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MDR1 Gene Testing For Drug Sensitivity in Dogs

A new preventative health offering is the mutant MDR1 Gene testing for drug sensitivity. There are a number of routinely used medications that are highly toxic to certain dogs due to a mutant gene. There is a higher incidence in certain breeds, which include Collies, Border Collies, Aussies, G. Shepherds, Shelties, longhaired Whippets, as well as other purebred and mixed breed dogs.

The MDR1 Gene test identifies affected dogs that are likely to be sensitive and have potentially fatal reactions when exposed to certain medications. These medications include acepromazine (sedative), butorphanol (anelgesic), ivermectin (antiparasitic agent), loperamide (Imodium), milbemycin (antiparasitic), and some chemotherapy agents.

Knowing which dogs carry the mutant gene allows us to make more educated decisions about how to treat certain illnesses (which drugs, doses) in these dogs. Blood samples can be drawn for this test during a yearly checkup or at any other time during the year. Cheek swab samples can be used in dogs from single dog households.