



The Belgian Sheepdog Club of America

Belgian Sheepdog Health Statement

The Belgian Sheepdog is a “strong, agile and well -muscled animal, alert and full of life.” This quote from the Belgian Sheepdog of America (BSCA) standard describes an active healthy dog breed, but all breeds have some health concerns that prospective owners need to be aware of. Responsible Belgian Sheepdog breeders are doing their best to prevent health problems by utilizing available testing and selective breeding.

The BSCA requires the following tests: 1) Hip dysplasia – OFA evaluation 2) Elbow dysplasia- OFA evaluation 3) Eye examination by a boarded ophthalmologist and results registered with CERF or OFA. Hip and Elbow dysplasia are structural joint conditions that have a proven genetic association. Eye examination will reveal potential genetic eye problems such as cataracts and PRA.

The BSCA also suggests that your health discussion with a potential breeder include epilepsy, thyroid problems, cancer (gastric and hemangiosarcoma) and temperament. You are establishing a life-long commitment to your new Belgian Sheepdog puppy; a responsible, open and caring breeder is essential to making it a successful experience.

The Belgian Sheepdog Club of America Board of Directors has approved this health statement and encourages you to continue your breed research on their club website – www.bsca.info.