Exercise-Induced Collapse (EIC) is a genetic disease affecting certain breeds of dogs that have received 2 copies of the recessive gene; 1 recessive gene from each parent. While dogs with EIC can tolerate moderate exercise, 5 to 25 minutes of strenuous exercise can trigger EIC. Exercise-Induced Collapse can be life threatening. A very fit dog can be affected as it is the defective genes that cause the disease.

In Pembroke Welsh Corgis Exercise-Induced Collapse would prevent a dog from herding and other such strenuous activities. High outdoor temperatures and high levels of excitement can also trigger EIC.

Exercise-Induced Collapse can be misdiagnosed as heat stroke. Dogs affected by EIC show signs of muscle weakness, loss of coordination, marked increase in body temperature, and can potentially suffer a life-threatening collapse from or during strenuous exercise or activity. Typically, symptoms will first appear between 5 months to 3 years of age. An ‘episode’ of EIC usually begins with a rocking movement, followed by the hind legs becoming weak and the dog wobbling before possibly dragging its hind legs and feet or giving out, and the animal may act disoriented.

While dogs with Exercise-Induced Collapse can lead full lives, it is important for owners to learn which activities can trigger EIC and avoid those activities.

EIC clear and EIC carriers can be used in a well-managed breeding program where the breeder is not breeding 2 EIC carriers together to prevent any puppies from being born with 2 EIC recessive genes.

Understanding test results:

EIC/EIC – Affected – The animal has 2 recessive genes for EIC and has the potential to develop the signs and symptoms of Exercise-Induced Collapse. This animal will always pass on a recessive gene for the disease.
EIC/n - Carrier - The animal has received 1 normal gene from 1 parent and 1 EIC recessive gene from the other parent. This animal will not suffer from the disease, but will pass on the recessive gene 50% of the time.

n/n - Clear - The animal has no EIC recessive genes. It will not suffer from EIC, nor will it pass the recessive gene on to any offspring.