

## **GOOD NEWS REGARDING THE INBREEDING COEFFICIENT (COI) IN THE NORFOLK TERRER**

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In 2012 the NTCGB Newsletter ran a lengthy article on Inbreeding and the usefulness of the Kennel Club's new program on the subject. At the time the COI for the Norfolk Terrier was **13.3**. We are extremely pleased to announce that our COI is now **12.9**. The idea is that the lower the COI is for the breed the better. This is because the higher the COI number the greater the chance of inheriting heritable defects. The COI is about protecting your breeding plans from hereditary problems already sitting in the gene pools of the dog and bitch. However, this does not protect the breeder from bringing in something entirely 'new' (a disease/condition we don't currently see) from 'out-breeding' or from 'abroad', or from novel mutations. We have seen this happen in recent years.

To find out what the COI is for the dog and bitch you wish to breed, the Kennel Club offers a tool called Mate Select. The Club's Breed Health Subcommittee encourages breeders to use it.

### **This is a statement from the Kennel Club**

Using this result to help make Breeding decisions

The current Kennel Club breeding guidelines state that, where possible, breeders should produce puppies with an inbreeding coefficient which is at, or below, the annual breed average (shown above) and ideally as low as possible.

Breeders should be aware that the inbreeding coefficient is a measurement of risk and does not guarantee that puppies produced will, or will not, have any health related issues. There are other equally important factors to also consider when deciding whether two dogs should

be mated together, such as temperament, available health test results, the general health of the dogs etc. Your decision should be well balanced between the inbreeding coefficient and the good qualities of the sire/dam that you are considering.