



- The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club -

Parent Club for the Breed (Founded 1923)

President: Mrs A M Walton

29th September 2023.

The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club (WSSC) Statement on the current status of the Welsh Springer Spaniel Joint Health Group (JHG).

The JHG was setup in 1994 as a collaborative alliance between the four Welsh Springer Spaniel Clubs of the United Kingdom to monitor and investigate health concerns within the breed. In its formative years the group was effective in working with professionals on three main areas of concern for the breed which were Primary Epilepsy, Primary Glaucoma and Hip Dysplasia.

The formation of the group was an innovative idea at the time and praised by many for the work they did on behalf of the breed at a time when The Kennel Club did not have the infrastructure around health that it has now.

However, in recent years the group has failed to evolve into looking beyond the aforementioned conditions or modernise working methods sufficiently; the group becoming effectively dormant. The last quorate meeting of the JHG was held on 18th April 2021 and the group currently has no secretary or chairman elected.

On 9th February 2023 following almost two years of inactivity, the group started the process of electing a new Secretary and Chairman by requesting nominations from each breed club. An update was given on the nomination process on 2nd April 2023 with two candidates for the role of Secretary being nominated from within the JHG delegates and two candidates for the role of Chairman independent from the JHG delegates. However, one of the candidates for this role did fail to meet the criteria set out for the role of Chairman within the JHG terms of reference.

A provisional meeting was arranged for 1st June 2023, but this did not go ahead as planned, firstly because the only qualified candidate for the role of Chairman decided he did not wish to be considered for the role and secondly a proposal for an independent facilitator to chair the meeting failed to be agreed. The deadline was subsequently extended to 29th July 2023 to consider potential candidates for the position of chairman.

The deadline for nomination of a suitable candidate of Chairman passed without a resolution. On 12th September two Clubs proposed that a meeting be called of the JHG delegates to discuss and vote on the nominations for Secretary and to accept the remaining, non-qualified candidate for the position of Chairman. The remaining two Clubs sent a counter-proposal that just the Secretary position be discussed and a new timeline agreed for the Chairman position when/if the secretary role was filled and the group could move forward.

It is the hope of the WSSC that agreement can be reached between the four Clubs and the future of the JHG become secured. Moving forward into 2024 will only be possible for the group if it is ready to evolve and continue to do so in order to meet future challenges of potential results from the forthcoming Kennel Club breed Health Survey for Welsh Springer Spaniels.

For other contact information please visit the Club website

www.wssc.org.uk