**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 many 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 and Cystinuria tests may be done by the owner using a DNA buccal swab.

**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)

**BCA:** Bulldog Club of America  
(http://www.bulldogclubofamerica.org/)

**CHIC:** Canine Health Information Center  
(http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/)

**CAER (Replaces CERF):** Eye Certification Registry  
(http://www.ofa.org)

**HUU:** Hyperuricosuria  
(http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/Hyperuricosuria.php)

**OFA:** Orthopedic Foundation for Animals  
(http://www.ofa.org)

**PennHIP:** University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program  
(http://info.antechimagingservices.com/pennhip/)
### Bulldog Health Screening Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening</th>
<th>Minimum Age</th>
<th>CHIC Requirement</th>
<th>BCA Ambassador for Health</th>
<th>BCA Pioneer for Health</th>
<th>Registry</th>
<th>Who can administer</th>
<th>Where to test</th>
<th>Application Fee</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Test to be performed</th>
<th>Sedation/Anesthesia Required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congenital Cardiac</td>
<td>12 Months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA</td>
<td>Veteran/Cardiologist</td>
<td>Veterinary Clinic/Cardiac Clinic at Dog Show</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>Auscultation by veterinarian. Echocardiogram is preferred</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patellar Luxation</td>
<td>12 Months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA</td>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td>Veterinary Clinic/Patellar Clinic at Dog Show</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>Manual manipulation of the knees</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracheal Hypoplasia</td>
<td>12 Months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA</td>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td>Veterinary Clinic</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>Radiograph</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroid</td>
<td>12 Months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA</td>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td>Veterinary Clinic/Thyroid Clinic at Dog Show</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>Blood panel</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elbow Dysplasia</td>
<td>24 Months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA</td>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td>Veterinary Clinic</td>
<td>$35 alone/ $40 Hip &amp; Elbows together</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>Radiograph</td>
<td>No, although preferred by some vets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip Dysplasia</td>
<td>OFA 24 Months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA</td>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td>Veterinary Clinic</td>
<td>$35 alone/ $40 Hip &amp; Elbows together</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>Radiograph</td>
<td>No, although preferred by some vets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperuricosuria (HUU)</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA</td>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Request amount from DNA Lab $15 DNA application to OFA</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>DNA Buccal swab</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canine Ophthalmic Type 3</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA</td>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>$70 DNA test submission to PennGen or $65 DNA test submission to VetGen $15 DNA application to OFA</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>DNA Buccal swab</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA (CAER)</td>
<td>ACVO Diplomate</td>
<td>Office/Eye Clinic at Dog Show</td>
<td>$12.00/ $8.00 re-cert</td>
<td>Must be re-tested/re-certified annually</td>
<td>Eye exam with dilation</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital Deafness</td>
<td>25 Days</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA</td>
<td>Veterinary/Audiologist/Canine Neurologist</td>
<td>Veterinary Clinic/BAER Clinics at Dog Show</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>BAER hearing test</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spine</td>
<td>5 Months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA (Data only)</td>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td>Veterinary Clinic</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>Radiograph</td>
<td>No, although preferred by some vets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIC DNA Repository</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA (Data only)</td>
<td>Veterinary Genetics Lab at the University of California-Davis and the Animal Molecular Genetics Lab at the University of Missouri</td>
<td>$5.00 DNA / $20.00 Blood</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>DNA Buccal swab/Blood preferred</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canine Multifocal Retinopathy (CMR1)</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA (Data only)</td>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Request amount from DNA Lab $15 DNA application to OFA</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>DNA Buccal swab</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hereditary Calcium Carbonate Uratosis, Type 1 (CaCx1)</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OFA (Data only)</td>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Request amount from DNA Lab $15 DNA application to OFA</td>
<td>One time only</td>
<td>DNA Buccal swab</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 (http://www.ofa.org) and bring them to your vet appointment.

Bulldogs that complete the OFA Cardiac, OFA Tracheal Hypoplasia and OFA Patellar Luxation exams will automatically become certified with CHIC if the box is checked on the application to share data. Bulldog Club of America Ambassador and Pioneer for Health information may be found on the BCA website: https://bulldogclubofamerica.org/about-bca/club-awards/health-awards/

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Original source: Motion Tracker BCA Health Committee
Last update: 6/15/2020 | ME/vr