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UNIVERSITÄT BERN

Study about cataract in Newfoundland dogs

Important information

What is this disease and what is the purpose of this study?

The cataract represents one of the most common causes for blindness in dogs. This disease leads to a partial or a totally clouding of the lens in the eye. Relative common for old animals, there is also a congenital form that occurs occasionally in young animals. This hereditary cataract is already described in around 100 different dog breeds.

At the genetic level, several inheritance patterns are already known: autosomal recessive or dominant. While several genes leading to cataract are already known in human, only a few, such as HSF4 or SCFD2, are known in dogs.

With the collaboration of the Swiss Newfoundland Dog Club, the Institute for Genetics of the University of Bern would like to investigate the genetic origin of cataract in this dog breed.

Which dog can take part in this study?

- We are looking for Newfoundland dogs affected by hereditary cataract before the age of 36 months (**cases**) and their related parents (full or half siblings, parents, offspring).
- Unaffected animals with or without related affected dogs are also welcome (**controls**).

What should I send to the University of Bern to support this study?

For all Newfoundland dogs taking part in this study:

- 5ml of EDTA-blood (anticoagulant). This blood sample can be simply taken by your private veterinarian and could be combined with other routine examination (vaccines, check-up, etc.)
- A copy of the pedigree.
- Completed and signed consent form.

For the dogs affected with cataract:

- In addition to the above documents; a copy of the examination reports done by a specialist.

The participation to this study is free of charge and all information is treated confidentially. Thank you for your support!

For questions:

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