

## Health News



The uptake of DNA Testing for specific conditions is beginning to increase, and there appear to be a considerable number of Giants identified as carriers for a urinary condition called hyperuricosuria (HUU). Of the HUU results reported to date (27 dogs) 33% (9) are HUU carriers, in addition a symptomatic affected Giant has recently been reported in the UK. Also 10% (4/41) are reported as carriers for the blinding eye condition prcd-PRA. Whilst carriers will not become affected themselves, they may pass the condition on to any offspring in the absence of testing and careful planning. These results demonstrate the significance of DNA testing, which provides the opportunity to plan matings to prevent affected puppies from being produced. Breeding a DNA tested dog information can be found on the health website <http://www.giantschnauzerhealth.org.uk/breeding-dna-tested-dog> . A plan for further research into HUU in Giant Schnauzers is currently being discussed with the Kennel Club, and in the meantime, anyone concerned can test their dog for the HUU (SLC2A9) gene mutation.

Laboklin are continuing to offer a special DNA testing bundle for the Giant Schnauzer Club. The bundle includes all 3 recommended DNA tests: prcd-PRA, DCM and PRA5 (NECAP1) plus HUU (Hyperuricosuria) and DM (Degenerative Myelopathy). A voucher code can be provided by the GSC to order the bundle at a reduced price of £138, please contact the breed health co-ordinator for an individual voucher code.



If anyone has hips and/or elbows scored with an organisation other than the BVA i.e. ANKC or OFA please forward the results in order that scores can continue to be monitored.  
[bhc@giantschnauzerhealth.org.uk](mailto:bhc@giantschnauzerhealth.org.uk)



The web portal for submitting hip and elbow x-rays to the BVA has recently been closed due to upgrading of their computer system. It is hoped the new submissions web portal will be open again mid-April, allowing submissions and BVA scoring to resume.

Lesley Parker – Breed Health Co-ordinator: [bhc@giantschnauzerhealth.org.uk](mailto:bhc@giantschnauzerhealth.org.uk)

# Hyperuricosuria - HUU

*Is your dog having problems urinating, or have you noticed blood in their urine?* While many

conditions can cause urinary problems in dogs, one cause could be a disease called hyperuricosuria (HUU).

HUU is a condition that causes an excessive amount of uric acid in the urine, which forms crystals and increases the chances of painful kidney or bladder stones developing (called urate stones), as well as recurrent cystitis.



**Signs and Symptoms** Some dogs show no symptoms of HUU, but here are a few typical signs:

- ✱ Difficulty urinating
- ✱ Frequent urination
- ✱ Blood in the urine
- ✱ Urinating in unusual places
- ✱ Lethargy
- ✱ Loss of appetite
- ✱ Vomiting

**Treatment** Bladder and kidney stones can be difficult to treat and often require surgery. Part of the treatment for HUU aims to prevent the build-up of high uric acid levels in the urine, in an attempt to reduce urinary crystals and stones forming. A low-purine diet may be recommended, and increased water intake, however HUU can be problematic for the life of the dog.

**Genetic Testing** Researchers have identified a genetic mutation in the SLC2A9 gene as a potential risk factor for HUU in some breeds, and a simple mouth swab DNA test can determine whether this genetic mutation is present.

**Get In Touch** If anyone has any concerns about HUU, in the first instance contact your vet, and also please contact the breed health co-ordinator [bhc@giantschauzerhealth.org.uk](mailto:bhc@giantschauzerhealth.org.uk) We currently have plans with the Kennel Club to further investigate HUU, and interested to hear from anyone with concerns.