

Lafora Frequently Asked Questions

If my dog is tested as Affected, will he definitely develop symptoms?

Yes. If a dog tests Affected, it will, at some time in its life, develop symptoms. Nobody can predict when this will happen or how severe the symptoms will be. This varies from one dog to another.

If my dog is Unaffected, does that mean he is Clear?

No. That means he is not Affected so will not get the disease. However, he could be a carrier so it is advisable to test for Carrier status when the test is in place.

I've been told Lafora is not really an issue in the breed – is this true?

No, that is not true. The testing to date shows an incidence of 10% affected dogs, which means there are a large number of Carriers, which, if mated together, will produce more Affected animals.

I understand that the test results so far are not reliable. Is this true?

No, absolutely not. It is true that Centogene could not reliably identify all the Carriers but the Affected, Unaffected and small number of Carriers they did identify, are correct results. The results from Canada trial sample took 4 months to turn around because they checked, checked and checked again to make sure the results were right.

Can I have the Lafora test done in England?

No. At the moment, there is no laboratory in the UK offering the Lafora test. We are working closely with the Hospital For Sick Children in Canada, where they carry out research on Lafora disease in children.

When will the Carrier test be in place?

Dr Minassian in Canada has put a lot of resources into the development of the Carrier test. He completed the Carrier test on an initial batch of 43 blood and saliva samples in April 2012 and from this, made a decision to use blood for optimum results and has now completed a newly developed test that will offer us a quicker turnaround for the full spectrum Clear, Carrier, Affected test.

My dog is not tested and I want to breed – what can I do?

We hold testing days at Lichfield in Stafford, where we take blood and send it in batches to Canada. This will tell you whether your dog is Affected, Carrier of Clear. Please contact Sue (Susan.Holt@talktalk.net) or Nora (laforatesting@mypostoffice.co.uk) for a booking form or to ask when the next testing session is being held.