



Blood sampling of Norsk lundehund for research on IL

Dear owner of Norwegian Lundehund

At the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science we have been working with inherited diseases in the dog for a number of years, and through a close collaboration with the Norwegian Kennel Club and the breeding clubs we have been able to identify the genetic cause of several diseases. We are also working with the intestinal disease “intestinal lymphangiectasia” (IL) which also occurs in the Norwegian Lundehund. The work has consisted of clinical, biochemical and genetic studies. We have collected a high number of blood samples and tissue biopsies and the purpose of the studies is to get a better understanding of the etiology of the disease including the identification of genetic changes/mutations that may increase the risk of IL in the breed.

In connection with the upcoming Lundehund-gathering/show at Værøy we would like to use the opportunity to **collect blood samples** from as many dogs as possible. This may be an important step in the continued research to identify risk factors of IL, and may contribute to results that may benefit the health and well-being of the Lundehund. We are interested in blood samples from **as many dogs as possible**, but most importantly we look for:

- a) Dogs that have showed symptoms of IL, independent of age
- b) Older dogs, if possible older than 8-10 years, that never showed symptoms that is associated with clinical IL (controls)

It is a challenge to organize blood sampling because we were not able to send a veterinarian to Værøy, and because people are arriving at different times/places. We have, however, made an agreement with a veterinarian (Dyrlegene Bodø AS, Per Helgesensv. 94, which is very close to the road heading at the ferryboat, see attached map) that is willing to open the office on Sunday afternoon (5th of July) (some hours before the boat leaves) to help collect samples from Lundehund.

They will also help collect samples on Friday the 10th, some hours after arrival of the boat. In this way we hope to give an opportunity for those arriving to Værøy from Moskenes, and others who had no opportunity to take a sample on the way to Værøy. The blood sampling will be free of charge for the dog owners, but we hope that you can coordinate sampling of several dogs. This will be most efficient for the veterinarian and keep the costs as low as possible. It is also possible to visit the veterinarian during ordinary office times other days (75561800 – preferentially or alternatively 41519431).

We are very sorry about the late time of this information. We do however hope that as many owners as possible will contribute to the research with providing a blood sample. We will try to provide more specific information about the blood sampling, both at the pier/quay and at Værøy. We also plan to make a short questionnaire for some basic information about the dog that you hopefully will be able to return after the days at Værøy.

Finally, I wish you a nice and successful stay at Værøy, together with a lot of friends, who all are concerned about the health, well-being and the future of Norsk lundehund.

Best regards



Frode Lingaas

Professor, Section of Genetics

