

The Dalmatian Breed Clubs have been very careful not to engage in public debate, nor express a view of any kind, on the question of the registration of imported Dalmatian/Pointer backcrosses until such time as the General Committee had arrived at its final decision on the matter.

The Clubs are naturally disappointed with the recent decision, although it was not unexpected in light of the General Committee's conclusion last year that it was 'minded to accept the registrations', even without first inviting or considering submissions from the Clubs.

Now that that decision has been made, the joint Dalmatian Clubs believe that it is important that the public is appraised of their reasons for opposing the registrations, which opposition was in accord with the wishes expressed at a meeting of Members held in October 2009. The matter was not taken lightly by the Clubs, which collectively spent considerable time in compiling factual data and analysis in respect of what they consider to be an extremely important subject. Accordingly, a copy of their submission is provided herewith.

Certain aspects of the published decision of the General Committee, which was advised to the canine press (but, regrettably, not the Breed Clubs) on 12 January, remain unclear and somewhat confusing.

The five years restriction before the issue of an export pedigree is in marked contrast with the Kennel Club's previous reference to such a restriction for a period ten years. No explanation is given, or basis provided, for this change in the relevant press release. Attempts to speak with Mrs Caroline Kisko to clarify this point have not met with success, nor have telephone calls been returned, but Mr James Skinner (Mrs Kisko's PA) stated that he had been instructed to say that the five year term is 'a General Committee decision, and the Kennel Club does not want to discuss it further'. Such apparent contempt towards a valid and objective enquiry from KC-registered Breed Clubs is deemed arrogant and unacceptable. Is it not important to the General Committee itself, let alone for the benefit of the Breed Clubs, that its reasoning is published and understood? Perhaps of even greater concern is the fact that we are led to understand that no reference was made to this amended time scale, when the matter was considered at the General Committee meeting on 05 January 2010, at which the conditional registrations were confirmed.

A further condition (it is not entirely clear whether or not this relates to the issue of an export pedigree) is that the owners of all progeny submit a health report after 5 years. It remains to be seen what constitutes such a report, and from where or from whom the various owners are to procure these health reports.

The Breed Clubs are equally confused as to how, or whether or not, Mrs Evans will pursue the registration with the stated conditions, since as recently as 09 January 2010, she published the statement that '*The KC offered me the 3 (sic) judge assessment to get my NUA's registered! but I refused to do it that way. I wanted them recognised as NUA's! with nothing to hide*'. Does Mrs Evans' position change, because only 2, not 3, judges are required first to assess the dogs? If so, what has really changed?

Though not directly related to the matter of registration, the joint Clubs are financing a DNA testing programme of a sample of UK Dalmatians, in order to assess the possibility of the dominant, wild-type, gene existing in the UK population. The selection of the appropriate sample which will give rise to the greatest possibility of locating this gene has demanded an intensive analysis by suitably qualified genetics and IT experts. Not surprisingly, this has taken longer than might have been hoped or expected initially and has been an arduous process. However, it is anticipated that the testing via the AHT will take place in the coming weeks.

To read the joint clubs submission to the Kennel Club click on the following link

[http://www.britishdalmatianclub.org.uk/downloads/Submission to KC.pdf](http://www.britishdalmatianclub.org.uk/downloads/Submission%20to%20KC.pdf)