

Glaucoma In The PBGV As most if not all of you are aware a chronic type of glaucoma (Primary Open Angle Glaucoma - POAG) was found in the PBGV breed some 16 years ago. Through the good offices of Vivien Phillips I have been running clinics regularly to help identify affected dogs and institute possible disease control.

The difficulty with this disease is its insidious nature, affected dogs not usually exhibiting signs of the disease until the affected eyes start to enlarge or the dog's vision becomes affected. Successful management is rarely possible because treatment requires early diagnosis before the cells of the retina are affected and this is practically impossible.

The testing I have done has been to examine for the features of other types of glaucoma seen in other breeds and to rule out any "angle" abnormality. But even with early diagnosis and treatment there is usually a slow loss of sight and so the search for a DNA test to identify future affected dogs and possible "carriers" of the causal genetic mutation has become vital.

This type of glaucoma is sometimes associated with lens luxation and so it was with considerable interest that I have been following research into a similar type of glaucoma recorded in the Beagle breed in the USA. Very recently Dr András Komáromy of Michigan University announced that his team had identified the mutation thought to be responsible for the Beagle disease and I was hoping that it would be the same mutation in the PBGV. Sadly this has not proved to be the case, but the combined forces of the AHT and the Michigan team are looking for a similar mutation to allow the eventual development of that much needed DNA test.

The American Club is now starting to look for the disease and your Club has already put in the mileage necessary to collect DNA samples. It is essential that all known cases are reported to your Health Secretary for the more samples the researchers get the better. We can beat this rotten disease and it is just possible that the work carried out may help research into a similar type of glaucoma in man.

Professor Peter Bedford (Nov 2012)