

Jack Flash Not Cleared On Breeding Record

The following statement appeared in Dog World last Friday, 23 July 1999. Bruce Cattnach writes:

"I regret to announce that efforts to clear Wynsett Jumpin' Jack Flash of cerebellar ataxia by retrospective analysis of his past breeding record have had to be aborted due to ambiguous findings in a recently reported litter.

These findings by no means show that Jack Flash was a carrier but they negate any further attempt to prove otherwise by this method.

A molecular approach is now the only route to ascertain the genetic status of this dog and his descendants, together with all other "at risk" dogs in the breed. Hopefully Matthew Binns at the Animal Health Trust will shortly have enough material to start this line of investigation."

Pat Wilkinson Tel: 01522 547261 Fax: 01522 547753

Pat Fendley writes:

"Pat, can you expand? There appears to be rather a lot of conjecture over this article."

Pat Wilkinson responds:

"This was a litter born in 1994 but only reported to Dr. Cattnach a few days after our Health Seminar of 13 June 1999, where he announced that Jack had a 94.5% chance of being free from CA (98% would have proved him clear). I don't know how many puppies were born but only three were registered, the breeder says she did not register them all. Apparently two had strange hind movement but neither were examined by a vet for diagnosis as one was shot by a farmer? and the other went out and died or got lost? hence no proof one way or the other, just enough information to cast doubt, and no way of tracing the owners. I don't know why this wasn't reported previously as the breeder was, at one time, co-operating with the club on this subject.

This doesn't put us in any worse position than we were previously but it is obviously very disappointing for all those people with Jack Flash progeny. We will now have to rely on the development of the blood test. There is no news on this subject but we are still trying to get the samples from the affected puppies so that DNA profiling can be done and Matthew Binns can

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then write the application for funding. He thinks that 20,000 pounds will be sufficient and he wants our club to contribute at least some of that, probably 4-5000 pounds, to prove that we are supporting the project.

If there is any progress I will let you know."