

STCA Board Information

FOLLOW UP NOTES TO 12/22/2021 DISCUSSION/DNA DATABANK

Previously sent in an email on 12/27.

Request reading in preparation for 12/29.

Hi everyone,

Please read the following in preparation for our meeting set for this Wed., Dec. 29, 8:30 p.m. ET, our final meeting for 2021.

Please do not debate the subject on this email thread. hold your comments for our meeting on Wednesday. Please use the same ZOOM link as in the past meetings.

As a Board, we have a collective concern for the future of the breed. The development of a tool to help all breeders (members and non-members) of the pure-bred Scottish Terriers is paramount to the future. While many of us won't be around in 20-30 years, we will be creating a legacy that will impact the future.

The recommendation for an OPEN database is not a "bait and switch" as one of you indicated. Rather, it is a recommendation that has evolved, based on examination of the experience of other breeds, the evidence of how well the database is accepted and used by breeders as well as by researchers approved by respective Health Trust committees.

In an effort to clarify concerns raised in our call last Wednesday, I had a lengthy discussion with Marcia Dawson and Michael Bishop.

1) Ownership/Co-ownership. Ownership/co-ownership is indicated on the Scottish Terrier Club of America Health Trust Fund DNA Bank Agreement & Health Data Application.

For the few of you who have requested a sample collection kit, a co-owner (if there is one) is to sign off on the form before submission. (Screen shot of the form I am preparing for one of my dogs is attached)\*.

Once the database goes on-line, the process of indicating a co-owner will be even easier. Marcia indicated that we can add a check box on the appropriate data entry page where the submitter of a new dog will indicate "Acknowledgement and agreement by the dog's co-owner to submit the information into the open database". Checking this box will automatically result in an email to the named co-owner for confirmation. Any resultant conflict will be resolved between co-owners, and the dog's data will be flagged and held by the Admin until ownership and agreement are verified. The STCA will not police conflict in submissions.

The form does require names of owners and co-owners. Which is why I asked if anyone had read the material.\*

2) The Admin will verify all submissions for obvious errors and inconsistencies. Health information will be considered anecdotal until confirmation of diagnosis is received by the Admin from the owner. Veterinary records will not viewable in the public domain.—

-3) OPEN vs CLOSED - this is about:

- **All** Scotties. There are conscientious Scottie breeders who just want to have information to help them make informed and educated decisions about their breeding program. This is about promoting healthy litters for the future.

- **Honesty and fairness** to future breeders who use your dog and his or her ancestors in their breeding programs.
- **Voluntary participation.** You do not have to participate.
- An **invaluable tool for use in future HTF approved research.**

4) Concerns raised for those who have already submitted samples and mailed in the paper agreement form and questionnaire to M Dawson: The HTF Database Committee will notify these owners that the HTF has pivoted to an Open database, giving the option to remove their dog's information from public view but still to keep it accessible to the Admin and available for research. This is an easy fix. **Going forward, health data entered on any dog will be open to public view.**

5) STCA Code of Ethics - members of the STCA subscribe to the Code of Ethics established **“to set a standard of acceptable behavioral limits. The Code is designed to protect the interests of the club and to protect and preserve the Scottish Terrier.”** And, **“The Scottish Terrier Club of America was formed and exists to encourage and promote the responsible breeding and ownership of Scottish Terriers and to protect and advance the interest of these dogs.”** And **“Members should not misrepresent or fail to disclose known hereditary defects, health and physical condition of any stock offered for sale of breeding purposes.”**

I hope I have answered your questions. We will meet on **Wed., Dec. 29, 8:30 p.m. ET** to close out this discussion. Please be available.

Thank you, Lori