# Canine Hip Dysplasia Study

## "ARE WE THERE YET?"

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"No! But we are closer". In fact, we have made some great inroads with the DNA research into this problem.

Ottmar Distl, who did the initial work with DNA and hip dysplasia in German Shepherds and works at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover, Germany, has joined our research group. Working alongside Professor William Ballard and Professor Ottmar Distl is a daunting and amazing experience as to me, these two gentlemen are the absolute pinnacle of workers in the field of molecular biology.

The work on DNA so far would give us about 30% assurance in predicting if a GSD's DNA predisposes them to canine hip dysplasia.

The work we are now doing will give 90% PLUS prediction value (to be honest, both gentlemen would prefer to err on the side of caution so the 90% might be an underestimation, but best to be conservative in these predictions).

We are doing a long chain sequence on a German Shepherd that not only gained an "a" stamp at twelve months of age BUT also has good hips at six years of age. This is vital as this DNA will become the standard of comparison for all samples. To date we have nearly 450 samples and will soon hit our target of 500. Thank you to all those that have supported the research by allowing me to take samples from your dogs.

The problem is that the long-chain genome will cost around $74,000 and most research grants are going to human research these days. The DNA will be assessed by a high-tech molecular biology laboratory in Arizona.

So how can you help?

Firstly, visit our site : https://donate.grassrootz.com/unswaustralia/hip2fit

And donate whatever you can. If every German Shepherd owner in Australia donated just $10 we'd go close to our target.

Secondly, encourage everyone you know to visit the site and give a donation if possible. Spreading the word would help tremendously.

Thirdly, discuss with the clubs and ultimately National Council the possibility of donating towards this research.

Please realise that all money goes not into paying any of our salaries – our time in this is a donation towards this valuable research. However, we are close to getting valuable, practical results and with new technology that is now available, feel confident in being able to produce a method of examining well over a hundred DNA points that evaluate an individual animal's hip dysplasia status genetically.

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