



Canine Genetics Progress Report

Breed: Lancashire Heelers and Miniature Bull Terriers

Condition: Primary Lens Luxation (PLL)

Date: 25.10 2008

Funding:

- Funding Body:* Kennel Club Health Foundation Fund

Amount: £83,281 (including £8000 from Miniature Bull Terrier Breed Club)
this grant was to study four inherited conditions, one of which was PLL

Start Date: March '03, 24 months
- Funding Body:* Kennel Club Health Foundation Fund

Amount: £49,823 (including £2000 from Lancashire Heeler Breed Club)

Start Date: March '05, 24 months
- Funding Body:* Canine Health Foundation (American Kennel Club)

Amount: \$9586

Start Date: January '05, 12 months
- Funding Body:* Canine Health Foundation (American Kennel Club)

Amount: \$12927

Start Date: February '07, 12 months
- Funding Body:* Miniature Bull Terrier Club

Amount: £12,000

<i>Start Date:</i>	February '08, 12 months
6. <i>Funding Body:</i>	Belgian Tibetan terrier Club; donations from individuals
<i>Amount:</i>	£2,800
<i>Period:</i>	January 01, 2008 - present

The Primary Lens Luxation research project is a collaboration between Cathryn Mellersh (AHT), David Sargan (University of Cambridge) and David Gould (Davies Veterinary Specialists).

Progress Update

In our last report we highlighted a couple of problems we had come up against, and detailed a set of experiments we were planning whereby we would analyse virtually every marker in the region of the PLL mutation in 96 dogs, which would be a mixture of affected and unaffected Miniature Bull Terriers and Lancashire Heelers. To enable us to select markers and plan these experiments we have had to write a bespoke computer programme, which is now finished, and our list of markers has been finalised. We hope to receive data back from this experiment by late March/early April. The experiment will cost £14,100 which, thanks to the generous donations we received during 2008, we are in a position to afford.

In our last report we also included a plea to owners of older miniature bull terriers who had never developed PLL to get in touch and let us know about them, including a DNA sample if they had not already sent us one. We have had a fairly good response, and now have a number of older confirmed 'controls' but we would encourage anybody who has not yet updated us to please do so in the next weeks. We will soon compile a list of dogs whose DNA will be used for the experiments outlined above and these older controls will be among those included.

The collaboration continues to thank everybody who has made a financial donation to support our research studies. All donations to support our research are truly appreciated by both organisations. The figure quoted above illustrates how expensive this sort of genetic research can be. We are very lucky to have this fantastic technology, which was developed for human genetic studies, available to our dogs, but it does unfortunately come with a high price tag.