

Miniature Schnauzers

Micobacterium Avium Complex (MAC)

News from the US where Urs Giger & his team at PennGen (University of Pennsylvania) have announced a DNA test for MAC

Whilst thankfully very rare (just 2 published cases in the UK in the last 7 years), it's also an inherited and life-shortening condition. It can present itself in a number of ways and may impact on very young or very old humans or those with compromised immune systems.

The DNA test (again, obtained via cheek swabs) will: (a) confirm Miniature Schnauzers clinically affected; (b) identify Minis at risk of developing MAC (from birth & before showing signs); (c) detect Minis that carry the gene but remain clinically asymptomatic but can pass it on to offspring or; (d) confirm Minis which are clear of the problem gene

The American Mini Club and the SCGB recommend that caring breeders should have their Minis DNA-tested as, once again, this condition could be virtually eradicated within a generation.

For testing details (also done simply with cheek swabs) you need to set up an account – the process seems fairly easy – to pay the test fee of \$75 (about £58), go to <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/InstructionsforSampleSubmission/SubmissionForms/tabid/2860/Default.aspx>

Need further information about either test? Contact the breed health coordinators: Tony McDermott (email: Lichstone@aol.com) or Christine Ellingworth (doncleve@me.com)