FB 46. The weeks seem to roll by and everything associated with JKD seems to get more demanding, but there is some news. On the grim side, while the numbers of new cases had seemed to have dropped off, we have suddenly had an avalanche. I have had something like 10 to 12 reported in the last few weeks. I should stress that none have any major impact of the show scene although one breeder is deeply upset. And, even while writing this, I can add two more, sibs.

There are a couple of scientifically interesting aspects among these. One is that three of these cases occurred in one litter, emphasizing the philosophy of the closer you look, the more you find. And, as indicated above, there are now two more in one litter. The other involves the case of an older animal developing the diseasel, a nine year old bitch. This does not seem right, but the owners say that they can see, retrospectively, that the bitch had never been ‘right’ for years, always being a poor doer. By pedigree, she was at very high risk. So here again we have the evidence of the variability of this ‘JUVENILE’ Kidney Disease. Her kidneys must have been on the verge of failure for years.

Meanwhile collecting swabs continues at shows and elsewhere. The show scene seems exhausted in terms of diversity of bloodlines but I am still taking swabs to the various events for anyone interested in helping this Amos JKD project. Abroad, there are now breeders actively collecting and dispatching swabs from normal Boxers in Sweden, Denmark, and America, while Norway is about to start, and an enthusiast in France has dug up enough support to send 300 samples. Clearly the French are very worried about JKD. And as I write, I hear of 10 from NZ.

As I have surely mentioned before, I have thrown all my surplus ARVC bloods samples into the pot as ‘normal for JKD’ and in doing so recognised that I could perhaps access Jo Dukes-McEwan’s ARVC samples too. These would boost numbers, but the possibility raised the wild thought that we could learn something about ARVC too in the process just by piggy-backing ARVC onto this JKD project. Doing so not would only raise the numbers of ‘control’ normal for JKD numbers but also offer the possibility of investigating further the striatin-ARVC region. Sadly, it seems that costs for getting material out of the UK DNA archive is prohibitive but, I am pondering canvassing in America for older Holtered normal Boxers and new ARVC cases. Both could boost numbers for JKD work and, at limited extra material costs, additionally focus Professor Amos’ system on the ARVC target region. He assures me that this could be easily done. With a bit of luck we might get a marker for ARVC or at minimum understand the ARVC region better. I do think it is worth a shot so if those of you in the US wants to help please get in touch (bcattanach@steynmere.freeserve.co.uk). But time is running out as the new research is about to start.