

Cerebellar Abiotrophy (CA)

Aka: progressive juvenile ataxia

While considered very rare, another condition found in the Lagotto is cerebellar abiotrophy of CA. The main clinical symptoms in affected Lagottos are related to cerebellar dysfunction, and include difficulties in controlling movements and balance. Some affected dogs have also suffered from abnormal eye movements (nystagmus) and behavioral changes, such as aggression and restlessness. The owner-reported age of onset has varied from 4 months to 4 years.

This condition being researched at the University of Helsinki and the University of Bern and is form epilepsy in the breed that is unconnected with the BFJE mutation. The age of onset is adulthood. The number of confirmed cases is low and research is continuing. There is currently no commercial test for this disease and more research is needed.

More information on the condition and research can be found on the University of Helsinki genetic research site: <http://www.koirangeenit.fi/english/projects/ongoing-research-projects/neurological-diseases/ataxia/>