



Animal Health Trust

media release

Tuesday 14 May 2013

DNA TESTING DISCOUNT FOR BREED CLUBS **The Animal Health Trust launches discount scheme on parentage and DNA profiling tests.**

The Animal Health Trust (AHT) is launching a new discount scheme for breed clubs, which it hopes will encourage dog owners to make the most of its parentage and DNA profiling tests.

The veterinary charity offers a wide range of services to improve dog health; including tests for over 20 specific conditions in 48 different breeds.

This new scheme is specifically for breed clubs, and offers group savings on DNA profiling and parentage tests. The more club members that participate in the deal and submit DNA samples, the higher the overall savings for that club will be.

Dr Nigel Holmes, DNA Testing Manager at the AHT, said: "DNA parentage testing is becoming mandatory in some countries, so this is a good opportunity to consider profiling your stock and to familiarise yourself with the DNA testing process. It's really easy to take a DNA sample from your dog, but if you have any concerns you can find a how-to video on the AHT website.

"A DNA profile for a dog is unique to that individual; the only exception to this would be for identical twins. By profiling their stock, breeders can be confident that there are no concerns about the authenticity of their lines.

“Health schemes for genetic diseases increasingly incorporate DNA testing and in order for these schemes to be successful, it is vitally important that owners invest in getting an accurate DNA test result from a reputable DNA testing centre, such as the AHT.”

DNA profiling has become the standard method for verifying parentage in humans and animals. It is being used in an increasing number of dog registrations, and is widely used to confirm the integrity of breeding records in Thoroughbred racing and agricultural stock.

The AHT records all DNA profiles on a secure database and can access those records on behalf of an owner, whenever they are required for parentage checking or to confirm the identity of a dog.

The current price of DNA parentage verification and DNA profiling tests is £25 each, excluding VAT, but breed clubs can expect to receive a discount on this based on how many samples they submit for analysis.

If you would like to know more about how your breed club could benefit from this offer, contact the AHT by emailing dnatesting@ah.org.uk or calling 01638 555 621.

Ends

For further information, please contact:

Katherine Lawson, AHT Press Office, 01638 751000 ext 1572.

Please credit all images to the Animal Health Trust.

Additional notes:

- The **Animal Health Trust** is an independent charity, employing over 200 scientists, vets and support workers. It aims to improve the health and welfare of horses, dogs and cats through research. It also provides specialist referral services and continuous education to vets. Visit our website at www.ah.org.uk