

What's in Your Dogs' Mix? Tara M. Sacramone

If you have a mixed breed dog, I'm sure you've wondered exactly which breeds make up the mix. Many clients ask us our opinion of their dogs' genetic makeup. Well, now we can all find out with a simple blood test. The Dunstable Animal Clinic is very excited to be able to offer this new test.

The Wisdom Panel MX was developed by the Mars Veterinary Company after 10 years of genetic research. They claim the test to be 95% accurate on average. Currently the test can detect more than 130 breeds recognized by the AKC. They hope to continue to add breeds with further research. You can look at the up-to-date list on their web page.

Beyond good old-fashioned curiosity, it is nice to know your dog's genetic makeup for medical and behavioral reasons. Should we be watching for signs of hip dysplasia? Is your dog more likely to develop heart disease? Could your dog be mixed with a breed known to be sensitive to certain drugs? Should you be working to build your dog's confidence? Or perhaps making sure your intelligent/active dog has a job to do?

Each report gives you a list of all the breeds detected in your dog, listed with decreasing degrees of certainty: from high to medium to low to trace. The report also gives you breed histories and physical and behavioral checklists of each breed.

If you are interested in the Wisdom Panel MX test, please call us at the Dunstable Animal Clinic, or check out the web page www.wisdompanel.com.