

MAC DNA TESTING: MESSAGE FROM AMSC HEALTH COMMITTEE
CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT
JUNE 1, 2016

Thank you for health testing your dog(s). We must now work together to finally rid ourselves of the genetic predisposition to avian tuberculosis also referred to as MAC, so that we can face the next challenges. The MAC DNA test will not tell if you can or cannot breed but with whom you may breed safely. Homozygous affecteds, even when not yet ill, should not be bred at all and any carrier to carrier breeding should be avoided. However, carriers CAN be safely bred to tested clear dogs and not produce any affecteds as long as the offspring are also tested before breeding them. Not removing desirable carriers from the genepool is critical to preserve the genetic diversity and good traits in the Miniature Schnauzer breed. The AMSC Health Committee recommends MAC DNA tested of both parents prior to any breeding.

The AMSC Health Committee is asking that you voluntarily share your results with the Health Committee so that a database/List can be maintained on this disease for the entire Breed. It is our intention to make this information public - in AMSCOPE, Schnauzer Shorts and on the AMSC Website member pages. In addition, we have added the MAC DNA Test to our CHIC optional requirements. Be assured that PennGen, Dr. Giger and his laboratory associates will **not release any test results** on any tested dogs to anyone except the owner/submitter online. The AMSC is more in favor that you do the testing than how or whether you share the information. However, knowing the status of breeding animals will be informative and helpful in selecting the best pairs which includes carrier to clear/normal breedings. The AMSC Health Committee is providing the cheek swabs free of charge for our members initially. Dr Giger will provide **aggregate data** to the AMSC as part of his research. At this early stage of testing Dr. Giger and the AMSC recommend the testing of all dogs prior to any breeding irrespective of risk as well as any dogs with suspicious signs such as fever, weight loss, lethargy, lymph node swelling, infections, etc.

In order for your dog to be tested, you must set up one PennGen account with a password and then a submission for each dog to be MAC DNA tested. Enclosed you will find Sterile Cheek Brushes and collection instructions. A copy of the pedigrees of each dog being tested should be included when sent to PennGen for testing. **Results will be returned only to owner/submitter by email within 4 weeks of receiving samples at PennGen.** The test cost is \$75.00. You will receive an email when testing is complete and you will be asked to pay safely on line by secure credit card payment with Bank of America. You will then immediately receive a separate email with payment receipt and then an email with test results. If there are any further questions regarding submitted samples, please email PennGen@lists.upenn.edu and include MAC and specific name and submission number in subject line and other helpful info in the email for PennGen to best assist you. Again, you can track the status online and you will be getting results within 4 weeks from the time sample(s) have been received by PennGen.

Once you receive the results please complete the disclosure form and sign and return to the American Miniature Schnauzer Club Health Committee

If you have a clinically likely or suspected MAC-affected dog or get results that your dog is affected and is NOT showing any signs of disease or not yet diagnosed with MAC), please contact Dr. Giger **immediately** for further assistance at Giger@vet.upenn.edu and PennGen@lists.upenn.edu. Those dogs will also be important to learn about the immune dysfunction in Miniature schnauzers and possibly novel therapeutic options in the future – MAC is currently fatal and is a zoonotic disease which means it could be passed on to a very young, elderly or immune-compromised person.

Abbreviated Instructions: (Detailed sample collection and submission Instructions are attached for your convenience)

1. Read Collection Instructions CAREFULLY!!! (See attached detailed Sample Instruction sheet.)
2. Complete the PennGen online account and submission form and then print it twice & sign-one copy for your records and one to be included with sample. YOUR TIER DESIGNATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMENT SECTION OF THE PENNGEN FORM. Also add any clinical information if you think your dog may experience clinical signs of MAC.
3. Collect the cheek swabs on the dog and then let swab dry in open sleeve for several hours; place in sleeve and seal in an individual envelope with your name and your dog's name.

Complete the process on one dog before going to the next dog (if more than one is tested). Again note dog's name and your last name on **each envelope**.

4. Send **A).** the collected & sealed cheek swabs plus **B.)** pedigrees for each dog tested, **C.)** the complete signed online PennGen Test Request Form (keep another copy for your records).
5. Once you received the results from PennGen submit the signed bottom part of this document for the certification to allow the AMSC Health Committee to release test results (keep a copy for your records).

CERTIFICATION TO RELEASE TEST RESULT INFORMATION

- I certify that I am the actual owner of the listed Miniature Schnauzers (If additional space is needed use back of this form):

Dog(s) Name/AKC or other #: _____

Dog(s) Name/AKC or other #: _____

- I DO authorize the test results of my dog(s) to be posted by the AMSC Health Committee. The committee will publish test results in a database of tested Miniatures Schnauzers which will become available to assist breeders with breeding decisions and will serve as archival information on the Breed.
- I DO NOT authorize individual test result data by the AMSC Health Committee.

Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Owner's Name (printed): _____

Owner's Email and/or phone in case of follow up questions: _____

Email/scan/fax or mail your test results with this form to:

AMSC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Att. Patti Henderson
3870 Yellowstone Way SW
Lilburn, Ga 30047
FAX: 678-623-3961

EMAIL: AMSCHealthgroup@yahooroups.com

WE HAVE ALSO MADE THIS AN OPTIONAL TEST **IN CHIC** TO USE THAT VENUE TO REPORT YOUR RESULTS. REPORTING WILL BE DONE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PROCEDURES.