

What is meant by health screening/testing?

Testing your dog for certain genetic diseases greatly affects your chances of not reproducing those issues in future generations.

While there are no guarantees, the knowledge that your individual dogs are tested free of certain conditions gives you a tremendous advantage as a breeder and gives your puppy buyers a sense of your dedication to the welfare of not only your own breeding program, but to the breed as well.

The tests for issues that affect Bulldogs are easily attained, and for the most part, fairly inexpensive.

Why should I get my Bulldog tested?

Very simply, so you know if your dog is affected.

Suggested Health Screenings

Please refer to the matrix on the inside of this brochure for suggested Bulldog health screenings.

Can my own Veterinarian do the tests?

In some instances, yes. Tests for eye conditions and deafness are to be done by specialists. Cardiac tests can be done by a practitioner, but a specialist is ideal. HUU tests are done by DNA swab through the University of California, Davis.

What is BCA's position on health testing?

The Health Committee and BCA have no formal recommendation at this time on how breeders use formal tests to select breeding stock or make breeding decisions. However, in keeping with the spirit of the BCA being stewards of the Bulldog breed, members are encouraged to take advantage of advances in testing, genetics and medical science to always strive to produce the soundest animals possible with the goal of continuously improving the genetic health of the breed as a whole.

Definitions/Links

ACVO: American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists

(<http://www.acvo.org/>)

BAER: Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response

(<http://www.lsu.edu/deafness/baerexpl.htm>)

CERF: Canine Eye Registration Foundation

(<http://web.vmdb.org/home/>)

CHIC: Canine Health Information Center

(<http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/>)

ECR: Eye Certification Registry (OFA)

(<http://www.offa.org>)

HUU: Hyperuricosuria

(<http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/Hyperuricosuria.php>)

OFA: Orthopedic Foundation for Animals

(<http://www.offa.org>)

PennHIP: University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program

(<http://www.pennhip.org/>)



Bulldog Club of America

Why Should I Health Screen My Bulldog?

Brought to you by the
BCA Health Committee



Bulldog Health Screening Matrix

| Screening | Registry | Minimum Age | Who can administer | Where to test | Application Fee | Frequency | Test to be performed | Sedation/Anesthesia Required? | CHIC Requirement |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Eyes | OFA (ECR) or CERF | No minimum | ACVO Diplomate | ACVO Diplomate office/Eye Clinic at Dog Show | \$12.00/ \$8.00 re-cert | Must be re-tested/ re-certified annually | Eye exam with dilation | No | |
| Hyperuricosuria (HUU) | OFA (using their Application for DNA Based Genetic Database) | No minimum | Owner (Request DNA test kit from http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/dog.php) | Home | \$50 DNA test submission to UC Davis \$15 DNA application to OFA | One time only | DNA Buccal swab | No | |
| Congenital Deafness | OFA | 35 Days | Veterinarian/Audiologist/ Canine Neurologist | Veterinary/Audiologist/ Neurologist Clinic/BAER Clinic at Dog Show | \$15.00 | One time only | BAER hearing test | No | |
| Spine | OFA (Data only) | 5 Months | Veterinarian | Veterinary Clinic | \$20.00 | One time only | Radiograph | No, although preferred by some vets | |
| Congenital Cardiac | OFA | 12 Months | Veterinarian/Cardiologist | Veterinary Clinic/Cardiac Clinic at Dog Show | \$15.00 | One time only | Auscultation, although Echocardiogram may be done if desired for more information | No | X |
| Patellar Luxation | OFA | 12 Months | Veterinarian | Veterinary Clinic/Patella Clinic at Dog Show | \$15.00 | One time only | Physical manipulation of the knees | No | X |
| Thyroid | OFA | 12 Months | Veterinarian | Veterinary Clinic/Thyroid Clinic at Dog Show | \$15.00 | One time only | Blood panel | No | |
| Tracheal Hypoplasia | OFA | 12 Months | Veterinarian | Veterinary Clinic | \$25.00 | One time only | Radiograph | No | X |
| Elbow Dysplasia | OFA | 24 Months | Veterinarian | Veterinary Clinic | \$35 alone/ \$40 Hip & Elbows together | One time only | Radiograph | No, although preferred by some vets | |
| Hip Dysplasia | OFA | 24 Months | Veterinarian | Veterinary Clinic | \$35 alone/ \$40 Hip & Elbows together | One time only | Radiograph | No, although preferred by some vets | |
| | PennHIP | 16 Weeks | PennHIP Certified Veterinarian | PennHIP Certified Veterinary Clinic | Request amount from PennHIP Vet | One time only | Radiograph | Yes | |

Consult with your veterinarian for more information and watch for upcoming health clinics at dog shows.

Permanent Identification (microchip or tattoo) required for certification.

Download and print OFA applications from the OFA website and bring them to your vet appointment.

Bulldogs that complete the OFA Cardiac, OFA Patellar Luxation, and OFA Tracheal Hypoplasia exams will automatically become certified with CHIC if the box is checked on the application to share data.