

THE KENNEL CLUB BREED SCHEME FOR **FUCOSIDOSIS** IN THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL  
IS NOW OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED AT THE ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST, NEWMARKET, SUFFOLK  
**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU USE IT**

**THE COST OF THIS TEST IS £50.00 PER DOG (Inc VAT)**

**Wouldn't you agree that this is a small price to pay for the health and welfare of the Breed?**

PLEASE REMEMBER HOW SERIOUS CANINE FUCOSIDOSIS IS  
FOR THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

- ❑ **Canine Fucosidosis is a disease which is severe, progressive and ultimately FATAL.**
- ❑ **Canine Fucosidosis can affect all English Springer Spaniels, whether they are of 'field trial', 'working', 'show' or 'pet' origin. Don't let anyone tell you different!**
- ❑ It is characterized by deteriorating signs of the nervous system that progress over a period of several months, sometimes from an early age.
- ❑ Initial symptoms include inco-ordination and ataxia (*loss of control of movement*), change in temperament, loss of learned behaviour, loss of balance, apparent deafness, visual impairment and varying degrees of depression. The inco-ordination and ataxia affects all four legs and is mostly evident when affected animals are walking on slippery surfaces or attempt more complicated movements such as turning. In addition, affected dogs lose weight and may suffer from swallowing difficulties and sometimes regurgitation of food. The condition is inherited through an autosomal recessive trait and has been reported by ESS owners/breeders from all over the world.

### **WHY SHOULD I USE THE DNA TEST FOR FUCOSIDOSIS?**

- ❑ With the introduction of a DNA Test at The Animal Health Trust (AHT) in 1997, and Kennel Club acceptance of a Breed Scheme for Fucosidosis in 2005, with full agreement from all 8 ESS Breed Clubs, ESS breeders/owners can now find out if their stock is **affected** with, or is **a carrier** for or **clear** of Fucosidosis with an absolute degree of certainty. (*NB: Fuco test results via the earlier 'enzyme test' prior to the introduction of the DNA Test can no longer be regarded as a reliable source of genetic information*)
- ❑ The **DNA test** is a 'one off test' undertaken at any age and once the result is known the test does not have to be repeated on the same dog. Offspring from DNA Clear parents do not have to be tested, as they are **genetically clear**. Similarly offspring from genetically clear parents will not have to be tested.
- ❑ Results are now recorded on KC Registration paperwork thus ensuring that the audit trail of information about a 'Genetically Clear' English Springer is not lost.
- ❑ **All** ESS breeders/owners are advised to follow Breed Club 'Ethical Guidelines' and to use the DNA Test, full details of which are available from your Health Co-ordinators\* or on ESS Breed Club Websites\*
- ❑ ESS Breeders can plan their breeding programmes accordingly, and in time, with full use, by all, of the DNA test, it should be feasible to completely eradicate this fatal disease from the Breed. For the time being, should breeders wish to use a CARRIER in order not to sacrifice excellent breed points, this is OK provided it is **never** mated to another CARRIER or to an untested dog. Likewise, two untested dogs (unless from genetically clear parents) should **never** be mated together. By mating a CARRIER to a CLEAR, we will not be producing AFFECTED dogs - we will just be prolonging the production of CARRIERS with future litters needing to be tested to find out which are the Carriers. Although not an ideal situation, it is acceptable, until breeders find the 'Clear' dog that also proves to be their ideal stock to carry on their breeding lines.
- ❑ See following page for the Procedure for Requesting a DNA Fucosidosis Test for your English Springer Spaniel. A DNA test for PRA can also be performed at the same time – see Procedure on the following page.

## THE PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING A 'DNA FUCOSIDOSIS' TEST

- ❑ The Animal Health Trust requires **cheek swabs** for the DNA test.
- ❑ The Animal Health Trust currently charges £50 (inclusive of VAT) for each sample to be DNA Fucosidosis tested. This includes the cost of the cheek swab sampling kit.
- ❑ You should make application to the AHT for the 'Fucosidosis' test to be carried out on the AHT specified form. The .pdf form '**Request for DNA Testing**' can be downloaded from the Animal Health Trust website at [www.aht.org.uk](http://www.aht.org.uk). A separate form should be completed for each cheek swab sample to be tested.
- ❑ Kits for taking cheek swabs are available by phoning 08700 509144 or via email to [swab.request@aht.org.uk](mailto:swab.request@aht.org.uk)
- ❑ Further information can be obtained by emailing [dnatesting@aht.org.uk](mailto:dnatesting@aht.org.uk) .
- ❑ Samples should be sent together with the completed DNA Testing Form and payment for each sample to:

Genetic Services, Animal Health Trust,  
Lanwades Park,  
Kentford,  
Newmarket,  
Suffolk CB7 7UU.
- ❑ The AHT will usually post the results to you within 4 – 6 weeks of receipt of sample.
- ❑ If you wish to have the Fucosidosis and PRA DNA tests done together, the joint cost is £80 (including VAT).

*Please contact ESS Health Co-ordinators for further information:*

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**\*[www.englishspringer.org](http://www.englishspringer.org)/[www.sesss.org](http://www.sesss.org)**