



Dear Members,

The Keeshond Club of Canada is proud to announce a new breed club partnership with Embark, the world's leading canine genetics company. Embark for Breeder DNA tests are >99% accurate on mutation tests and are the only genetic COI% test available for breeders. KCC has chosen to work with Embark because of our shared values of responsible breeding and commitment to canine health. Genetic testing with Embark is another tool that breeders can use (if they choose), to help in their breeding and health practices and provides DNA based in-breeding coefficients.

While there are no breed specific tests for Keeshonden yet, there are tests for drug sensitivities, coat colour, as well as an ALT variant (a liver specific enzyme) for all breeds. Just recently, through Embark testing, a purebred Keeshond puppy, known as Molly, (as well as her brother) tested positive for vWD I (von Willebrand Disease type 1), which was an unknown surprise to their owner and Veterinarian, and led to possible life saving intervention for her future health care. Our hope is that by supporting genetic testing, we can also help support the possible future research into health issues that affect our breed such as (but not limited to) epilepsy, gastric carcinoma/adenocarcinoma (stomach cancer), alopecia X, copper storage disease etc. The raw data of every Embark tested dog contributes to the Embark database, which is currently the largest canine DNA database in the world.

As an example of how genetic testing can help with health discovery (at a breed level), back in 2009, Embark scientists partnered with the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States. Through the dedication of owners and breeders, Embark scientists were able to study the DNA from 185 Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs and successfully located the variant in the EPS8L2 gene that is associated with early-onset adult deafness (EOAD), a hereditary disease that affects hearing loss within the breed. Since the discovery, Embark is now able to test for that genetic variant and breeders who use DNA testing can be aware if their dogs are carriers (sharing any DNA test results is at the sole discretion of the dog owner, Embark does not publicly publish or identify results without the owner's consent). Of course, this kind of study takes time and dedication (for both owners and breeders) as well as a willingness to participate.

Embark offers a comprehensive product for breeders that includes all the relevant genetic information you need to better manage breeding programs: genetic health risks, physical traits, genetic COI, and breed ancestry.

As part of this partnership, the club will earn a 10% commission on the sale of all breeder kits purchased through this affiliate link. In addition, Embark will offer our members up to \$35 off the Embark for Breeders DNA kit (or \$5 off each tiered-based price) using the club's affiliate link and promo code KCC2022. Commissions earned by the club can help fund important initiatives, a win-win for the club, our members, and our beloved breed. Your first Embark DNA kit is just \$99 with code TRYEMBARK99! Embark also has BREEDER sale, for those who have already taken advantage of the previous sale. Click on the KCC's affiliate link and enter promo code BREEDER to save 20% on your Embark for Breeders kits, now through August 15!
<https://shareasale.com/r.cfm?b=1916599&u=3336383&m=66364&urlink=&afftrack=>

This partnership also provides our club with expert educational content, access to Embark experts such as veterinary geneticists, the opportunity to offer input on future research, and event support.

Embark for Breeders DNA kits offer breed-specific health conditions affecting the Keeshond, as well as results for 210+ genetic health conditions, 35 physical traits, and genetic COI% all with one swab. For more information visit: embarkvet.com/breeders

If you have any questions please direct them to me, or reach out to Embark for Breeders at breeders@embarkvet.com.

Sincerely,

Devon

Secretary
Keeshond Club of Canada