

Potential DNA (Parentage Test) - within the UK

The two emails below explain my initiative for facilitating a DNA parentage test here in the United Kingdom, and one that is compatible with the SV DNA parentage system, and which could be administered by the GSD Breed Council.

From: David Payne

Sent: 10 January 2009 09:07

To: Wendy; Andrew Winfrow; Brigid Newlands; Sheila Rankin

Cc: Carole Lister; Chris Hazell; David Hall; John Ward; Nikki Farley; Paul Bradley; Philip Prince; Steve Foran

Subject: CANINE DNA TESTING and DNA profiling LINKING with DNA parentage testing

To: The GSD Breed Council & BAGSD & the GSD League (The GSD-UK Partnership)

I am very interested in a DNA Parentage Testing System being introduced in the UK for German Shepherd Dogs. I would also wish this to be linked with an Identification System of a Tattoo/Microchip requirement.

I contacted the Animal Health Trust by telephone and discussed at length what they currently offer, following which **I wrote my email below** to the persons I was advised could provide the answers to my consequential questions.

I received a reply from Nigel Holmes (below) and his reply offers considerable potential for the introduction of a DNA Parentage Testing System within the United Kingdom for our breed.

I would NOT hold my breath waiting for the Kennel Club to facilitate this, however with our new and potentially very promising GSD-UK Partnership being inaugurated recently, I felt this issue would be perfect for them to facilitate for our breed here in the UK. This would clearly demonstrate that the GSD-UK Partnership are proactive in introducing valuable Systems into the UK for our breed, in line with their individual Organisations history in relation to The Hip Scheme, The Tattoo Scheme and Haemophilia testing scheme.

I hope the GSD-UK Partnership will pursue this initiative with some vigour and determination, our breed needs such an approach with its attendant publicity, it will certainly generate enthusiasm and support for your current dealings with The Kennel Club.

I have emailed Reinhardt Meyer SV National Breed Warden, separately regarding compatibility of the AHT and SV DNA Parentage Tests. I can forward you a copy of my email if you wish.

Best regards

David Payne

VIDEX GSD

From: NIGEL HOLMES (Animal Health Trust (AHT))
Sent: 09 January 2009 15:00
To: David Payne; MARK VAUDIN
Subject: RE: CANINE DNA TESTING - LINK ON MY WEBSITE? and DNA profiling
LINKING with DNA parentage testing

Dear David,
Thank you for your e-mail
Please do go ahead and put a link to our web-site.
We do offer profiling and parentage, although the two schemes are not identical.

Our parentage service is currently run on a confidential basis to the client - however, if GSD clubs wanted us to set up a system where results could be released to the club or clubs then we could certainly do that. It would be made clear on the form that results would be sent on a regular basis to a third party and clients would then sign to confirm that they had read and agreed with those terms. Any breeder not signing could not, therefore, submit a sample for that profiling/parentage service. The current DNA profiling service is a separate scheme from our parentage scheme - the profiling scheme is in fact run jointly with the Kennel Club whereas the parentage scheme is not.

I am not sure why our results would not be compatible with those of other laboratories, such as those in the SV Germany scheme that you quote. However, the current situation for DNA profiling of dogs is not as straightforward as it could be and there are several standards in operation. We use a standard from the International Society of Animal Genetics (ISAG) which is supported by a two year international comparison test run by that organisation - this enables us (and other laboratories around the world) to standardise the profiles which we hold on our databases and ensures that the profiles from one laboratory are compatible with those from other laboratories. We can therefore exchange profiles with other laboratories and use those profiles, for example for verifying parentage. The original ISAG standard (ISAG2004) has now been replaced by another standard ISAG2006. We can do profiles to either standard, although our joint AHT/KC Profiling Scheme is run on ISAG2004. We do however do parentage analysis to ISAG2006. I would need to know a little more about the technical details of the SV Germany scheme to be able to confirm whether their profiles are compatible with either of these ISAG standards - although most European testing labs do use the ISAG standards.

I hope that answers your questions,
Regards,
Nigel Holmes (AHT)