



Information for breeders, kennel and breeding clubs

The ECVO (European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists) with its Committee for Hereditary Eye Diseases (HED committee) provides with this letter **important information on changes in the assessment of known and presumed hereditary cataracts on the ECVO Eye Certificate:**

The task of the ECVO HED committee is to identify and define **known or presumed hereditary eye diseases (KP-HEDs)** in the individual dog breeds and to issue guidelines for eye examinations and instructions to fill the ECVO Eye Certificate, as well as advice for breeding (see the relevant chapters of the manual at: <https://www.ecvo.org/hereditary-eye-diseases/ecvo-manual.html>).

Hereditary eye diseases in dogs can more or less affect the dog's quality of life. The HED Committee aims to differentiate between potentially clinically relevant KP-HEDs and KP-HEDs with lower priority. As knowledge continues to advance, changes in the evaluation of KP-HEDs are inevitable. As a result, the Hereditary Eye Disease Committee (HED) decided to adjust the way in which the KP-HED should be noted on the certificate and recommendations for breeding. However, it is up to the breed and kennel clubs to register animals and indicate their breeding rules, taking into account other hereditary diseases that affect the breed and population of the animals as a whole.

With respect to **known or presumed (KP) hereditary cataracts**, focal lens opacities can progress or remain almost unchanged until the end of life. For many years it has been observed that certain types of cataracts usually remain almost stationary without distinct loss of vision, while others are more likely to progress and lead to blindness of the affected eye(s).

The most important change now concerns KP hereditary (non-congenital) cataracts

Until now the breeding advice for all forms of KP hereditary cataracts was: NO BREEDING. Recent data from several countries indicate that the advice "no breeding" for a number of specific cataracts is too stringent. **These types of cataract are: punctata, suture line, suture line tip, nuclear ring, fiberglass and pulverulent cataracts.**

These cataracts with "low priority" will from now on be marked as "affected" in the ECVO Eye Certificate under point 15. Cataract (non-congenital) - "Other" and the type of cataract will be indicated in the "Comment" field. The breeding advice for these types of cataract is now: Optional, low priority.

The KP-HED cataracts with the advice "No breeding" will be ticked as before, at "15. Cataract (non-congenital) "affected" and specified as "cortical", "posterior polar" or "nuclear". Congenital cataracts (any type) will be ticked as before, at "3. Cataract (congenital) "affected".

The ECVO-HED and the HED-Advisory Committees hope this letter clarifies the changes which have been introduced.

If there are still questions, we do hope breed or kennel clubs will contact the local ECVO eye panel or the ECVO-HED Committee.

Date: 23.05.2021

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Richter', written over a horizontal line.

Marianne Richter, Dipl ECVO
ECVO HED committee chair