

Recommendations for Eye Testing Update May 2013

Congenital Hereditary Cataract (CHC)

The Animal Health Trust's recent initial bit of research, (recent Whole Genome Scan) suggested that CHC in the Miniature Schnauzer is not a simple recessive condition and so the BVA Eye Panel Working Party have been made aware of this.

If it is dominant, of course only one of the parents needs to be a carrier, but until we understand at least some of the genetic architecture underlying CHC (which we very much hope will be revealed by a second genome scan!) and because our dataset of 16 cases and 16 controls was small, it is impossible to entirely exclude it being recessive.

Source: AHT May 2013

Hereditary Cataract (HC)

There's a strong chance HC is complex – so there is more than one susceptibility gene in a given breed. That's what our current research is suggesting in other breeds.

To be clear, HC could be caused by either:

- a) more than one gene, either of which could come from either parent;
- b) a problem gene in both parents + another problem gene from one or both

Source: AHT May 2013

SCGB Recommendations:

For both conditions, the safest route forward for caring breeders at present, is they continue to be guided by current 'best practise' recommendations:

1. If a dog is certified as 'affected', then both parents should be viewed as 'carriers'. The mating should not be repeated.
2. The 'affected' should not be bred from.
3. As both parents are viewed as 'carriers', in an ideal world, they should be taken out of breeding programmes. However, great care must be taken if used in any on-going breeding plan. The breeder/stud dog owner must make every effort to ensure the puppy-seeker / bitch owner is fully aware of these current 'best practise' guidelines.
4. Similarly, great care must be taken when using siblings of the 'affected'; although, in an ideal world these should not be bred from. Here too, the breeder/stud dog owner must make every effort to ensure the puppy-seeker / bitch owner is fully aware of these current 'best practise' guidelines.
5. In an ideal world, owners of all other progeny of the sire or dam should be advised of the test result, so that they too can take great care in planning any breeding programme.

If my dog is diagnosed with CHC, HC or PRA, why should we tell anyone?

Things occur even in the most carefully planned breeding programmes; it is only through exchange of information that will we eventually eradicate these problems from our favourite breed.

It is important to tell the owners of the sire and dam, because that mating should not be repeated. In an ideal world, neither parent should be bred from again. It is also important to tell owners of the other puppies in the litter, because again, in an ideal world, those should not be bred from either.