

2009 HEALTH SURVEY RESULTS

The 2009 health survey has been completed! Thank you to everyone who participated.

This is the first time that the TTCA was able to utilize an online health survey. OFA graciously provided the platform for the survey and tabulated the results for the Club free of charge. This not only reduced the cost to the Club, but also reduced paperwork and time required to compile the results into a usable form.

557 total responses were received accounting for 226 male and 326 female Tibetan Terriers. The number of people taking the survey appears to be in line with the 2003 survey (213 users using the 2009 survey for their "first" dog versus approximately 200 people who took the 2003 survey). 60.9% survey respondents filled out the survey for more than one dog.

The most highly reported condition was cancer. 75 (13.5%) dogs were reported to have had cancer with Lymphoma being the most prevalent cancer reported. Currently, the Tibetan Terrier Health and Welfare Foundation (through the AKC Canine Health Foundation) is helping to fund research into Canine Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. It is our hope that the research will give us new tools to diagnose Lymphoma as well as point to new methods of eliminating this cancer.

Skin disorders were the second most highly reported condition with 69 (12.4%) dogs were reported to have skin disorders. The most three most common skin disorders were hot spots, sebaceous cysts and seasonal allergies. Please note that the TTHWF is also helping to fund CHF research into Canine Atopic Dermatitis, a skin disease in which dogs develop hypersensitivity to food or environmental allergens.

In our previous 2003 health survey, eye and hip problems were ranked as most unwelcomed. In the current survey, 11.8% dogs were reported to have eye disorders. Senile cataracts, juvenile cataracts and PPMs were the most highly reported eye problems. 10.8% of dogs were reported to have orthopedic disorders. Hip dysplasia and patellar luxation were the most frequently reported orthopedic disorders. Continued use of screening examinations through CERF and OFA can help breeders to make informed breeding decisions which can help to reduce the incidence of many undesired orthopedic and eye problems.

There are a few other statistics which bear mentioning. Although cardiovascular disorders were reported in only 5.6% of dogs, 20 dogs were reported to have heart murmurs. Note, however, that the survey did not distinguish between "innocent" murmurs; puppy murmurs that later resolved, and other murmurs. 3.6% were reported to have chronic ear infections. 3.2% were reported to be hypothyroid. 2.3% of dogs were reported to be deaf. Again, OFA offers screening protocols and

reporting for deafness (BAER testing), congenital cardiac disease, and thyroid disease.

In addition, 3.6% were reported to have chronic ear infections. Irritable Bowel Syndrome accounted for 2.3 % of dogs.

In the 2003 survey, dog aggression was mentioned on some surveys. In this 2009 survey, 6.8% of surveys reported temperament disorders. Being Aggressive, separation anxiety and fear of noise topped the list of reported temperament disorders.

Finally, the 2009 survey asked users what they felt are the most important health issues in the Tibetan Terrier. Lens Luxation topped the list of concerns at 47.6% despite only one case of LL being reported. NCL/CCL was the second largest concern (43.6%) even though only 3 dogs had been reported to have the condition. Lymphoma was considered one of the most important health issues by 25.3% of those surveyed. Eye Conditions/Juvenile Cataracts and Skin Condition/Allergies were also among the top 5 concerns.

The results of this survey will be used by the health committee and the TTCA to not only track diseases and conditions that affect our TTs, but to determine where we spend our money. Again, thanks to all to participated. The results of the survey can be found at: http://www.offa.org/surveys/survey_tibetan.html.

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