

PWDCA Policy and Procedure Manual's Health Testing Policy Changes

The PWDCA Board has approved changes to the current Policy and Procedure Manual's Health Testing Policy for PWDCA Breeder's Program Participation, including the Breeder Referral Program/Litter Listing Service, Outstanding Breeder Achievement Award (OBAA), and Futurity, (page 38 of the PWDCA PPM http://www.pwdca.org/club/documents/PWDCA_PPM.pdf).

This includes two changes to the current program:

- 1) The addition of the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program rating option for breeders.
- 2) The minimum requirement that one parent be tested normal for GM-1.

All other minimum requirements for health testing for breeder program participation remain unchanged.

The Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program is now an available option for breeders with eligible dogs. As a result, a breeder may choose to continue testing all of their dogs with the available genetic tests for GM-1, PRA, and JDCM **or** a breeder may choose to utilize the CHIC program for eligible dogs. Dogs are eligible for the CHIC DNA parentage clear program rating for one generation only (i.e. offspring of two gene tested non-carrier parents). As stated, this option is only available when both parents are tested via the available disease-based genetic test **and** both parents are determined to be non-carriers. This is also only available to breeders who utilize AKC DNA parentage profile testing of both parents and offspring. Further information about the CHIC DNA parentage clear program can be found on the CHIC website: <http://www.offa.org/dnacbp.html>

The final change to the current policy is the modification of the GM-1 testing requirement. Based on the very low incidence of GM-1 carriers currently reported, the current minimum requirement for breeder program participation is for one parent to be tested normal for GM-1 (or certified normal via the new CHIC DNA parentage clear program).

As stated above, all other minimum health testing requirements for breeder program participation remain unchanged including certification of OFA, CERF, PRA, and JDCM for breeding dogs (see policy below). The PWDCA Board believes the below document helps to incorporate current scientific methods to assist breeders in their goal of minimizing and/or eliminating the occurrence of genetic disease affected dogs to the best of a breeder's ability while maintaining the high priorities of health in our breed. Breeders are encouraged to utilize all available health testing where appropriate to attain the above goal and this program encourages breeders to utilize AKC DNA Profile testing in their breeding programs.

The following policy will take effect January 1, 2012.

Health Testing Policy for PWDCA Breeder's Program Participation

The PWDCA recognizes the importance of multiple factors involved in breeding Portuguese Water Dogs including but not limited to health, temperament, soundness, and breed type. With physical health being a high priority for our breeders, the PWDCA supports utilizing health screening tests to minimize and/or eliminate the occurrence of genetic disease affected dogs to the best of a breeder's ability. The PWDCA encourages health testing of all breeding animals. For the purpose of program participation in Portuguese Water Dog Club of America breeder programs, including the Breeder Referral Program/Litter Listing Service, Outstanding Breeder Achievement Award (OBAA), and Futurity, the following are considered minimum criteria for inclusion in these programs. The PWDCA continues to encourage its members to utilize health screening tests beyond these minimum criteria in the effort to minimize and/or eliminate the production of puppies affected with genetic diseases in the breed and their dogs. **The minimum criteria for inclusion in the above mentioned PWDCA breeder programs includes that members shall adhere to the following for all dogs owned or co-owned by them:**

1. ***Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) hip certification*** (obtained at 2 years of age or older) on both the stud dog **and** brood bitch prior to mating, utilizing dogs who have received a passing hip score (fair, good, or excellent rating)
2. ***A current (yearly) Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) certification*** (passing rating) on both the stud dog **and** brood bitch at the time of breeding- up to the age of 120 months of age.
3. ***Progressive Retinal Atrophy (prcd-PRA)*** – Genetic test at OptiGen laboratory or certification of DNA parentage analysis via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program on **BOTH** the stud dog **AND** the brood bitch prior to mating, with one parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test at OptiGen laboratory or certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program.
4. ***GM-1, Storage Disease (Gangliosidosis)*** - One parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test at NYU **or** certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program prior to mating.
5. ***JDCM (Juvenile Dilated Cardiomyopathy)*** - One parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non- carrier) via the genetic test at the University of Pennsylvania **or** certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program prior to mating.

Certification of the above test results shall be submitted to the PWDCA Health & Litter Database for recording (with verification of submission) before participation in a program can be approved. For use of frozen semen of a deceased dog, health certifications must have been in accordance with the PWDCA health policy in effect at the time of the dog's death.

The PWDCA encourages breeders to perform DNA profiles on their breeding stock and follows the current American Kennel Club DNA requirements. All DNA profiles performed shall be recorded in the Health & Litter Database.

Members may obtain further information and appropriate testing labs from the Club's website (www.pwdca.org) as well as the PWDCA CHIC listing (<http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=PW>).

The PWDCA continues to recommend that breeders to utilize appropriate health screening tests in their breeding programs with additional health testing considerations to include but not be limited to OFA evaluation for elbow dysplasia (reported in 2011 to affect 1.7% of the 2266 PWDS evaluated by OFA) and OFA evaluation for hypothyroidism (Michigan State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab reports 89.6% normal thyroid evaluations in 644 PWDs submitted as of 2005). Available health screening tests for Portuguese water dogs are listed on the PWDCA CHIC listing under optional tests. Additional health screening tests may be incorporated into this minimum criteria for participation in PWDCA breeder programs as new tests are developed, additional information about disease prevalence in the breed is uncovered, and based on the advice of veterinary genetic counselors and researchers.

CANINE HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER (CHIC)'S POLICY ON DNA CLEAR BY PARENTAGE: As a greater number of DNA based disease tests become available, a policy regarding the clearing of offspring out of DNA tested parents has become necessary. For **direct mutant gene tests only**, the OFA will issue clearances to untested offspring, if the sire and dam have **both** been DNA tested normal or "clear," if the sire and dam's DNA disease test results have been OFA registered, *and* if all three (sire/dam/offspring) have been DNA identity profiled and parentage verified. The DNA profile paperwork must be submitted along with a completed OFA DNA-based disease test application. The resulting OFA certification will have a suffix of "CBP" (clear by parentage), indicating that the dog itself was not tested and that the clearance was based on the sire and dam's test results, and known science at the time. Because of the possibility of new mutations or as of yet undiscovered gene mutations, *only first generation offspring will be cleared*. For linkage or marker based tests where a margin of error including both false positives and negatives exists, the OFA will not issue any clearances to untested dogs. DNA based disease screening is an evolving area. This policy is subject to change by action of the OFA Board of Directors as technology and science advance. For more information: <http://www.offa.org/dnacbp.html>