

DNA testing scheme for dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in Schnauzers approved by KC.

The Kennel Club has approved the DNA testing scheme for dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in Schnauzers, a heart condition that results in inefficient pumping of the blood, in Schnauzers, following consultation with our breed health co-ordinator (BHC) and our breed clubs.

DCM in Schnauzers has been found to be 'early onset'; with dogs as young as 10 months being diagnosed with this condition. Most affected dogs only live a few weeks from diagnosis and, because the condition is recessively inherited, both parents must be carriers of the mutated gene. In random tests of around 600 Schnauzers, some 20% were found to be carriers.

Caroline Kisko, Kennel Club Secretary, said: "This DNA test will help to enable breeders of Schnauzers to eradicate this condition, so we would encourage anyone breeding, or thinking of breeding, to utilise this test to protect and improve the health of your breed.

"The Kennel Club constantly reviews DNA testing schemes in conjunction with breed clubs to ensure that breeders are supported with resources which help them to make responsible breeding decisions. This will also help puppy buyers to know which conditions affect their chosen breeds so that they can ask breeders about them when they are researching getting a dog."

Test results will be added to the dog's registration details which will trigger the publication of the result in the next available Breed Records Supplement. The result will appear on any new registration certificate issued for the dog and on the registration certificates of any future progeny of the dog, and also on the Health Test Results Finder on the Kennel Club website.

Results for dogs already tested can also be recorded, but owners will need to submit copies of the DNA certificates themselves. If the owner includes the original registration certificate for the dog (not a copy) then a new registration certificate will be issued, with the DNA result on it, free of charge.

DNA test certificates should be sent to our BHC (Lichstone@aol.com) and Health and Breeder Services, The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, London, W1J 8AB or scanned and emailed to hbs@thekennelclub.org.uk.

NSC & SCGB recommended this test be undertaken by UK Schnauzer breeders since 2016.

For more information, contact our BHC (Tony McDermott) via Lichstone@aol.com