



Research Project to Identify Genetic Mutation Responsible for Hereditary Cataract in Northern Breeds.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation has approved a two-year research application from Dr Cathryn Mellersh (Animal Health Trust, UK) and Dr Hannes Lohi (University of Helsinki and the Folkhälsan Institute of Genetics, Finland) to identify mutations associated with Hereditary Cataract (HC) in Northern breeds or 'Arctic' breeds.

In brief, the researchers will compare the DNA from dogs affected with HC with the DNA from unaffected dogs of the same breed, to identify regions of the genome that harbour mutations that cause HC in these breeds. Once mutations have been identified DNA tests will be developed that breeders can use to select dogs to safely breed together without the risk of producing affected offspring.

Sample Needed

To ensure success the project will need DNA samples from Siberian Huskies, Samoyeds, Malamutes and other Arctic breeds that are either:

1. Affected with HC. These are very important and the project cannot progress without them.
2. Unaffected with HC. Clear dogs, which will act as our controls, need to have a clear eye certificate, and the older they were at the time they were examined the better. Dogs that obtained clear eye certificates over the age of 6 will be particularly useful.

For ALL dogs sampled we need a copy of their 5-generation pedigree and a copy of their latest CERF (or equivalent) report, if available.

All research is undertaken in the strictest confidence. Once the research is complete and a DNA test has been developed the owners of all dogs that contributed to the research will receive their dogs results free of charge, upon request.

The DNA can be submitted as 5ml blood samples preserved in EDTA or as cheek swabs. Swab kits and full instructions can be obtained from the AHT by contacting Bryan McLaughlin (bryan.mclaughlin@aht.org.uk), +44 (08700) 50 24 60

For more information about the project please contact Cathryn Mellersh (cathryn.mellersh@aht.org.uk); +44 (08700) 50 24 60