

Stationary Night Blindness – Position Statement

Further to the publication of the leaflet on 'Stationary Night Blindness – A Possible New Condition in Irish Setters' at Crufts the Association would like to reiterate it's encouragement of all Irish Setter owners to undertake the recommended check on the night vision of their dogs. This process is outlined both in the leaflet (which has now been sent to all ISAE Members with their copy of the 2008 Annual Review, and which is published on our web-site www.isae.co.uk) and in the 2007 Annual Review. If these checks identify issues or concerns, please raise them with Gillian Townsend – the ISAE's health representative for further advice.

On the advice of Cathryn Mellersh of the AHT and Prof Peter Bedford we would like to emphasize that there is a need for a calm approach to this condition. No further cases have, as yet, been made known to the ISAE. We do not yet know whether the condition is hereditary and we have been asked to emphasize that it is still being referred to by Professor Bedford as a form of night blindness, *probably* SNB. It can only be identified by an ERG examination under anesthetic. It is an expensive test and it is not recommended that dogs over 8 years of age are tested as the results are likely to be inconclusive. We would recommend that all dog owners have their dogs regularly examined by ophthalmoscope as a matter of course to monitor any eye conditions that may develop through the life of the dog. If no problem is revealed by this but you have concerns about your dog's night vision, then please notify the ISAE and your own Veterinary Surgeon, explaining the possible new condition and only then consider undergoing an ERG examination.

The ISAE will keep the breed informed of any further developments.