

# GOLDEN RETRIEVER BREED COUNCIL

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**FROM: Margaret Woods - Breed Health Coordinator**

**3 August 2017**

Hello All,

## GONIOSCOPY & GLAUCOMA

Firstly, thank you for your patience, willingness to help and support for the battle against Glaucoma becoming a schedule "A" condition for our breed in the BVAKC eye certification scheme. I have been liaising with Dr Sheila Crispin, Chief Eye Panellist, over the past few months and she has listened and taken on board what we have said. Basically that there was no evidence to support that PLD (Pectinate Ligament Dysplasia) - the extent of drainage angle abnormality revealed by gonioscopy- significantly increases the incidence of Glaucoma.

I know James Oliver examined a number of Golden Retrievers (where he got the 230 from I have yet to establish, but it is irrelevant now.) We have to accept that they found some abnormalities in the drainage angles and if they had used the same criteria for our breed, as they have for others (Flat Coats, Spaniels etc.) we would have been on the "A" category next January and gonioscopy would have been obligatory for Golden Retrievers.

However, through persistence, liaison, and cooperation (and common sense!) the Eye Panel Working Party have re-examined the entire Glaucoma/Gonioscopy situation and have introduced a pilot scheme to grade the drainage angle abnormality for the **existing breeds** on schedule "A" for this condition. Attached is an explanation of how the pilot scheme will work. In essence there will not be "affected" and "unaffected" status, but instead grades of 0 - 3.

Breeders can go forward with breeding using the grading to plan future matings. Also there will be three year repeat examinations. The results will be recorded by the BVA. Hopefully the information will be analysed and give a better understanding of the relationship of poor drainage angles and Glaucoma.

On 30 July 2017, I had a meeting with Dr Sheila Crispin, and I am delighted to announce:

**"Gonioscopy / Glaucoma for GOLDEN RETRIEVERS is NOT to be added to Schedule "A" on the BVA/KC eye certification scheme from January 2018 or for any foreseeable date in the future, based on current available information."**

"WHEW"!!

Many thanks once again.

**Margaret**

Breed Health Coordinator