

BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA
HEALTH STATEMENT



The Black Russian Terrier is a very robust and generally healthy dog. The primary health problems in this breed still are the prevalence of Hip and Elbow Dysplasia, which are issues in many large breed dogs. Prospective buyers should not only question the breeding stock, but also ask to see the results of hip and elbow testing by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (“OFA”) and familiarize themselves with ratings associated with the tests.

In keeping with the spirit of the BRTCA Code of Ethics, BRT breeders are encouraged to inform puppy buyers of developmental conditions that may or may not be hereditary or genetic that are known to exist in BRTs as well as methods to test and/or monitor some of these conditions.

The BRTCA requires the below-listed tests to be taken for Canine Health Information Center (“CHIC”) certification. It should be noted that for CHIC certification, the dog is not required to PASS the tests for certification, only that the test results must be public, pass or fail. So it is important to go directly to the CHIC website and verify the test results.

- Hip Dysplasia
 - OFA Evaluation (min. 24 months of age)
- Elbow Dysplasia
 - OFA Evaluation
- Eye Examination by a board certified ACVO Ophthalmologist (yearly certification required)
- Congenital Cardiac Database
 - Standard OFA Cardiac Evaluation
- Congenital Cardiac Database (Optional)
 - OFA evaluation with exam by cardiologist
- Juvenile Laryngeal Paralysis & Polyneuropathy
 - DNA test for JLPP

Additional health issues that have been known to affect BRTs are:

- Addison’s Disease
- Autoimmune issues
- Cancer
- Epilepsy
- Gastric Dilatation, Torsion, Volvulus (Bloat)
- Uric Acid (Hyperuricosuria) (DNA marker test available through UC Davis)

Please visit www.BRTCA.org/health.html site for more in-depth information on these health-related issues.

Having a sound temperament is an important part of health. BRTCA also encourages breeders to temperament test their dogs, including testing/certification through the American Temperament Test Society (“ATTS”), the AKC Canine Good Citizen (“CGC”) and Canine Good Citizen Advanced (“CGCA”) titles. Additional evidence of good temperament is completion of obedience, rally and other working dog titles.

(Approved by Board of Directors Nov 2015)

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