

Pituitary Dwarfism

- Thought to be inherited as a simple autosomal recessive.

Number of puppies affected per year is hard to determine but would have to be around 20-50 per year Australia wide, these are very obvious usually by 8-10 weeks of age, are usually euthanased and thus removed as an immediate problem. They are also, due to the nature of the problem, sterile. Carrier status animals (ie. parents) would have to involve a reasonable percentage of the population, possibly as high as 20%. Whether these animals, who should, by all terms, be producing slightly lower than normal pituitary hormones, are therefore more prone to developing other conditions, is at this time, yet to be determined.

There is a DNA test available that can readily detect carriers if you are concerned.

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