



## Border Collie Society of America

American Kennel Club Parent Club for the Border Collie

### **BCSA Health Statement – Issued by the BCSA Board of Directors, October 2016**

The BCSA Board of Directors strongly recommends that all Border Collie Breeders commit to screening their dogs for hip dysplasia and inherited eye problems.

Hip - Evaluation from OFA, AVCO or PennHip after 24 months of age.

Eyes – Examination by Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist, annually until age 7.

Dogs should be identified by microchip and results recorded at OFA and/or CHIC websites.

The BCSA is committed to breeding practices that will preserve the working ability and health of the world's premier sheep herding breed. BCSA recommends that any Border Collie being considered for breeding should have an excellent temperament, correct structure, possess the breed hallmarks (such as the intense gaze known as "herding eye"), and have proven success in performance activities, particularly herding. A variety of colors are acceptable, ranging from classic black & white through red, blue, and merle.

Genetic tests are also available for some disorders that can affect Border Collies. Breeders may select appropriate tests and certifications based on their knowledge of the breeding stock and ancestor dogs. Additional information about disorders that can affect Border Collies, including a more detailed Health Statement, currently available tests, and research studies, can be found on the BCSA website Health pages: [http://www.bordercolliesociety.com/index\\_health.htm](http://www.bordercolliesociety.com/index_health.htm)

For the good of the breed and the individual dog, it is important to ensure that any decision to spay or neuter be informed and age appropriate, since Border Collie growth plate closure does not occur until approximately 12 months of age. Based on recent studies, the current recommendation is to wait until the pup is a minimum age of 12 months. To spay or neuter prior to this age may result in hormone and physical growth challenges.

Linda Ramas  
Corresponding Secretary  
On behalf of the BCSA Board of Directors