

# The KarltonINDEX™

Measuring progress in the health of our dogs

NEWSLETTER Issue 1



## THE AWARDS' JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel for the Breed Health Awards is made up of a diverse group of eminent, dedicated professionals, all committed to dog health.

Nick Blayney

David Cavill

Chris Laurence

Harvey Locke

Dan O'Neill

Simon Parsons

Claire Rusbridge

Hannah Stephenson

Holger Volk

Sigurd Wilburg

## TWO YEARS OLD

The Karlton Index is now over two years old and in that time the project has changed quite significantly. It was launched by a person wanting to campaign for better awareness around breed health following the sad loss of their beloved German wirehaired pointer to familial idiopathic epilepsy. It is now run by a person who is applying their professional expertise, Human Resource Management, to some very challenging issues, and wants to develop a deep understanding of how they can be addressed. Of course, those two people are one and the same person. The shift has been brought about by simply engaging with the individuals who are driving progress in breed health, the health teams within the breed club system. Feedback they have provided on how this project can maximize its potential to support progress is invaluable and I would like to thank ALL of you who have provided that. Please keep it coming.

## TWO CURRENT PRIORITIES, ONE AIM

### 1. Breed Health Awards

These will be taking place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November as part of Discover Dogs at Earl's Court. The Kennel Club is our major sponsor and supporter. The aim of the awards is to recognize the hard work done by Breed Clubs, share good practice more widely within the breed club community, and raise awareness of the fantastic efforts being made. It is also an excellent opportunity to present the breed club achievements to the wider stakeholder group such as the veterinary profession, canine media and even those agents that are less than positive about pedigree dogs. To that end, as part of the event, a booklet showcasing examples of best practice will be published. I know there is a great deal of brilliant work being done on dog health, and see this as a chance for us to present it first to the judging panel (see side bar left) and then to a broader audience. The awards themselves will be in the form of funds to be re-invested in to health activities.

The deadline for applying has been given an extension, and is now the **end of June**. This is to accommodate the club committee decision making process and in recognition that I have been tied up with relocating from Yorkshire to Hertfordshire these past few weeks.

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*For all the information on how to get involved with the breed health awards go to [www.thekarltonindex.com](http://www.thekarltonindex.com)*

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## 2. Evaluation of the Karlton Index Framework

In the two years of its existence the project has received feedback from a wide range of people and organizations, from those who work directly on breed health, those who work in research and from key players in the field representing the Kennel Club and the Dog Advisory Council. All these perspectives will help to inform its development and this summer sees the launch of a formal evaluation exercise. To that end a series of hands-on workshops together with an online feedback process are planned, through which interested parties will be asked to review the framework. Details will follow.

### ONE AIM

All sides of the pedigree dog health debates can agree on one thing at least, the health issues in dog breeding, including the breeding of crosses, are complex and difficult. They need a concerted and collaborative response. The aim of the Karlton Index is to help foster collaborative responses, by

Recognizing the good work and practice implemented at breed club level.

Creating avenues for stronger knowledge sharing and learning.

Encouraging wider collaborative work, as illustrated here by the broad perspectives represented in the judging panellists.

Designing tools to enable the efforts and energies of breeder communities maximize their impact. As illustrated here by our plans to develop the Karlton Index in closer collaboration directly with those communities.

### THE KARLTON INDEX 2013

The improved scores of the majority of breeds in the 2013 index is testimony to the dedication of breed club health teams. For those of you have not yet caught up with those more recent scores the report can be found at <http://www.thekarltonindex.com/wordpress/scores-2013>

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***Grateful thanks must go to [the Kennel Club](#) for their significant support of the Breed Health Awards. Our working relationship is proving to be both fruitful and constructive.***

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