

Labrador Breed Council – Health Sub Committee Meeting 19th April 2006

Present :

Dr J Sampson, Mrs M Brown, Mrs L Heron, Mrs J Hodge, Mrs J Cole, Mrs F Braddon

Summary of discussion

The main topic was Progressive Retinal Atrophy prcd1 test.

Optigen announced June 2005 that the gene test for PRA prcd1 was now 100%. The specific gene responsible for the condition had been identified. The previous version of the test was only markers.

In answer to issues raised by vets & some breeders about incorrect results of the test in the past – eg Pattern A dogs going blind & showing clear characteristics of PRA on examination, JS explained that there are 3 known types of PRA which affect the Labrador.

1. The most common type is **prcd1** which is the type the Optigen test identifies gene for and thus can classify dogs into 'Normal', 'Carrier' and 'Affected'.
2. There is also a very rare form **prcd2** found in a very small number of Labradors. (none in GB)
3. CPRA – also rare and is caused by a deficiency of Vitamin E, an antioxidant. Vitamin E is essential in retinal cells. This is a metabolic disorder where there is a deficiency in transfer mechanism. CPRA can easily be distinguished from GPRA on Ophthalmic examination.

Publication of Results

There is a precedent for publication of results in Irish setters. JS suggested the same procedure be followed for results of Optigen prcd1 test in Labradors.

The KC signs an agreement with Optigen on the procedure to be followed.

The dog owner 'signs' and agrees to a copy of the test result being sent direct to the KC. (as form for test is on line it is a tick box)

Results of test are then published in next available issue of the Breed Records Supplement.

Any dogs tested and results verified by Optigen using new Gene test from June 2005 can have KC registration endorsed if owner sends certificate to KC. This certificate must be sent direct to JS at the KC.

Any future progeny of dogs with Optigen prcd1 status will have KC registration certificates marked with result.

If both Sire & Dam are status 'Normal' all progeny will be 'Normal'

A decision should be taken by breed clubs as to whether litters from 2 clear diogs should automatically be 'Normal' (clear) by parentage or it should be a requirement to test progeny or if both parents and pups should be DNA profiled in order to categorically prove parentage.

Before results can be published in BRS there must be a mandate from Labrador Breed Council.

Currently Optigen only issue certificates for 'Normal' dogs, only Emails or faxes are sent for Affected and Carrier status. FB expressed concern about this as Emails can be maliciously edited.

Note Optigen have changed practice due to pressure applied by breeders and are to issue Certificates for all dogs tested from July 06.

Advice on using Optigen test for prcd1 in breeding program.

- **Do not mate carrier to carrier**
- **Do not mate carrier to affected**

- **Normal can be mated to carrier** but all progeny should be tested to establish status. All puppies should have KC registration endorsed 'Progeny not eligible for Registration' This will not be lifted by KC until pup is tested.
- **Affected to Normal** Test all progeny + endorse all KC registrations
- **Normal (by parentage) to affected**
All progeny must be tested.

JS is to produce an advice sheet which will be freely available to breeders through the KC

JS emphasised that new genetic tests were not 'be all & end all' – we must select on other important characteristics too – Temperament, Hips, type, conformation. It is not good practice to select on test results alone as has happened in Germany & Switzerland.

Microchipping

JS and the HSC were generally in favour, particularly as a clear permanent identification is important for all health tests.

JS pointed out that there is still opportunity for fraud whereby a dog can be microchipped, taken to vet for blood test, vet verify chip no and sign form but it is still possible that KC registration no does not match actual dog in vet surgery !

MRD

The HSC produced a list of dogs who had MRD diagnosed at one Eye test and were pronounce free at next test. MRD does not cause sight impairment. JS has agreed to write a paper to recommend KC BVA panel stop marking Eye certificates with MRD results(deregulate)

Accredited Breeder Scheme

Changes to requirements for ABS

Mandatory – Hip Score, Eye Certificate

Recommended - Elbows, PRA prcd1 DNA test

If there a problem with a kennel where it is suspected ABS rules are not being followed the public are encouraged to complain to KC. A visit by an inspector is promised with action taken to remove ABS status if breeder does not meet standards.

Hereditary Cataract

Optigen are researching this condition and have put a call out for blood from affected dogs – must be bipolar cataracts. Clinical diagnosis is clearer in bipolar cataract. Optigen will pay postage for samples to be sent to USA. Contact JS or Optigen via their website.

Haemophilia

There have been 3 or 4 cases in GB last year. Inheritance same as human – Females are carriers and only pass condition on to their male offspring.

Labrador Myopathy.

A few cases have been found. A research project is established under direction of Dr Binns at Royal Veterinary College. A gene test exists offered by a laboratory in France. This is a generalised muscle wasting disease.