* FB 44. I have written to Breed Council asking for their support for the Amos application for KC funds for the new search for the gene. Unfortunately, they not only did not offer support but decided to seek funding in competition. This may hinder our application but fortunately we have a Plan B, so the work will go ahead and in fact has already started.
* Breed Council also decided to withhold all the pedigrees they hold which could de-rail all work if the JKD gene is more widespread in the breed than we know about.
* Breed Council did however endorse the collection of swabs for the Amos work. Three clubs are now actively helping with this, but more will have to join in to get enough material.
* There is clearly some reluctance among show breeders for the swab collection from normal healthy Boxers, even though this is nothing to do with boxerjkd, pedigree publication or anything other than the pure research. But other options are being sought: for example, Professor Robert Harvey, who worked on my JKD blood samples a few years ago, has already passed everything on for the new work; I have added all my old ARVC and other JKD samples; I am seeking out any DNA left over from the brindle study of a few years ago and have an enthusiastic reply from the researcher, Greg Barsh. Together these could raise about 400 samples (with up to 1000 needed). We have other possibilities too, but it is now really up to Boxers owners and breeders to support this work with masses of swabs from normal healthy Boxers, and from any cases too. The question is therefore - Is a gene test wanted or not?
* Meanwhile, Bill Amos has confirmed that he can obtain DNA of high quality both from the old blood samples and recently-collected swabs. Primers for the scan have already been bought. We are ready to go – if there is breeder/owner support with swab collection.
* Swab collection is not limited to UK dogs. We have a first sample from France, a case, with swabs from normal Boxers as well, and then another , with normal dogs too, due from America.
* Anyone wishing to supply swabs from normal healthy Boxers from any country and/or new affected cases (exclusively for the research and not for publication) please let me know - by email please (bcattanach@steynmere.freeserve.co.uk) .

All in all, everything is going well for the new research, although further swabs are still needed.