

The Bearded Collie Breed Liaison Committee



Proposed Breed Strategy Breed Enthusiast's Contribution -

The Breeders Regional Workshops were arranged by the JBLC and hosted by the Breed Clubs to give participants the opportunity to discuss their concerns about the issues facing Bearded Collies and to consider practical ways of solving them or managing their impact in the best interests of the breed. Following on from this a proposed Breed Strategy document was drawn up by the JBLC and discussed at a seminar held on 13th May 2017.

Even if you were not able to take part in one of the workshops or attend the event on 13th May **you can still contribute to the discussion by completing this form**. We want to hear from **everyone** who has an interest in the breed - whether you own a Beardie as a pet, whether you show your Beardie or compete in any other activity with them and whether you breed or not - **we want your views!**

The form is made up of four Parts, and you can complete the whole form or just fill in as many Parts as you feel able to.

Parts 1 to 3 cover the areas discussed in the Breeders Regional Workshops.

- In **Part 1** we ask you to tell us your concerns about the issues facing Bearded Collies.
- In **Parts 2 and 3** we ask for your thoughts on what action to take on your concerns. We want to avoid 'treating the symptoms, not the cause', so in **Part 2** we ask what you think the underlying cause is, and whether anything else is keeping people from doing what needs to be done. In **Part 3** we ask for your suggestions on what action to take.

Part 4 gives you the opportunity to comment on the Breed Strategy proposals drawn up in the light of the workshops. People who attended the seminar on 13th May were able to give us their views at the event, but we want to hear from as many people as possible.

Part 1: YOUR CONCERNS

What do you think are the most important issues or concerns facing breeders and the breed?

Tip: Please tell us enough to make the concern or issue clear. For example, 'breed type' could refer to several *different* concerns.
A good way to make your *particular* concern clear is to write down what you would say to finish the sentence 'My concern is that...'

My concern is that (write as few or as many as you want):

1

2

3

4

5

What are the 2-3 most important of these?

Part 2: UNDERLYING CAUSES

What do you think are the underlying causes or reasons for your concerns?

We suggest you choose just 1 or 2 of the most important concerns from your list.

Tip: You must know the underlying causes of a concern before you can take effective action. But sometimes even if the direct cause is known, other reasons can keep people from doing what needs to be done.

For each concern you choose, please tell us:

- what you think is the cause;
- what *other reasons* (if any) are keeping people from doing what needs to be done.

Concern (from your list in Part 1)	Underlying cause(s)	Other reasons keeping people from doing what needs to be done

Part 3: TAKING ACTION ON THE CAUSES

Here we ask for your suggestions on what action to take to deal with the causes and other reasons keeping people from doing what needs to be done. Would you support the action you are suggesting if it means changing what **you** do?

Concern (from your list in Part 1)	What action is needed to address the causes of your concern, or the things keeping people from doing what needs to be done?

Part 4: YOUR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STRATEGY

Here we would like your comments on how we can improve the draft strategy. You can download a copy of the draft strategy using this link:

http://www.beardedcollieclub.co.uk/jblc/docs/breed_strategy_outline_Apr17.pdf

There are two areas you can comment on which will particularly help us: (1) the Strategic Objectives, (2) the Action Plans.

1 The Strategic Objectives

There are nine strategic objectives covering five key areas (shown in different colours in the draft strategy). The objectives set out how we will reach our long-term aims for the breed – i.e. **what we must succeed in doing** over the lifetime of the Strategy (5 years) to ensure a positive future for the breed.

You can help us by telling us:

Is the objective clear? (Is it clear what we want to achieve?)

What does 'success' look like? (What evidence will there be? How can we measure our progress?)

Strategic Objectives	Is objective clear?	What does success look like - how can we measure our progress?
These are Immediate Short-Term Priorities		
<p><i>Breed Promotion and Next Generation</i></p> <p>1. We will work to increase the number of people owning a Bearded Collie, breeding a litter or offering their dog to be used at stud to a level which removes the short-term risk to the survival of the breed in this country.</p>		
<p><i>Breed Community Development</i></p> <p>2. We will help breeders evaluate the risk of inherited health conditions by dealing with the barriers to open and honest communication.</p>		
These initiatives will be started now but will take longer to produce results		
<p><i>Breed Health & Sustainability</i></p> <p>3. We will aim to find ways of reducing the incidence of inherited health conditions and take action to improve breed health whilst minimising further loss of genetic diversity resulting from the over-use of popular sires.</p>		
<p><i>Breed Health & Sustainability</i></p> <p>4. We will use evidence-based approaches based on health surveys, screening, and reporting to help prioritise and guide health improvements in the breed.</p>		
<p><i>Breed Promotion and Next Generation</i></p> <p>5. We will continue efforts to bring new people with a wider range of interests into the breed and build strong mentoring relationships with them.</p>		

Strategic Objectives	Is objective clear?	What does success look like - how can we measure our progress?
<p><i>Breeders and Breeding</i></p> <p>6. We will provide suitable ways of enhancing the knowledge and experience of breeders and stud dog owners, aimed at balancing the art and science of breeding including resourcing the latest published genetic guidance.</p>		
<p><i>Breed Community Development</i></p> <p>7. We will work to develop a broader approach to breed community activities to encourage owners to get involved and increase the number of people with a stake in the breed's future.</p>		
<p><i>Breed Community Development</i></p> <p>8. We will ensure judges have information about breed priorities including breed type, character and temperament, which they can apply to their judging decisions.</p>		
<p><i>Breed Information Resources</i></p> <p>9. We will develop breed and health information resources including advice and guidance to meet the needs of everyone contributing to the long-term future of the breed</p>		

\continued on next page

2 The Action Plans

The **action plans** – these set out what actions are needed over the next year that will help us to meet our strategic objectives.

You can help us by telling us:

Is the action practical and will it contribute to reaching our strategic objectives? If not, what better way is there?

Who should be carrying out the action?

Has any action essential to meeting our strategic objectives been overlooked?

Action Plan	Who should do this?	Your comments (see guidance above)
<p>1. <i>Breed Health & Sustainability</i></p> <p>We will recommend that sires do not produce more than two litters per year (including personal use). <i>This figure is based on written communication from Tom Lewis (KC Geneticist) and is based on the numbers of puppies that were born in 2015.</i></p> <p>We will also look at ways of encouraging the use of other sires and less widely used lines.</p> <p>We will promote the Kennel Club Mate Select service and provide supporting information to help breeders to make better use of Coefficients of Inbreeding (COIs). We will investigate the provision of a more complete database with the Kennel Club to enhance the information provided by Mate Select.</p>		
<p>2. <i>Breeders & Breeding</i></p> <p>We will investigate the processes available for sperm banking.</p> <p>We will organise a Canine Reproduction Seminar.</p>		
<p>3. <i>Breed Promotion and Next Generation</i></p> <p>We will develop a 'mentoring/buddy' scheme to support current owners/breeders and the next generation of owners/breeders.</p> <p>We will work to encourage new owners into the breed.</p>		
<p>4. <i>Breed Community Development/Breeders & Breeding</i></p> <p>We will introduce a communication framework with guidance for the exchange of health information between breeders/stud dog owners when planning matings.</p>		

Action Plan	Who should do this?	Your comments (see guidance above)
<p>5. <i>Breed Information resources</i> We will aim to provide easy access to educational resources on a dedicated site.</p> <p>We will continue to promote BeaCon and will investigate and agree modifications to make it more relevant to the UK Bearded Collie population. We will encourage breeders to register their puppies with a follow up process supported by BeaCon.</p> <p>We will promote and encourage the ongoing collection of health data.</p>		

Has any action essential to meeting our strategic objectives been overlooked? Please give details below :

Action	Who should do this?	Which strategic objective does this action contribute to?

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

If there is anything else you think we should take into account in preparing the Breed Strategy, please add it below (or write it on a new page, and return it with your completed form).

Please send your completed form to:
 Yvonne Fox, Secretary - JBLC, Peters Bank Cottage, Harperley, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9TY
 Email: Y.Fox@bushbladesbeardies.co.uk

Thank you for your contribution

Please add your name: