

25 November 2014

Kelly and David Foos
4750 State Route 601
Norwalk, OH 44857

Kelly and David,

I am writing to you about your Norwich terrier "Pinelake's Fairy Tail". I got your name and address from the 2013 Montgomery show catalog, where your dog was entered.

At the beginning of October, I notice that your dog was listed on the OFA web site as a carrier of the mutation for degenerative myelopathy (DM), with OFA number NT-DM18. This was seen by several other people besides myself. Sometimes later in the month, your dog's DM-status disappeared from the OFA web site. I can only surmise that you revoked your permission to have your dog's DM-status listed on the OFA web site.

I am writing to urge you to reconsider that decision.

As I mentioned, several of us have already noted your dog's DM-status. So trying to keep the status private is no longer possible.

But more importantly, being open about the status encourages others to test and be open about their dog's DM-status. This can only be for the good of the breed that we all love.

Now that we have a simple and inexpensive DNA test for DM, it turns the DM mutation - from something to be feared - into nothing more than a minor fault. Your dog can still be bred. A responsible breeder would make sure that any potential stud dog is DM-clear; in this way, any puppies would have a 50 percent chance of being DM-clear and a 50 percent chance of being a DM-carrier. What we want to avoid is breeding a DM-carrier to a DM-carrier – which gives a puppy a 25 percent chance of having two copies of the DM mutation. Having two copies of the DM mutation has been linked with the DM disease.

If breeders do not perform the DM DNA test, then they do not know their dog's DM-status. It is then possible that they will unknowingly breed a DM-carrier to a DM-carrier. This is why it is important to encourage breeders to perform the simple and inexpensive DM DNA test. If they do not test, then they do not know. And that is why it is important that owner's such as yourself be open about your dog's DM-carrier status. It shows breeders that carrying the DM mutation is just a minor issue.

I recently bred one of my Norwich who is DM-clear to a stud dog who is a DM-carrier. I did this because the pluses of this dog outweighed in my mind the minor fault of his being a DM-carrier. I know that I can easily DM DNA test the puppies and make appropriate decisions for each puppy.

I ask that you reconsider your decision. I urge you to contact OFA and make your dog's DM-status public.

Respectfully,

Blair Kelly
Shaksper Norwich
AKC Breeder of Merit
<http://shakspernorwich.net>
email: shakspernorwich@gmail.com
phone: 443-306-0396