



EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE NGRC's AGM, held 28 November 2012

Clarification of Intent: "Resolution 4.1.2.2 - It was moved GRC of NSW, seconded GRC of Queensland, that member Clubs consider inserting a Consent Clause (to publish hereditary disease test results) into their Codes of Ethics which members are bound to accept as a condition of membership".

Background-Rationale:

- **Role of the NGRC in hosting research:**
 - 2. (ANKC) REGULATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF NATIONAL BREED COUNCILS:**
 - 2.2 Any organisation formed for the sole purpose of promoting an interest in, or the improvement and development of a specific breed of dog, and/or varieties of that breed, may apply for registration with the ANKC Ltd, through the National Breed Councils Liaison Committee. Only one [1] National Breed Council shall be registered for each breed of dog, and that National Breed Council must accommodate all varieties of that breed, recognised by the ANKC Ltd (05/99)**
- See also - "Objects" at <http://ausnrgc.org/index.asp?ID=11>
- Until such time as the ANKC is able to agree upon and implement access to health test and DNA data, which is unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future, the NGRC has determined that it is within its function to provide golden retriever breeders with information upon which to make responsible decisions to breed.
- The intention of the NGRC's resolution is to progress the collection of hereditary disease test data in line with the NGRC's obligation to enhance the improvement and development of the golden retriever. At the 2012 AGM, the NGRC determined that this might be done via an additional, new clause within each Member Club's Code of Ethics, whereby club members provide universal consent to the collection, storage and publication (web) of hip and elbow evaluation data under the guidelines as outlined @ <http://ausnrgc.org/index.asp?ID=19>.
- Member Clubs might chose to deal with the resolution via a Notice of Motion to amend the Code of Ethics which is circulated to all club members, should this be deemed to be appropriate. Wording of the motion might be for addition of the following to membership application/renewal forms:

"The GRC of acknowledges the ANKC's Code of Ethics, Clause 4 - "Members shall constantly strive to improve their knowledge of their chosen breed or breeds, and their

knowledge of the requirements for the care, welfare and betterment of dogs". In order to promote the ideals of Clause 4, I / We consent / do not consent to hereditary disease evaluation (test) information relating to dogs owned by me/us being included in the National Golden Retriever Council's data collection and published on the NGRC's website under the guidelines outlined on its Research Data Collection page at <http://ausnrgc.org/index.asp?ID=19> ."

- The background to the motion relates to the NGRC's request for copies of the Willis data and the ANKC's extensive data collection of hip and elbow scores for the golden retriever. It is expected that the NGRC will receive the data at some point later this year once the ANKC finalises its protocol for the release of data. Because of Dr Willis's ill health during the late 1990s-early 2000s, more recent data was not published. However, the ANKC has the data and has produced golden retriever statistics in Dr Willis's "Sire x Progeny" format and this data is published on the NGRC's website - with the consent of the dog owners.
- A universal consent clause within Codes of Ethics will eliminate the task of requesting "informed consent" from each dog owner for publication of the data in a password protected open register. Consent may/may not be voluntary. (See the Consent Form @ <http://ausnrgc.org/index.asp?ID=19>)
- The development of the NGRC's data collection will be dependent on Club Secretaries or other designated person, liaising with the Secretary-Treasurer.
- Whether or not an amendment to member Club's Codes of Ethics is approved by its members, the following protocol for NGRC data collection/s applies:
- The source for raw data is the ANKC, the specialist radiologists (subject to unequivocal and informed consent), or that voluntarily submitted by individual dog owners.
- The data will be stored electronically by the NGRC Secretary. At this stage, the data will be published via link to Breedmate's World Pedigrees program (<http://www.worldpedigrees.com>) and will be accessible via password to all registered golden retriever breeders. As well as Breedmate's backup and storage facility, an offsite data backup and storage will be with Dogs ACT in the first instance. There is no cost involved.
- The World Pedigree database will be updated as new data is received. The NGRC Secretary will have sole responsibility for data updates until such time as the NGRC makes an alternative arrangement. No access to update data will be provided to any other person without the prior consent of the NGRC. Access to raw data will be limited to the ANKC and the NGRC Secretary.
- It has always been a vital role of Breed Councils to be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the breed they represent. The NGRC resolved to establish an Hereditary Disease database in 1996 and has maintained its support for such data collection for more than 16 years.
- Application of due process (such as voluntary submission of data; informed consent to publish, appropriate maintenance and secure storage) will ensure that the

potential for litigation is negligible.

- The harvesting and publication of K9 data is impractical, and, moreover, assumes that the data is accurate and collection is acceptable to the dog owner.
- Dr Wyburn's data was initially posted to the NGRC's website in 2008, and was maintained for several years. It was subsequently removed after Dr Karen Hedberg and Hugh Gent expressed their concern about the "strength" of Dr Wyburn's consent clause. The NGRC acted responsibly by removing the data and has now agreed that the Secretary should approach the individual owners of the dogs for renewed consent to republish.
- The NGRC strongly supports reputable research initiatives which explore the health and welfare of the golden retriever. Research cannot be undertaken without the cooperation of breeders. Significant moves are underway for university based research involving Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs), research which promises an improved insight into hereditary disease in the hips etc, and research which cannot be contemplated without an accumulated mass data collection.
- The NGRC notes the benefits to breeders of the Kennel Club's Breed Supplements, the KC data collection, the Standfast data collection, the American, Canadian, Norwegian and Swedish data collections, etc.