CHAIR HDC
Dr Jerold Bell

MEMBERS
Dr Helle Friis Proschowsky
Dr Åke Hedhammar
Dr Susan Little
Dr Leslie Lyons
Dr Monique Megens
Dr Cathryn Mellersh
Dr Claire Wade

The HDC is generously supported by:

PURINA Institute
Advancing Science for Pet Health
Overview of activities in 2019

HDC Committee presented a full day tract on hereditary diseases and management at the 2019 WSAVA Congress in Toronto.

HDC held two face to face meetings in Windsor UK (May) and Toronto (July) and one Skype meeting (Nov).

All HDC members continue to work on the improvement of hereditary disease in dogs and cats with veterinarians, breeders, breed organizations and companion animal health foundations in their respective professional positions.

Individual HDC members attended and some presented at the 2019 Dog/Cat Genomics Conference in Bern, Switzerland, 2019 International Society of Animal Genetics conference in Lleida, Spain, 4th International Dog Health Workshop in Windsor, UK, and 2019 VMX Conference in Orlando, USA.

The Committee met with Brenda Bonnett, CEO of the International Partnership for Dogs and committed to collaborative efforts to improve canine genetic health as well as setting standards for commercial genetic testing.

HDC member Åke Hedhammar is active working on both behavioral testing and hip dysplasia (especially in military working dogs) as well as on standardization of diagnosis, treatment and judging of dogs and breeds with Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome.

HDC member Monique Megens is active on the Independent Health Committee to the Dutch Kennel Club regarding Dutch legislative breeding restrictions on brachycephalic breeds.

HDC Chair Jerold Bell engaged with international genetic test providers regarding the validation of genetic tests offered to the public and genetic counseling recommendations.

Committee members Cathryn Mellersh and Jerold Bell presented to veterinarians and breeders on canine hereditary diseases and genetic testing at the Purina Partners Conference (sponsored by HDC sponsor Purina Institute) in Moscow, Russia.

The PennGen/WSAVA Genetic Disease/Testing Database continues to be maintained by past HDC Chair Urs Giger (sponsored by Mars Wisdom Health).
Plans and priorities for 2020

Formalize a long-term strategic plan for the HDC

Continue and enhance veterinary practitioner education on hereditary diseases, genetic testing and genetic counseling in pet and breeding cats and dogs

Enhance veterinary student education on hereditary diseases, genetic testing and genetic counseling

Enhance engagement with specialty colleges on hereditary diseases, genetic testing and genetic counseling

Utilize social media to broaden the reach and scope of HDC activities with veterinary practitioners and veterinary associations worldwide

Work on specific issues with validation of genetic testing and genetic counseling practices involving; publication, commercialization of genetic tests, recommendations for genetic testing, and genetic counseling in pet and breeding dogs and cats

Continue to support a WSAVA sponsored genetic disease/genetic testing database for both dogs and cats

Work with the International Partnership for Dogs on issues concerning hereditary diseases, genetic testing and genetic counseling

Foster feline veterinary, breeder and animal health foundation engagement on hereditary diseases, genetic testing and genetic counseling

Plan 2 Skype meetings and one face-to-face meeting at the 2020 WSAVA Congress

Present 1/2 day session on hereditary diseases and genetic testing at the 2020 WSAVA Congress