

**British Veterinary Association/Kennel Club
Chiari malformation / Syringomyelia (CM/SM) Scheme**

Appendix 1

Breeding recommendations until relevant EBVs are available

Explanation of syringomyelia grades

- **Grade 0**, normal (a = over 5 years of age at time of scanning; b = 3 to 5 years of age; c = 1 to 3 years of age).
- **Grade 1**, central canal dilation, CCD, which has an internal diameter of less than 2mm (age categories as above).
- **Grade 2**, syringomyelia, SM (central canal dilation which has an internal diameter of 2mm or greater, separate syrinx, or pre-syrinx with or without central canal dilation; age categories as above).

SM GRADE	AGE (YEARS)	BREED TO
0a (normal)	over 5	any
0b (normal)	3-5	SM grade 0a, 0b, 0c, 1a
0c (normal)	1-3	SM grade 0a, 0b, 1a
1a (CCD)	over 5	any
1b (CCD)	3-5	SM grade 0a, 1a
1c (CCD)	1-3	SM grade 0a, 1a
2a (SM)	over 5	SM grade 0a, 1a
2b (SM)	3-5	SM grade 0a, 1a
2c (SM)	1-3	Do not breed
Any dog with clinical signs of CM/SM	Any	Do not breed

Adapted from: Report from the Chiari-Like Malformation and Syringomyelia Working Group round table. Cappello R, Rusbridge C; Chiari-Like Malformation and Syringomyelia Working Group. *Veterinary Surgery* (2007) 36 509-12.

The aim of these breeding guidelines is to remove dogs with early onset SM from the breeding programme (please note: that in the opinion and experience of the above authors, it is believed that due to the complex nature of inheritance of CM/SM it is still possible that affected offspring may arise from Parents which are clear from or are only mildly affected by SM. (These are recommendations and the BVA and Kennel Club accept no liability for any breeding outcome).

Appeals Procedure

An owner has a right to appeal with regard to the results of a CM/SM assessment. The procedure shall be as follows:

- (a) any application for appeal against the result of a CM/SM assessment must be lodged by the owner with BVA in writing **within 45 days** from the date of dispatch from BVA. An appeal certificate (available to the submitting veterinary surgeon from BVA) must be completed within 30 days in a similar way to the original CM/SM certificate and submitted together with the re-grading fee (see Schedule 1). In the event of an appeal being lodged proof of posting will not constitute proof of receipt by BVA;
- (b) the MR images will be re-assessed by the Chief Scrutineer, whose decision is final, and the new grading result will be relayed in the normal way (NB the first result may already have been submitted to the KC for publication before the second result is received). In any event, the final result will be sent to the Kennel Club for publication.