



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

29/4/06

Dear Secretary

PRA in the Irish Setter

I have been asked to look into how people use the results of PRA testing, particularly in their advertising, as a result of adverts on the Kennel Club's Puppy Sales Register (PSR) where people who have had their dog's DNA tested at the Animal Health Trust (AHT) are stating that the parents of the litter are PRA free by DNA testing. This really isn't precise enough and could open up the breeders to later problems. The DNA test offered by the AHT is for one mutation known to cause PRA in the Irish Setter; it is possible that there are other mutations in other genes that might cause the same clinical problem of PRA in the breed. The mutation for which the AHT screen is in a gene called *rcd-1*, so, breeders wishing to use the results of DNA testing in their advertisements should be more prescriptive in their use of it and state that dogs are **PRA(*rcd-1*) free**.

I am liaising with our Aylesbury staff who work on the PSR to see if we cannot filter out the problem in future advertisements, but it would also be incredibly useful if you could bring this to your members' attentions as well. Perhaps the Breed note writers could also put this in their column for the dog papers? If we attack it from a number of different angles, then we will be able to minimise the use of 'PRA free'.

Thank you for your help in this matter

Yours sincerely

Dr Jeff Sampson

cc. Mrs Rita Bryden

