

Tangens Whippets

Whippets in quarantine part 2

The word quarantine comes from the latin word *quarantena*, referring to the 40 days of quarantine that Venice required on arriving boats to prevent spread of the Black Pest in the 14th Century. Well, 40 days of quarantine is not going to be enough for us here. More likely 400.

So how do we deal with the long quarantine?

For some of us, not much to complain about: long nice walks with wonderful Whippets. Here is Erkki with “The Magnificent Seven”, ages 1-11.



And nice rests after the walks. Above “Dash” (litter 2019; owner/photo Debra Stafford), and left Tiger (litter 2007) and friend (owner/photo Darin Marx)



(Of course you can't fit a face mask on a Whippet)



Kamio Sweet Taste of Tangens "Ella" 7 years old on 6/18/20

From Nancy Schoenfeld: "Our precious girl. So very loved and loving! She has an affectionate greeting for everyone of the four women in our social bubble.

We are doing well here in Carpenteria close to nature and the beach walks."



Tangens Sibelius "Iggy" 3/6/04 - 6/25/20

Iggy is from our very first litter, and he is the longest living Whippet of our breeding. You saw him in newsletter #65 when he and his owner Carol Svenson visited the Palm Springs Show in Indio in January this year. He didn't suffer from any specific disease, he just faded away from old age.

Tangens Antonio Vivaldi (litter 2011)

lost his best friend Tangens Moon over Maverick (litter 2007) to cancer. He still gets a lot of love and entertainment from his owners, Marilyn and Bob Riffle. Right: watching his owners play picket ball.



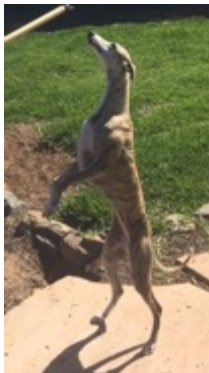
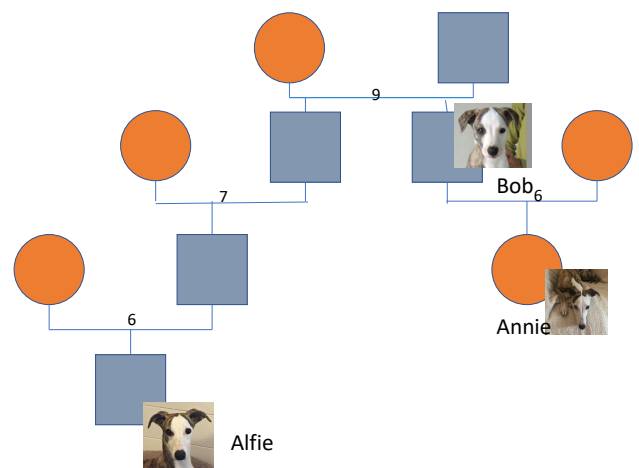
Whippet is generally a healthy breed. What do Whippets die from?

Heart disease gets a lot of attention in Whippets and many other breeds. Maybe because heart disease is the leading cause of death in humans? If you google heart disease in Whippets, you will get a web site that says: "Heart failure is the leading cause of death among Whippets in their golden years." Not true! Whippets have a tendency towards leaky heart valves, mainly the most important of them, the mitral valve. This will show up as a "murmur" (often called innocent) when you take your Whippet for an annual exam at the vet. This "murmur" is a late onset and slowly progressing condition. Do not panic when your dog is said to have a murmur!

I think the Tangens Whippets are typical: they start having a murmur around 10 years of age, and the grade of the murmur (1-6) may increase with age. Of the Whippets of my breeding – and others – the cause of death is most commonly cancer, followed by kidney disease and accidents. Of the 15 Tangens Whippets I know some of the details of the death of, only 1 died of heart disease. 9 died of cancer. It is not known why dogs get so much cancer in such a relatively short life span.

Genetics is sometimes complicated.

1. The genetics of heart disease in any kind of dog has not been determined - and not for lack of trying! Probably dependent on more than one gene.
2. Before "Bob" (litter 2009) was born, I had never seen so much white in the face of my Whippets. And after that, only two, Alfie and Annie, have had that pattern. Clearly a recessive trait.
3. Before I got Leazah from Sweden, I had never had a Whippet who would like to walk on two legs, Now I have her daughter Mona (litter 2019; left) who is equally good at it. Maybe a dominant trait.



If you want to check out the relatives of your Whippet, go to:
<https://whippet.breedarchive.com>

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