

Pituitary dwarfism in German Shepherd Dogs
-The Genetic Test-
Measures taken by the Dutch GSD Association - V.D.H.

This is to inform you about the communication of the **Dutch GSD Association - V.D.H.** - with Dr.Kooistra, University of Utrecht. The GSD Board of the Netherlands has taken a stand in accordance with Dr. Kooistra. In the April-magazine (page 9) of the V.D.H. is published an article with official advice of the Board of the V.D.H. to all breeders of GSD.

Peter van Oirschot

PUBLICATION OF THE BOARD OF THE V.D.H. = GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG ASSOCIATION OF THE NETHERLANDS
V.D.H. magazine April 2009 page 9

MEASURES AGAINST THE MUTATED GENE THAT CAUSES PITUITARY DWARFISM IN GSD

The ideal situation to get rid of dwarfism would be testing all breed animals once to check them for carrying the gen. For practical reasons this approach will be difficult. That is why it is reasonable to start testing the groups with the most risks.

The Board of the V.D.H.-Netherlands advises to test for the gene that causes dwarfism:

1. All males with more than 10 (expected) matings, because they have a genetic impact on the breed population.

2. Related GSD, if it is not proven that both parents are free from the dwarf-gene, to a proven carrier or dwarf within the first four generations of its pedigree. These animals have a chance of 1 to 16 to be a carrier itself.

Carriers should only be combined with dogs that are proven free from the dwarf-gene. The results are: dwarf; carrier of the gene; free from the dwarf-gene. You can download the forms beneath to be used by your vet.

The opinion of the V.D.H. board is that it is not done to breed with a dwarf. This is forbidden by the breed specific regulations in the V.D.H.-NL (you are not allowed to breed with a dog which is suffering from a genetic defect itself). So it is never allowed to breed with GSD dwarfs (mostly they are sterile, infertile). It depends upon the amount of GSD that apparently will be proven carriers to decide whether it is advisable to breed with carriers. If the incidence of carriers is very low the V.D.H board advises not to breed with carriers. If the incidence of carriers is higher than the V.D.H board advises to use these dogs intelligently by crossing carriers only with dogs which are proven free of the dwarf gene. To exclude carriers of the dwarf gene for breeding would be unwise because the population would loose its genetic variation. This would increase the chances for other genetic defects.

The V.D.H. board asks politely for your full support and complete openness and transparency.

THE BOARD OF THE VDH-NETHERLANDS

IF YOUR DOG IS NOT A CARRIER, YOU WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE THAT CONFIRMS YOU'RE DOG IS FREE FROM THIS GENETIC DEFECT (pituitary dwarfism). THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR BREED DOG AND ITS OFFSPRING.

THE WAY THE TEST IS DONE

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE FORM BENEATH

**DOWNLOAD: Pituitary dwarfism in German shepherd dogs
(triple) -Availability of a genetic test-**

(Send 2 forms + blood sample +copy of pedigree by your vet to University Utrecht; 1 form for your vet ;)

Name of owner of the dog:.....

Address, country/postal number.....

I declare that the results of the test can be used in a database to eradicate this disease and will be communicated to the breed organisation in the Netherlands

Signature of owner of the dog.....

Name of the dog

Tattoo number and/or Chip number

Pedigree registration numberDate of Birth.....

Name Sire:..... Reg.Number.....

Name Dam:..... Reg.Number.....

For the genetic test, 4 ml. of blood (collected in an EDTA containing tube) is needed. The blood sample + copy of pedigree has to be shipped to:

Dr. H.S. Kooistra (H.S.Kooistra@uu.nl)

Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University

Yalelaan 108 3584 CM Utrecht, The Netherlands

The costs of the genetic screening for the mutation that causes pituitary dwarfism in German shepherd dogs are Euro 100 (excl. VAT)

The Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals of University Utrecht will charge you. After your payment they will sent the result of the Genetic Test. If your dog is free from the mutated gene that causes Pituitary dwarfism in German shepherd dogs you will receive an official certificate from the University of Utrecht...

BLOOD SAMPLE SEND BY Veterinary surgeon:.....

Please stamp of veterinarian practise and signature of vet.,

I hereby declare I identified the dog very carefully

(stamp + signature)