



**Autumn Meeting 2021**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

**Eastwood Hall, Nottingham NG16 3SS**

***Unnatural Selection: the Clinical Impact of Breed in Small Animal Orthopaedics***

The last few years have seen a shift in pet demographics: French Bulldogs have all but replaced Labradors as the UK's favourite breed, Dachshund numbers are on the rise, and UK dog numbers have increased by up to 3 million in the last year (refs: kennel club, Statista). Our clinical caseloads have reflected, or are likely to reflect, these changes, and we want the BVOA membership to be informed and prepared!

The BVOA Autumn Meeting will explore the impact of breed in Small Animal Orthopaedics. We will hear from Mr. Ian Seath, a change-management consultant who also happens to be Director of the Kennel Club and Chairman of the Dachshund Breed Council, amongst other roles. Ian will educate us on the structures and activities of the Kennel Club and breed health societies. We'll also be joined by Dr. Ian Varley, an exercise physiology expert who will talk to us about genetic factors in human performance and susceptibility to stress fractures. Dr. Dan O'Neill, from the RVC and VetCompass, will help us explore breed and other risk factors for canine joint disease, as well as highlight the value of epidemiology to the veterinary orthopaedic surgeon.

Of course, we will also be joined an impressive array of clinical and clinical-research speakers including Prof. Sorrel Langley-Hobbs, Prof. Eithne Comerford, Prof. Gail Smith (via video link), Dr Ulrike Strohmeier and Mr Mark Lowrie, to explore the impact of breed in susceptibility to orthopaedic diseases, clinical decision-making and our role, as experts in the musculoskeletal health of veterinary patients, in breeding and public education. All the usual conditions will be covered: CCL disease, hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, HIF, inherited feline conditions, IVDD...etc!

Ample time will be allowed for discussion, and delegates should arrive armed with their most pressing and probing questions relating to "Unnatural Selection: the Clinical Impact of Breed in Small Animal Orthopaedics".