

# DBC NEWS

A news update from the **D**achshund **B**reed **C**ouncil

May 2010

## Research Testing for cord1 PRA in Miniature Wires

The Animal Health Trust has made the Cord 1 PRA test available to owners of Miniature Wire Dachshunds since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

They have now kindly offered to test a “research sample” of Miniature Wires to try to estimate the frequency of the mutation within the variety. To date there has been one “affected” dog and some “carriers” tested so the Cord 1 mutation is clearly in the Miniature Wire population, albeit in a very small way.

The Animal Health Trust is willing to do this testing free of charge and would report back breed statistics anonymously to the Breed Council as this data will help the Trust and the Breed Council determine the best advice for breeders to follow. Owners can receive their individual results.

**The testing needs to be done on 50 different dogs, by 50 different sires out of 50 different dams.** By testing this number of relatively unrelated dogs a fairly good estimate will be obtained of the frequency of the mutation within the breed.

Anybody willing to have their dogs tested should contact the co-ordinator Judy Squires (Miniature Dachshund Club) at 11 High Street, Hemingford Grey, Cambs. PE289DR, Tel. No. 01480 462813 or email [squires@wirehall.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:squires@wirehall.freeserve.co.uk)

Please state your name, address and telephone number - as the testing kits will be sent direct from the Animal Health Trust to the owner

- also the full name of the dog to be tested and the name of the sire and dam and whether it is of English, Continental or other breeding, as a good cross-section is required.

The names of those participating and details of their dogs will be kept confidential and will only be recorded by the co-ordinator and the AHT.

## Epilepsy Research

Scientists and clinicians at the Animal Health Trust ([www.aht.org.uk](http://www.aht.org.uk)) are embarking on an exciting project to investigate the genetic basis of epilepsy in the Dog. By combining the expertise of the clinicians to diagnose dogs with idiopathic epilepsy and state of the art genetic research capability they hope to identify the genetic factors involved. If the research is successful the end product will be a DNA test that can identify the risk of developing the condition and passing it on to future generations.

There have been cases of epilepsy in Dachshunds and the Breed Council would like to encourage breeders and owners to participate in this research.

### In This Issue

- **Cord1 PRA testing in MWHD**
- **Epilepsy Research**

<p>The AHT is collecting DNA samples from dogs that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Affected with idiopathic epilepsy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Closely related to a dog that is affected with idiopathic epilepsy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unaffected with epilepsy and over 7 years of age</li> </ul> <p>If you have a dog or dogs that meet any of the above criteria then the AHT would very much appreciate a sample from them. To request a free swab kit or sample submission form please contact the sample manager, Bryan McLaughlin (<a href="mailto:bryan.mclaughlin@aht.org.uk">bryan.mclaughlin@aht.org.uk</a>) indicating the number of kits you require and your full postal address.</p> <p>You will need to complete the sample submission form that is included in the swab kit and if your dog is affected please provide as much information about your dog's epilepsy as you can.</p> <p>It helps to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The age at which your dog developed epilepsy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How often he / she has a seizure</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How long the seizures last</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What tests or scans your dog has had to determine or rule out possible causes of the epilepsy</li> </ul> <p>Please also send a pedigree.</p>	<p>At the moment the AHT is in the initial stages and the project is likely to take several years to complete but the first, and arguably most important, step is DNA sample collection. Once sufficient samples have been collected they will analyse genetic markers distributed evenly across the dog's genome to identify those that are shared by all affected dogs and different from those carried by dogs that don't suffer from epilepsy. These markers will point to the region(s) of the DNA that contains mutation(s) that are responsible for causing epilepsy. Once they have determined the region of DNA that contains the mutations they can undertake additional experiments to identify the mutations themselves.</p> <p>If the AHT is to be successful they need DNA samples from dogs affected with idiopathic epilepsy and their close relatives, and also from unaffected dogs. The DNA can be provided as a blood sample (if blood is being drawn from your dog for another purpose) or as a simple cheek swab. They would also appreciate a pedigree of all dogs that donate a sample so they can understand how the samples are related to one another. This will help to develop an understanding of the mode of inheritance of the condition and how many genes are involved.</p> <p>All research is undertaken in complete confidence. The identity of all samples submitted to the research effort will be kept confidential and the results from individual dogs will only be shared with the dog's owner(s), once the research has been completed.</p>
---	--