

AHT Hereditary Eye Disease

Q. Is there anything else you need to know about my dog?

A. Yes. We need a copy of your dog's pedigree and a copy of your dog's latest BVA eye testing certificate, confirming whether or not your dog is affected with HC or PRA. We need **both** of these pieces of information for your dog's DNA to be useful to us.

Q. My dog can help your research – what do I do next?

A. Contact Bryan McLaughlin at the Animal Health Trust by e-mail (bryan.mclaughlin@aht.org.uk) or telephone 08700 502 460 to request a DNA sampling pack. The pack contains:

- 2 cheek swabs
- Instructions for the successful collection of DNA.
- A Sample Submission Form for you to sign confirming that we can use your dog's DNA for genetic research. This form also contains instructions for your vet if you choose to submit DNA as a blood sample and information about where to send the swabs/blood, pedigree and eye examinations

For more information about genetic research at the AHT contact Dr Cathryn Mellersh - Canine Genetics Research Group Leader by e-mail (Cathryn.mellersh@aht.org.uk) or telephone (08700 502 460) or visit our web site: http://www.aht.org.uk/genetics_research.html



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Animal Health Trust

How You Can Help Our Research

The Canine Genetics Team at the Animal Health Trust strives to identify the genetic mutations responsible for serious and debilitating inherited conditions in the dog and to offer DNA tests that enable breeders to reduce the incidence of these diseases. One of our main areas of focus is eye disease.

Can your dog help the Animal Health Trust to conquer hereditary eye disease?





Success stories

In recent years we have successfully identified the genetic mutations that cause hereditary cataract (HC) in Staffordshire Bull Terriers, French Bulldogs and Australian Shepherds, early onset hereditary cataract (EHC) in Boston Terriers and cone-rod dystrophy in Miniature Longhaired and Smoothhaired Dachshunds and English Springer Spaniels.

This has allowed us to develop DNA screening tests that are now available to distinguish carrier, clear and affected dogs.

For a full list of DNA tests available from the Animal Health Trust, see (http://www.aht.org.uk/genetics_tests.html)



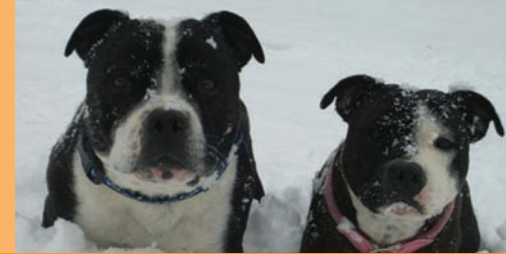
Current research

Funded by the Kennel Club Charitable Trust and the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, the same team of researchers are now studying the genetics of Hereditary Cataract (HC) and Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) in additional breeds, including:

- Golden Retrievers (HC & PRA)
- American Cocker Spaniels (HC)
- Tibetan Spaniels (PRA)
- Old English Sheepdogs (HC)
- Large Munsterlanders (HC)
- Rhodesian Ridgebacks (HC)
- Boston terriers (Late Onset HC)
- German Pinschers (HC)
- Siberian Huskies (HC)
- Samoyeds (HC)
- Malamutes (HC)

In addition to the breeds listed above, we are able to investigate the genetics of HC and PRA in *any* breed for which we have sufficient funding and are able to obtain the required number of DNA samples.

The success of our research depends largely on the successful collection of DNA from appropriate dogs. All research is carried out in the strictest confidence and we do not share genetic information about any dog with anybody except that dog's owner.



Can your dog help the AHT conquer inherited eye disease in the dog?

Below are some questions that will help you determine whether your dog can help us to identify the genetic cause of HC or PRA in your breed and develop a DNA diagnostic test to help eliminate the disease.

Q. Which dogs can contribute to the AHT's research?

- A. There are 2 types of dog that are useful to our research:
1. Any dog of any breed that has been diagnosed as AFFECTED with either HC or PRA by a BVA Eye panelist (or similar)
 2. Parents, siblings or grandparents of affected dogs.

Q. If my dog is either (1) or (2) listed above how can I contribute to the AHT's research?

- A. We need a sample of your dog's DNA. This can be collected from a small portion of any blood sample being collected by your vet for other purposes, or as a cheek swab that you can collect yourself.