



# **BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA**

## **Position Statement**

### **BCA SUPPORTS HEALTH TESTING**

BCA-recommended testing includes Orthopedic Foundation for Animal (OFA) evaluations for Patellar Luxation, Congenital Cardiac disease and Tracheal Hypoplasia under the standards of the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC). In order to pass a cardiac evaluation, an exam by a board- certified cardiologist and use of an echo-cardiogram is preferred. Other testing must be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

The CHIC is a centralized health database for dogs, jointly sponsored by the AKC Canine Health Foundation and OFA. The CHIC database contains results from the health screenings that responsible breeders incorporate into their breeding programs, as well as a DNA repository to support research efforts.

BCA also recognizes health testing done for dogs by awarding Ambassador of Health Awards with Five levels of recognition based on the number of health tests passed. Eight OFA tests are included in our awards program: Cardiac, Patella, Thyroid, Elbow, Hips, Tracheal Hypoplasia, Hyperuricosuria and Type 3 Cystinuria DNA Marker. The levels of award are Bronze – successful completion of any 4 of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings; Silver – successful completion of any 5 of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings; Gold – successful completion of any 6 of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings; and Platinum – successful completion of any 7 of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings; Diamond successful completion of all 8 of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings. Passing results are required for Cardiac, Patella, Thyroid, Elbow, Hips and Tracheal Hypoplasia. Any result will be accepted for DNA based health screenings, including but not limited to, Clear, Carrier or Affected.

Pioneer for Health Awards include certificates for BAER hearing testing, CHIC DNA repository and OFA Spinal Database. In addition, an OFA EYE certificate that is current the calendar year of the award may be included in PFH.