning, panting/slathering and increased heart rate.

ALWAYS keep a fresh supply of water available for your hound – never leave him without access to clean water. Bloodhounds can dehydrate very quickly. They can also overheat in the hot weather and get heat stroke if in the sun too long – allow them access to a cool shaded area in the summer.

Visit the Kennel Club web site or contact your dog foods supplier for any further dietary advice.

SAMPLE OF A PUPPY APPLICATION FORM:

Here is an example of a form that you might get prospective puppy buyers to fill in, though you could ask any questions that you think might help in finding the right home for your puppy:

Full name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

Have you owned a dog before, if so what breed?

Do you have any pets at the moment?

What made you decide on a Bloodhound for a pet?

Have you any children, if so what ages?

What type of house do you live in?

How big is your garden and is it well fenced?

Where would you walk the hound? Do you live near green spaces?

Is your hound going to be living in the house or a kennel?

Is anyone at home during the day?

How long would the hound be left alone if at all?

Who would look after the hound when you go on holiday?

Have you researched the pros and cons of owning a Bloodhound?

How did you find me and why have you chosen my hounds?

Do you prefer a dog or a bitch?

Do you have a colour preference?

Would you want to breed with your hound?

Would you like to do any showing or trials with your hound?

Have you the means to support a Bloodhound?

Are you prepared to give me regular bulletins on the hounds well being?



Working Trials

The Bloodhound is one of a few dual purpose breeds. Ultimate fitness is of importance.

Bloodhound Working Trials are held four times a year. Two in the Spring and two in Autumn.

The Bloodhound Club and the Association of Bloodhound Breeders each organise and host a trial in each season. This exercise tests the hounds ability to hunt the natural human scent, no trail is put down, the person or linewalker as they are known simply walks from start to finish.

To compete in trials a hound must be over 12 months old and have passed Part 1 of the working permit. The permit is in two parts.

Part 1. - This entails showing hunting ability whilst working on a leash for approximately a mile.

Part 2. - The Stock Test - requires the hound to hunt a line half a mile long and half an hour cold, through a substantive number of sheep, without chasing or worrying the sheep. After successfully hunting through the sheep the hound is then taken back into the sheep unleashed and some of the sheep are driven across in front of the hound. The handler must remain silent and the hound must not chase the sheep. (taken from ABB stock test procedure)





The trial is defined by four separate stakes:-

Novice. One mile long - half an hour cold.

Junior. Two miles long - One hour cold.

Intermediate. Two and a half miles long - One and half hours cold.

Senior. Three miles long - Two hours cold.

To advance to a higher stake the hound and handler must have been awarded 1st or 2nd in Novice or Junior. Only 1st in Intermediate moves up to the Senior stake. Once in Senior the 2nd part of the permit must have been achieved before the hound can compete. Champion Certificates can be awarded in the Senior stake if a hound has hunted the line to the satisfaction of the judge and identifies the linewalker from a line of three people. When two 'CC,s' have been won by the same hound then it is given the title of Working Trial champion.

Objectives for 2015

To continue to promote the Health Assessment.

To organise further health and eye clinics at breed shows.

To start DNA collection for the purpose of research in the future.

To hold a seminar for health problems which may affect Bloodhounds

To hold a seminar for education of future judges of Bloodhounds.