

MDR1 and English Shepherds

MDR1 is a gene mutation which can occur in any dog related, even distantly, to the collie. MDR1 stands for “multi-drug resistance” and, as the name implies, means that dogs with the gene have issues with multiple drugs. About 15% of English Shepherds carry one or two copies of this gene. (As a comparison, about 70% of Collies and 50% of Australian Shepherds carry the mutation.)

Dogs who carry the MDR1 mutation can have a debilitating or even fatal reaction to a number of common drugs including Acepromazine, Erythromycin, Ivermectin, and Loperamide among many others. A detailed list of drugs is available online at: <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL/drugs.aspx>

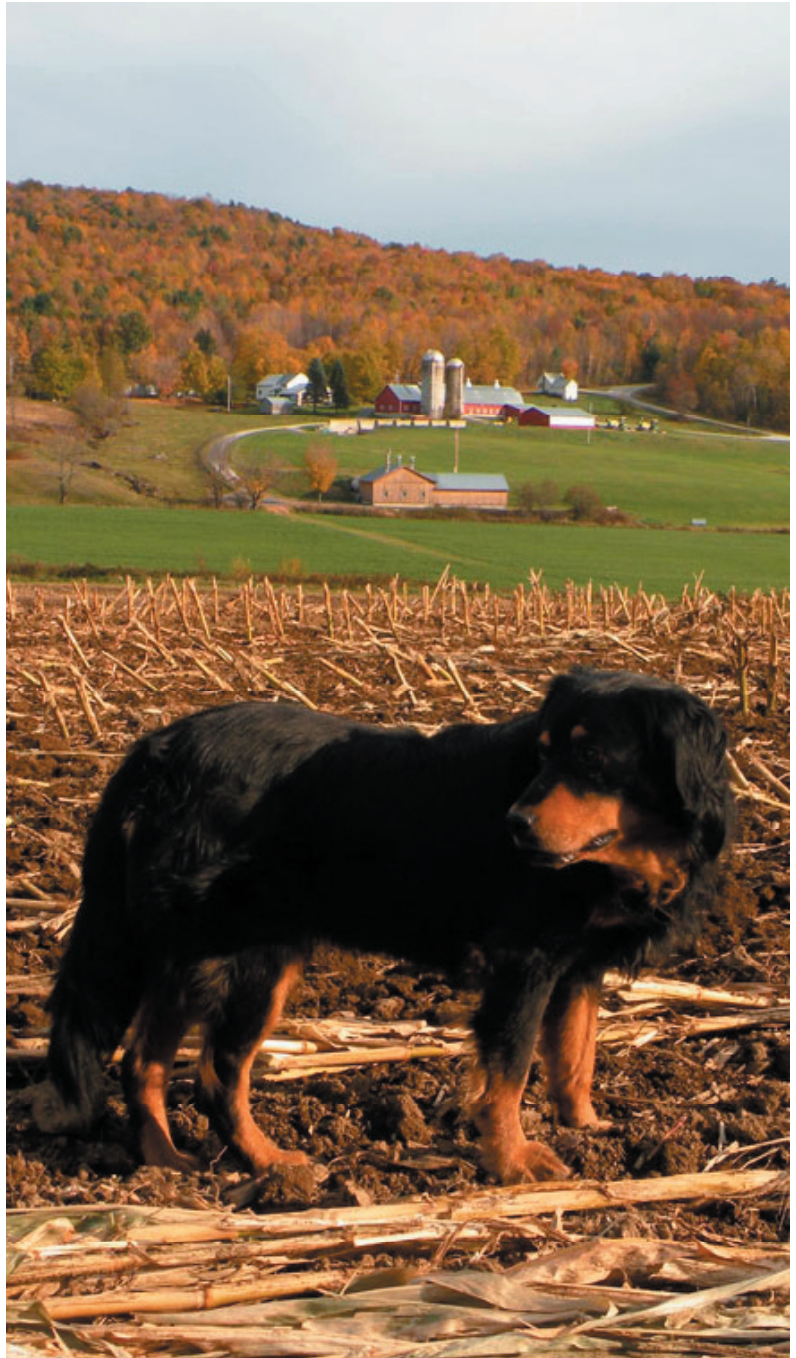
Fortunately there is now a simple and inexpensive test available to determine if your dog carries a copy of this mutated gene. Many Vets know that collies can have reactions to some medications but are not aware of all the drugs to watch out for, all the many breeds that can carry the gene, or that there is a test available.

It is strongly recommended that you have your dog tested. If it is determined your dog carries one or two copies of the gene you can take this information with you to discuss with your veterinarian.

At this time there are two places offering the test. They will send you a test kit and instructions. It is easy to do at home and is painless (if perhaps a bit annoying) for your dog.

The University of Washington at: <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL/>

Animal Genetics at 1-866-922-6436



National English Shepherd Rescue - nesr.info