



HEALTH ISSUE: Hereditary Cataracts

DESCRIPTION: A cataract is defined as opacity in the lens. The eye's lens usually is clear or transparent and focuses light rays on the retina. The extent of the vision impairment is determined by the size and location of the cataract in the lens. The size ranges from pinhead marks to total lens opacity. The larger the cataract, the more severe effect on sight.

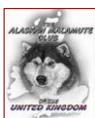
SYMPTOMS: Cataracts can be observed as a yellow or white clouding of the eye, although generally the first indication is via an eye test. Cataracts can affect sight, the level of sight loss is relative to the size of the cataract.

KNOWN TESTING: In the United Kingdom, The British Veterinary Association (BVA) has a list of approved experts who are licensed to test for hereditary cataracts. Malamutes should be tested from 12 months of age and annually thereafter. A clear eye certificate dated no more than 12 months previously is required before using a dog or bitch for breeding. Results of eye tests are recorded in the Kennel Club's Breed Record Supplement.

Further details of the eye scheme can be found here: [Eye Scheme](#)

CURRENT RESEARCH: From Sally Ricketts of the Canine Genetics Research Group at the Animal Health Trust:

I am writing following our progress report sent out in February regarding our research investigating the genetics underlying hereditary cataract (HC) in Northern (Arctic) breeds. It is my pleasure to inform you that the Animal Health Trust have recently been awarded a small additional grant from the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation that will enable us to begin following up our exciting findings in these breeds. The work that will be covered by this grant will allow us to investigate the region we have identified in our DNA scans, and as described in our report, will involve resequencing several million nucleotides of DNA in a small selected number of dogs. This will hopefully identify one or more possible points in the DNA that could represent a mutation for HC in these breeds.



Alaskan Malamute Rescue is run by the Alaskan Malamute Club of the UK

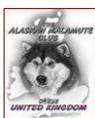


The next stage of our research will be to validate any potential mutations that we find from our follow-up studies above, and to do this we will need around £2,500 additional funds, so this is where we really need your help!

To reach a conclusion in this vital research would be a major advance for the future health and welfare of our fabulous breed, and £2,500 to take the research through the next stage, and another step towards a definitive result, is not a huge amount.

All fund-raising initiatives will be gratefully received and, to get the ball rolling, Mike John has set up a JustGiving page specifically to raise this extra bit of vital funding.

Go to www.justgiving.com/AHT-HC-Research



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