

JOINT BEARDED COLLIE BREED CLUBS



Give a Dog a Genome (GDG) project

An exciting project to map the genome of 50 breeds of dog, the Give a Dog a Genome (GDG) project, has been launched by the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust. The project will radically increase our understanding of the canine genome and enhance our understanding of which changes in DNA sequence affect dog health and which are benign or neutral. It will have profound effects on our ability to identify mutations which cause inherited diseases, and the rate at which new DNA tests can be developed as tools for breeders. The cost of sequencing each genome is £2,000. The AHT is asking that each breed taking part in the project contribute £1,000 which will be matched by equivalent funding from the Kennel Club Charitable Trust. Participation in the project is on a first-come, first-served basis, and as we are keen for Beardies to be one of the 50 breeds included in the project, Elizabeth Ayrton has already registered an interest on behalf of the Breed and the AHT have now offered Bearded Collies a place on the project. The JBLC and Breed Clubs are raising funds to ensure the payment is made by early March 2016 so Bearded Collies are included. Full details of the project are available on the GDG project website www.aht.org.uk/gdg.

Serology Project

There is also an exciting project by Prof Brian Catchpole to develop an effective serology test for autoantibodies for Addison's disease. As well as being used for diagnostic purposes, the test should be able to pick up autoantibodies in dogs before they have developed the disease so could be a screening tool for breeders to use before breeding from their dogs. It would be wonderful to support this project, but again funds need to be raised.

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