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THE SOUTHERN MINIATURE BULL TERRIER CLUB BREED HEALTH SCHEME – HEARTS \*\*AORTIC STENOSIS AND MITRAL VALVE DYSPLASIA \*\*

These can be hereditary diseases of the heart which affect Miniature Bull Terriers. The mode of inheritance is currently a rather grey area, but it is known that Minis and Bull Terriers suffer from this condition, which can vary from a mild Grade I heart murmur through to a severe Grade VI. The milder end of the scale is best heard by a cardiologist as sometimes they are hard to hear and one day may not be present, but another day may be. The cost of a heart auscultation by a cardiologist (listening with a stethoscope) varies, but is about £40.

Following the recent heart testing session carried out by Dr Sonya Fonfara, Cardiologist at the Veterinary Hospital at Liverpool Veterinary University, The SMBTC have the following recommendations for its members regarding heart testing.

We would appreciate your help in compiling statistics for heart disease in Minis and ask that any animals tested either by auscultation or Ultrasound scan (Doppler) and particularly those which have flow velocity measurements, submit their result on the blue copy of the cardiology certificate (with name and dog name details removed if you wish). The blue copy can be submitted anonymously if you wish as this is simply to aid getting an accurate picture of the extent of heart disease in the UK population.

SMBTC STRONGLY RECOMMENDS:

1) Basic heart auscultation (listening with a stethoscope) – This should only be carried out by a Cardiologist. \*No Mini with a heart murmur of more than a Grade I should be bred from.\*
2) Ultrasound scan – To be carried out by a cardiologist, preferably on the panel of the Cardio-Vascular Society.
3) Ultrasound scan with flow velocities (Doppler) – To be carried out by a cardiologist, preferably on the panel of the Cardio-Vascular Society.

\*\*\*Cardiologist’s view : Usually 1.8 m/s is the cut-off value for normal aortic flow. Further scanning is needed to get more information on what is normal in this breed \*\*\*

\*\*It is recommended that animals with measurements above 1.8 OR which have had their certificate marked equivocal only be considered for mating to animals with readings of 1.8 and below to attempt to reduce the incidence of heart disease in the MBT\*\*. NB; see point 1 above.