

DS surgery - the German experience

Thomas Laube & Martin Klopsch

About Thomas Laube (DE)

- 1977 - 1982: study of veterinary medicine at the Hannover Scholl of Veterinary Medicine
- 1983: awarded Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the Hannover School of Veterinary Medicine
- 1987 - present: owner of a small animal practice (Kleintierpraxis Dr. Thomas Laube) in Salzgitter, Germany
- 1997 - present: special interest in Dermoid sinus
- 2008: publication: “Vorkommen, Diagno-sestellung und Therapie des Dermoid Sinus” Hupfeld, Laube
- 1987: along with wife Dagmar, founded the Border Terrier kennel “The Red Grizzle Hunter”
- 1990 - present: breeder of Belted Galloways “Vom Fresenberg”
- 1991: founded Rhodesian Ridgeback kennel “Dhahabu”
- 1994 - 2001: Chairman of the German Rhodesian Ridgeback Breeders Society (DZRR), the largest Ridgeback Club in Germany.



Thomas Laube

Abstract

In the German Animal Welfare Act 11b, torture breeding is defined as follows: “Breeding animals in which traits are allowed or promoted that cause pain, suffering, harm or behavioral disorders in the animals.”

Approximately 4% of Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies bred in the world are born with a dermoid sinus. This defect is inherited. If a dog with dermoid sinus isn’t treated, sooner or later it will suffer from increasing pain and inflammation of the spinal column and muscles. The inflammation leads to lameness and limited mobility. In several countries in which Rhodesian Ridgebacks are bred, affected puppies are euthanized. In Germany, the breeding of a line of dogs in which 4% of puppies are euthanized violates the Animal Welfare Act and is therefore forbidden.

This presentation will show how every breeder can diagnose a dermoid sinus. I will show what has been ~~learned from several hundred dermoid sinus surgeries and~~ the post-operative healing. I will show that a puppy with dermoid sinus does not need to die or suffer; instead it can lead a normal pain-free life after a corrective surgery.



Martin Klopsch

About Martin Klopsch (DE)

Education and Profession:

- High School studies of science; Chemist (MSc)
- University studies of business administration (MBA)
- Managing Director Chemical Industry

Current:

- Doctoral programme student; working on PhD thesis: “Comparative study of the behaviour development of Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies (2 – 10 weeks) under varying rearing conditions.”

Honorary offices & scientific works:

- Founder and current President of Europe’s largest RR Club, the German Rhodesian Ridgeback Breeder Association (DZRR)
- President of German Kennel Association (VDH) - Section Lower Saxony, including 45 clubs of different breeds
- Publicly appointed and sworn expert for dogs
- Behaviour therapist and certified dog trainer, authorized by Chamber of veterinarian
- Publisher of study “The effect of Igf-1 gene on the enhanced growth of Rhodesian Ridgebacks in Germany”
- Support and sponsoring studies at University for Veterinarian in Hannover (DE): “Development of a molecular-genetic test method concerning the genetic-predisposition for Dermoid Sinus”

Abstract

Ethical senses in our society and given regulations in mainland Europe have started to associate our Rhodesian Ridgeback breed with a breeding of defects. Exemplarily the reportages of the BBC UK or the revised version of the German animal welfare act should be mentioned. From the breeders point of view we’re free, to accept a “Rhodesian Ridgelessback” in order to make animal rights activist believe that this is the solution. Alternatively, the selective separation of gene carrier off the breed programs, could also be an option to reduce the number of effected pups.

As president of the German Breeder Association Rhodesian Ridgeback (DZRR) I’m pleased to chair and oversee the project: “Development of a molecular-genetic test method concerning the genetic-predisposition for Dermoid Sinus” in cooperation with Prof. Ottmar Distl of Hannover University for Veterinarians (DE).