From the PRA-project, August 2013.

The PRA-project during the year reached some important steps forward. As it was informed earlier, we have collected and analyzed many blood tests also from dogs with hereditary Retinopathy, which is quite similar to PRA. In some cases, the two diseases may be difficult to distinguish from each other.

In the first analyzes about PRA, we got no clear results that showed where the PRA gene was located. But it was asked several new questions. One of them was if PRA and hereditary Retinopathy actually were different hereditary diseases, with different genes involved, or whether it could be different appearances of the same disease. To figure this out, it was important to also analyze blood from some dogs with hereditary Retinopathy.

Another question that emerged was whether it could be variations of PRA in shelties. In most cases, the same genetic disease in a breed are due to the same mutation, but of course no guarantee that this is always the case. All these factors could be an explanation why it was difficult to get any clear results.

In the report by February we mentioned that we had identified a chromosome region who might be associated with the disease, meaning that it is found a region where there is genes that contain mutations that affect disease development. In one of these genes, we have found a mutation that may explain why dogs get affected.

We are now in the process of studying this mutation further, we need to confirm that this is the gene who develop PRA. The project is now actively working to document this mutation, and hope that this autumn we might have exciting news.