**Genetic Diversity**

APLSA cannot emphasize enough the importance of promoting Genetic Diversity within the Polish Lowland Sheepdog. Diversity is a measure of health within the breed and one of the guides by which preservation of the integrity of the breed can be carried out, both of which are the mission and goals of APLSA. To understand the presence or lack of diversity in the PON, a study was requested at the University of California – Davis, where a veterinary lab has research underway for over 100 breeds. All PONs……young, old, male, female, spayed/neutered or intact, healthy or with health issues………should be enrolled so the DNA represents a wide spectrum of the breed. This test is for everyone around the world, it is not limited to the US only. Nor is the test just for breeders, it is for EVERYONE. Enrollees are assigned a lab number for DNA submitted and ALL results are 100% confidential since they are provided ONLY to owners of record for each dog. The lab compares all samples against each other to have a picture of diversity in the breed, but the certificate provided to the owner will reflect the unique traits of that dog. UCD issued a Preliminary Report from a handful of samples. The Report states a dangerously low diversity in the breed and is urging more owners to participate in order for the lab to evaluate if the picture gets better as more DNA is studied. Please consider taking part!

*Establish a UCD Account*:

<https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/>

*Test Kit order:*

<https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/canine-genetic-diversity/polish-lowland-sheepdog>

*Further Important Reading:*

Preliminary report on PON diversity:

<https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk8836/files/media/documents/PolishLowlandSheepdog20200213b.pdf>