Dear sir / madam,

Today, Norsk Schapendoesklubb has informed its members about the recent discovery a single case of the fatal disease called Ceroid Lipofuscinose (CL) in the schapendoes breed.

The article “Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis in a schapendoes dog is caused by a missense variant in CLN6” was published today in the Journal “Animal Genetics”. The article describes clinical and morphological characteristics of the diseases, as well as the identified genetic variant causing the disease.

The research has been done in close collaboration between clinicians, pathologists and geneticists at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Veterinærhøgskolen, NMBU). We are happy to announce that the identification of the genetic variant causing the disease and development of a DNA-test, makes it possible to avoid the birth of puppies that may develop the disease.

In Norway, we now recommend testing as many individuals as possible, and as a minimum, all schapendoes used in breeding. No affected dogs should be bred, and carriers should only be mated with a dog confirmed free, as inheritance is autosomal recessive.

Attached, you will find the form to be used for testing in Norway. This requires a veterinary signature, to secure identification of the tested dog.

Tests may be sent by ordinary mail to:
Veterinærhøgskolen-NMBU
Medisinsk genetikk
Postboks 5003 NMBU
1432 Ås
Norway

It is assumed that the disease causing variant is not widely spread in the breed population, but this can only be confirmed by testing more dogs. With quick actions, we are hopeful that CL in the schapendoes breed will be well controlled.

On behalf of
Board and Breeding commission
Norsk Schapendoesklubb

Anniken Bille og Inger Anette Backer