



## HEALTH ISSUE: Polyneuropathy

**DESCRIPTION:** Polyneuropathy is an abnormality of the nervous system. It has been known to be a problem in the breed since the 1970s. Generally the condition is known to become apparent in older puppies and young adults between the ages of 6 months and 2 years. The condition is known to be recessive so that both parents must be carriers to pass the gene on to the offspring. The only sure way to diagnose the condition is to conduct nerve and muscle biopsies.

**SYMPTOMS:** The problem can differ in severity in each individual dog. Generally the condition is noticeable by a difference in the dog's gait which can range from a mild change through to more severe symptoms such as walking on its knuckles, or bunny hopping in the rear legs. Other symptoms have seen a tremor in the rear legs or a sudden unwillingness to jumping or playing. A general lack of coordination and stability is most notable. This causes an intolerance in exercise and a loss of muscle tone throughout. The loss of muscle tone can extend into the larynx, given the dog a change in voice and problems in swallowing.

**KNOWN TESTING:** 2012 saw a DNA test become available thanks to the efforts of the Scandinavian Polyneuropathy Research Group. Tests are carried out using a blood sample collected by your vet and sent away to the lab, labs may also accept cheek swabs. Costs are currently around 70 Euros with discounts available for certain groups. The labs currently run the test. Merete Fredholm Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences Department of Veterinary Clinical and Animal sciences Groennegaardsvej 3 DK-1870 Frederiksberg C Denmark

[www.laboklin.co.uk](http://www.laboklin.co.uk)

[www.genoscooper.com](http://www.genoscooper.com)

More up to date information can be found at [www.ampoly.info](http://www.ampoly.info)

**CURRENT RESEARCH:** Further research into the condition is ongoing.

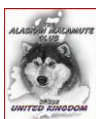
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*Alaskan Malamute Rescue is run by the Alaskan Malamute Club of the UK*