

BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme Gonioscopy examination and PLA grading

A gonioscopy grading project was initiated by the BVA Eye Panel Working Party in July 2017.

Why was this grading scheme initiated under the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme?

The designation of 'clinically unaffected' or 'clinically affected' as specified for gonioscopy (G) on the previous Certificate of Eye Examination only provided two options and gave no indication of the range of appearances that may be encountered.

- The Eye Panel Working Party (EPWP) devised a simple grading system, based in part on the existing literature, which reflects more accurately what the Panellist observes.
- Grading provides owners and breeders with a greater level of information about the extent of any goniodysgenesis, especially the extent of pectinate ligament abnormality (PLA) as a proxy for the risk of glaucoma developing in later life.
- Grading should inform breeding decisions, particularly when maintaining genetic diversity is of concern. Breed Health Coordinators play a role in providing breeding advice.

The BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Examination Certificate allows recording of PLA grades, dogs receive a right and left eye PLA grade, and an overall result which is the higher of the two grades should there be any disparity between the two eyes.

Information relating to primary glaucoma and the PLA grading scheme is available on the BVA and Kennel Club websites, along with an updated version of the 'Hereditary eye disease in dogs' booklet. The Kennel Club Health Team have prepared a simple 'PLA breeding advice' document which is available on the Kennel Club and BVA websites and a copy is also accessible via the Flatcoated Retriever Society website health testing page.

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