

# Fixing Ancestral Problems. Genetics and Welfare in Companion Animals Focusing on Syringomyelia in Cavalier King Charles Spaniels as an Example

## CAWC

*Full report currently unavailable*

The aim of this workshop was to review the measures that are being undertaken to tackle genetic welfare problems, to look at the latest developments, identify bottlenecks and assess how these may be overcome. Three approaches were identified:

- Take steps to eliminate the problem through selective breeding, minimising further loss of genetic diversity (this approach is currently underway in the case of Cavaliers with SM and MVD).
- Outbreeding to another breed or breeds in a managed program.
- Not breeding from carriers of the disadvantageous trait (even if it meant, and if welfare is the priority, losing a particular breed).

The report recommended that in the case of Syringomyelia scientists and breed club representatives, facilitated by the KC, should devise a scheme for collecting MRI data for use in a program to reduce or eliminate the disease.