GLAUCOMA UPDATE

At the recent Breed Council meeting, the breed’s health coordinator Margaret Woods informed the Council that the KC/BVA/ISDS Eye Panel intend to move glaucoma in golden retrievers to Schedule A of hereditary eye disease. Although the date for this has not yet been announced it is likely to be 2020.

Glaucoma is the result of abnormalities in the drainage area of the anterior eye called the pectinate ligament. This is referred to as goniodysgenesis, pectinate ligament dysplasia (PLD) or pectinate ligament abnormality (PLA) and changes in this area are a precursor to glaucoma. The eye has to be examined by a gonio lens placed on the eyeball after local anaesthetic drops have been instilled in the eye. This has to be done before the dilating drops are applied for routine eye examination. The eyes are graded:-

0 – Normal

1 – Mildly affected

2 – Moderately affected

3 – Severely affected

Currently advice would be to breed from 0 & 1, only mate a 2 to a 0, and do not breed from a grade 3.

The chief panellist has informed us that, ‘In the face of the scientific evidence now available it is undeniable that Gonioscopic examination will be the necessary element of disease control for this dreadful painful and blinding condition, until a DNA test is discovered.’

The chief panellist has also stated that, ‘PLA in the golden retriever should be added to Schedule A but only after full consultation and liaison with your Breed Council.’

Until a definite date is announced, breeders are encouraged to begin testing their breeding animals. Testing is usually done every 3 years. Pet owners can also help if their dog is diagnosed with this condition by informing Margaret Woods directly (margaret.woods6@outlook.com). Your dog does not need to be Kennel Club registered but does need to be a pure bred golden retriever.

Once more information is available, ECGRC will post an update on our website and Facebook page.