

## **A Conversation With Jean Dodds, DVM**

Submitted by Lo Binkley

Discussions with Dr Jean Dodds in October, 2006, provided the following information:

- 1) **About Factor VII Deficiency:** Dr Brooks, of Cornell, now has conclusive evidence that there is a very strong correlation between Factor VII levels and the DNA status of the mutant gene responsible for Factor VII Deficiency. Based on this information, and the fact that there are still some unanswered questions about the gene responsible for this deficiency, it would be prudent to check both Factor VII levels and DNA status for determination of the presence of Factor VII Deficiency in the AKK. Dr Giger is going in the right direction in attempting to resolve the discrepancies being reported with DNA results. It may very well be there is another or different gene involved, and the correct way to determine this would be to do a breed profile. For example, the breed ancestry includes dogs with black/ white and grey/white coats, as well as dogs with round, oval, and almond shaped eyes. Perhaps Dr. Giger's planned genetic survey of the breed will reveal two or more "wild type" genetic pools. We will be doing a background search on the coat color and eye shape of the dogs with documented Factor VII Deficiency. Meanwhile, we have a recommendation to do both Factor VII levels as well as DNA status until the DNA testing can be resolved and accuracy assured. Dr Dodds does not recommend checking PT/PTT levels in lieu of Factor VII levels. If there is an abnormality in clotting, it would be necessary to do the Factor VII levels anyway. FVII assay is the preferred test, and can be done less expensively by going thru Hemopet (Dr Dodds' lab).
  
- 2) **Alaskan Klee Kai blood panel:** After many unsuccessful months of trying to get Antech to set up a blood panel to test lab values specifically for Alaskan Klee Kai, Dr Dodds has agreed to set this up for us thru her lab, and to send the appropriate samples to the different labs. This can save a significant amount of money for those who would be testing several dogs within a short period of time. For those doing FVII levels on 5 or more dogs, they would be eligible for a quantity discount. (For FVII assay, Dr Dodds is able to ship the separated plasma overnite less expensively than we can as individuals, because of her special negotiated FedEx rate). Additionally, Dr Dodds will follow up the laboratory tests with her interpretations and recommendations to you/your vet.

A set of the forms to use if you wish to take advantage of this is attached.