

The following is the language approved by the American Beauceron Club board of directors for use on the AKC website indicating important health issues of the Beauceron.

Though the Beauceron appears to be a fairly healthy breed overall, things to be aware of include:

**Canine Hip Dysplasia:** Breeders should, at a minimum, have all breeding stock OFA certified (or equivalent veterinary regulated registry) to be free of hip dysplasia.

**Eye Problems:** Though not specifically known for diseases of the eye, it is recommended that all breeding stock receive a yearly eye exam from a certified veterinary eye specialist (ophthalmologist) also known as a CERF exam.

**Heart Disease:** The incidence of such heart diseases as dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is not known but has been documented in the Beauceron. A cardiac evaluation, including auscultation and echocardiography, is recommended every 2 years. DCM can have a later onset, so even middle-aged to older breeding stock should be evaluated.

**Hypothyroidism:** Lymphocytic thyroiditis, one cause of hypothyroidism, is a genetic disease. The incidence of hypothyroidism in Beucerons is unclear. Due to their connection to the Doberman pincher, testing of breeding stock is encouraged but not required at this time.

**Gastric Dilatation/Volvulus (GDV/Bloat):** Deep chested, large and giant breed dogs are considered at risk for GDV. Beucerons fit in this description. The causes of GDV are unclear. There are no tests that indicate which specific individuals are at risk for developing GDV. Owners of Beucerons should familiarize themselves with the signs of GDV.

**Osteochondrosis Dessicans (OCD):** This is an orthopedic disease most commonly seen in rapidly growing large and giant breed dogs. The defect occurs in the cartilage overlying the head of one of the long bones affecting the shoulder and elbows most commonly and less commonly the stifle (knee) and hocks. Proper nutrition for a growing large breed puppy, proper controlled exercise during development, and genetics can all play a role in development of this disease.

**Allergies:** Allergies can be either food-based or environmental.

The American Beauceron Club recommended CHIC requirements currently include OFA hip certification, eye CERF, and OFA cardiac evaluation with echocardiogram. The club currently encourages elbow OFA and thyroid testing.

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