

DNA – database in Germany for all Pinscher and Schnauzer

Breeders and stud owners of all Pinscher and Schnauzer breeds (Miniature Pinscher, German Pinscher, Miniature Schnauzer, Schnauzer and Giant Schnauzer) are planning to establish a DNA-database for all these breeds. This project is supported by the TiHo Hannover (Veterinary Medical Highschool Hannover) and the PSK (German Pinscher and Schnauzer Club). This database shall form the basis for the development of genetic tests for hereditary diseases in all our breeds. We need as much blood samples as possible to build up a database the TiHo really can work with.

Old dogs are very important for the research even if they never were used for breeding. Please send blood samples of your seniors to the TiHo as well!

The first genetic tests we hope to get will be for HC and PRAA in German Pinschers. If any Pinscher or Schnauzer suffers from any other disease (toe-cancer, Myotonia, PL, HD...), which could be hereditary, please include your vet`s evidence to the sample and your pedigree!

PRAA (persistent right aortic arch):

As long as the puppies drink mother`s milk there are no problems in most cases. They grow and develop normally. After weaning they start to vomit their food. Most of the time the breeder does not notice that at once because the mother and the siblings devour the food at once. The PRAA-puppy can not keep up with its siblings, does not gain weight and never has a "baby belly" because most of the food does not come down to the stomach.

Very often the disease remains unidentified - even vets do not always diagnose it right. One of the common misdiagnoses is pneumonia. It is right that constant vomiting often comes along with inhalation of food particles into the trachea which leads to pneumonia. Although the puppies die from this pneumonia it is not the real cause of the problem!

Another misdiagnose is megaesophagus. The dilatation of the gullet is easy to be seen on x-rays but is not the cause of the disease - just a symptom!

To be sure that a puppy suffers from PRAA you need an x-ray with radiocontrast agent. This way you can see the dilatation of the oesophagus as well as the abnormal position of the aortic arch.

To find out for sure whether a puppy suffers from PRAA, you need an x-ray with radiocontrast agent. The examination painless for the puppy. It has to drink the contrast agent and can be radiographed some minutes later.

If a puppy has to be put to sleep because of PRAA it would be very important - as bad as it sounds - to collect blood from the poor baby before to send it to Prof. Distl of the TiHo Hannover. This way the death of the puppy will help to prevent other pups from the same bitter fate!

In case it is not possible to collect blood from a pup you can send a tissue sample to Hannover as well. You have to contact the TiHo before in this case!

Blood samples from affected dogs are most important to develop a genetic test for the prevention of mating two carriers and to produce further more puppies which suffer and die from PRAA!

Hereditary Catarakt:

- please send an ECVO-examination result (if possible - or another recommended vet`s diagnose) and the pedigree with your blood sample!
- if possible send samples from siblings of affected dogs to Hannover as well!
- if possible make further examinations of affected dogs to watch the development of the disease!

Thanks a lot from
german pinscher breeders