Retinal dysplasia-retinal folds (RD) is common in many dog breeds and is benign and of unknown heritability. As such, breeding dogs with RD has been an acceptable practice. However, in two breeds, the Labrador retriever and the Samoyed, RD is of much greater concern as RD can be an indication that the dog is a carrier of OculoSkeletal dysplasia (OSD) – a serious inherited syndrome in which dogs show various skeletal malformations and blindness at an early age. The mutations responsible for OSD in the Labrador retriever and Samoyed have been identified and these mutations serve as the basis of a genetic test available to breeders who need to rule out all concern that OSD is playing a role in their dog’s diagnosis of RD.

The Inherited Retinal Dysplasia (RD)/OculoSkeletal Dysplasia (OSD) test is done on a small sample of blood obtained by a veterinarian or on a cheek swab. The test will identify dogs as being Normal, Carrier, or Affected with OSD. It is expected that many, but not all, carriers will show significant retinal dysplasia-retinal folding.