



Australian Shepherd Health & Genetics Institute, Inc

1338 Trouville Ave,
Grover Beach,
CA 93433

Tel: 805-473-0093
www.ashgi.org



Prevalence of Diseases & Other Hereditary Traits In Aussies

The list of genetic issues below was developed from data submitted to the ASHGI Comprehensive Breed Health Survey conducted in 2009-2010. These issues are known to be inherited. Items are listed roughly in order of frequency. Keep in mind that the number of affected individuals for any given item indicates a significantly higher number of individuals that carry genes for it. Some rarer issues known to occur in the breed are unlisted because they went unreported in the survey.

Extremely Common (10% or more)

MDR1 (the mutation also is reported to be found in over 50% of Australian Shepherds by the Veterinary Clinical Pathology Lab at Washington State University)
Autoimmune diseases (all types)
Moderate to severe allergies (mild allergies can occur in almost any individual)
Hip Dysplasia
Missing teeth

Very Common (4-9%)

Umbilical hernia
Cataract
Hemangiosarcoma
Epilepsy
Retained testicles
Elbow dysplasia
Spondylosis (while generally not considered a breed genetic issue, this can be inherited; the frequency of reports make that a possibility.)

Common (2-3%)

Bad bites (overshot, undershot, wry or anterior crossbite)
Distichiasis
Demodectic mange
Food intolerance
Cruciate ligament rupture

Ear infections (probably related to allergies)
Excess white markings
Natural-bobtail related defects (kinked tails, transitional vertebrae, birth defects avoidable by not breeding NBT x NBT)
Lymphoma
Laryngeal paralysis

Uncommon (1%)

Progressive rod cone degeneration (a form of progressive retinal atrophy)
Collie eye anomaly
Dilute (dilution of black or liver pigment, does not include "dilution spots")
Osteochondritis desicans of the shoulder
Renal dysplasia
Pelger-Huet Anomaly positive
Urate crystals
Iris coloboma
Yellow color

Rare (<1%)

Cushing's disease
Persistent pupillary membrane (iris-to-cornea or iris-to-lens only – other forms do not significantly impact vision)
Congenital heart vessel defects (includes patent ductus arteriosus and persistent right aortic arch)
Patellar luxation
Muscular dystrophy