

Riverbank. Veterinary Centre

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RE Posterior Polar Subcapsular Cataracts (PPSC)

The exact mode of inheritance of PPSC has not been determined in the SBT. In the breeds that have the same cataract, it has been recognized for decades and the inheritance still remains unknown...

...IF dominant then only affected dogs pass on the gene, but IF recessive then both affected dogs AND unaffected carrier dogs will pass on the gene. Please note the big IF's!

We are stressing that as in the other breeds with PPSC an annual eye test is advisable to detect the disease as early as is practical. There will inevitably be times when a dog passes the annual test, mates and has pups, then at the next annual check is found to be affected. However, the breeder who has taken steps to annually test cannot be held at fault.

The facts as we know them are these:

PPSC is a recognized inherited eye disease in several breeds.

PPSC has an, as yet, unknown mode of inheritance..

PPSC has a variable age of onset (from 10 months to 10 years and more have been reported).

Annual testing is recommended even after breeding has ceased. Fees are reduced for dogs 8y+.

PPSC IS usually not noticed by owners or their vets, a BVA eye test is required to detect it

PPSC usually remains a small cataract, but in the centre of vision, and some PPSC's can progress to blinding cataracts in some unfortunate individuals.

PPSC cannot be detected by litter screening.

PPSC is unrelated to the juvenile He seen in the SBT.

PPSC cannot be detected by DNA testing at the present time.

PPSC in breeds such as the Labrador has led to the development of breeders demanding a "current" clear eye certificate (ie within the previous 12 months) from stud and bitch owners before mating is allowed.

Dogs may therefore test unaffected for several years, then test affected - however, they have been genetically affected all the time. This makes control difficult.

Meaningful investigation into the mode of inheritance is hampered by only checking some dogs occasionally, rather than every dog, every year.

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