

Tiedote laekenois'n DLA-kartoituksesta ulkomaisten koirien osalta

Johtokunta on kokouksessaan päättänyt maksaa ulkomaisten koirien DLA-analyysin, mutta ei näytteenotto- ja lähetyskustannuksia.

Johtokunta päätti rajata oikeuden ehdottaa ulkomaisia koiria viidelle kasvattajalle ja tutkimusryhmä valitsi seuraavat laekenois-kasvattajat:

- Acktiva
- Blackroyal's
- Eloketun
- Rupurakin
- Valkohampaan

Valinnassa on otettu huomioon kasvattajien viimeiset laekenois-pentueet kymmenen vuoden ajalta. Tutkimusryhmä ja SBPKYn johtokunta haluavat antaa näille kasvattajille mahdollisuuden kartoittaa tulevien pentueidensa ulkomaisten isien DLA-variaation.

Ulkomaista urosta tulee ehdottaa tutkimusryhmälle, mutta yhteydenpito uroksenomistajaan ja hänen ohjeistuksensa on kasvattajan omalla vastuulla.

Näytteen tulee olla eläinlääkärin ottama verinäyte tunnistusmerkitystä koirasta. Koiran sukutaulu tulee liittää mukaan.

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Laekenois DLA diversity project in Finland

Belgian Shepherd Dog Association of Finland has decided to give a hand to the laekenois breeders in the form of providing 5000 euros to the sample collection and DLA typing within Finland. 2010 will be year of collecting samples and in the end of the 2010 the analysis will begin.

The analysis will be done in Genoscooper Ltd in Finland.

Genetic diversity is in many cases lost in breeding. Close inbreeding and creating of dog breeds will lead always to closed populations and strict selection of breeding animals will lead to loss of genetic diversity. The loss of genetic diversity will decrease the vitality of the breed as well as increase occurrences of certain diseases.

DLA typing means analysing of major histocompatibility complex (MHC) genes. These genes make a distinction between self and other. So they work as a natural defence mechanism. The recognition is connected to so called hyper variable areas in the genes and increase of homozygosity in those areas due to inbreeding will increase risks of autoimmune diseases like diabetes, atopia, hypothyroiditis and different forms of inflammatory disorders. Even now there is evidence of certain haplotypes of MHC to be connected to autoimmune diseases.

What is the use of DLA typing?

When a breeder is planning a litter in such a small population where many of the individuals are closely related we need to take care not to increase homozygosity. If we are not careful and use all the tools modern genetics can provide in the addition of breeders personal skills and inter-variety breeding we are in danger to lose laekenois variety.

So for the breeder it is just another tool to select breeding individuals. However it is not the only tool as all the traditional tools that have been used since beginning of Canis Familiaris will apply still.

In order to get to this point we need to know the amount of DLA diversity in the level of population so we can understand the value of DLA diversity of single individual.

In Finland we will analyse two or more individuals of every laekenois litter born when samples are available to us. This will form the basis of the population. In addition to that we have agreement that the breeders can select few foreign males also for DLA analysis.

Belgian Shepherd Dog Association of Finland will pay all the cost from sampling and analysis of Finnish dogs living in Finland. The potential foreign stud dogs that are selected by breeders are responsible of the sampling and shipping costs, but Belgian Shepherd Dog Association of Finland will pay the analysis.

The foreign potential stud dogs needs to be approved in advance by Research Committee of Belgian Shepherd Dog Association of Finland.

The sample to the analysis is always a blood sample, dog needs to be tattooed or microshipped and a veterinary certificate is needed where is stated that the sample is from the dog indicated. The samples will be sent to Helsinki University Prof. Hannes Lohi Group to storage and they are collected there to the analysis. Further information available from Research Committee.

If a foreign Breed Club is interested to join us and sent samples from larger amount of individuals we welcome you warmly to this project. Please contact then to the Research Committee.

The reason for this project is to help laekenois breeders in the situation where genetic pool is extremely small and we feel that all the help available should be given. As a Breed Club we strongly feel that also our children and their children should be able to enjoy this wonderful breed and all the 4 varieties.

All the results will be public and will be published in Finnish Belgianpaimenkoirat-magazine as well as in Belgian Shepherd Dog Association of Finland website.

Kind regards
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