

Cecilie,

Thank you for your letter. As I told you, there are a few breeders in Norway who independently have decided they need to help this new effort on JKD and will be collecting /distributing swabs at upcoming Boxer events. So something is happening. All that I feel is necessary for the Boxer Club is to show them that they are behind this research too and back it up in all ways they can think of. As of now, Amos is supplying the swab kits to our cost. Maybe if it all built up, the club might think about buying additional swabs themselves (contacting Amos though) and organising things for their use. But having said this, and speaking absolutely personally, I feel collections are drawing to an end. We have a very large number now and extra information we can get with more numbers will decline. Of course, we do not have a surfeit of swabs from affected cases. This is something that maybe could be remedied but I think we are on course for having a minimum number. But the numbers of these is the weakest point, so if the club could help here, this would be a major input.

There is another aspect of this work. It concerns ARVC. This disease may not be a problem in Norway but you know the current position: striatin is not the gene for ARVC but it lies close to it, so the region is known, but there is still no effective marker for the ARVC gene itself. I have found through Amos that by the addition of a few extra probes to the JKD study we could look in more detail at the ARVC –striatin region at barely any extra cost, piggy-backing the JKD work so to speak by using all the same material, the same dogs. I am quite eager to do this if only to close the ARVC programme in my eyes, although having a marker would not have much application in this country. But, it would in the States, so I am pushing Virginia to take this as far as she can. I have also written to the Vorans and Bill Truesdale hoping to get the ABC involved and supportive, but to no avail as yet. They are too involved with Meurs' hopeless work even though she is no longer working as a cardiologist I'm told. Anyway, if there is any level of ARVC in Norway, there is another target for swab collection.