



# The Border Terrier Club of America

The BTCA Ethical standard states:

Breeding stock should be in good general health, of sound temperament and as free from hereditary defects as possible. Only mature dogs and bitches are to be used for breeding. Preferably, neither dogs nor bitches should be bred before 24 months of age, when all health test results are available.

*We consider that the Border Terrier is overall a healthy breed. At this time all our health tests are phenotypic tests for disorders that have been reported in the breed. We anticipate that some specific gene tests may be developed and recommended for breeding stock.*

BTCA currently recommends at least the following health examinations for both sire and dam prior to breeding, and all results published to the OFA site:

- Hips (OFA, OVC, BVA or Penn HIP) – for hip dysplasia
- Eyes (OFA-ECR or CERF) by ACVO Board certified veterinarian, done yearly until at least 8 yrs of age. Breeding animals and those participating in events should continue to be done yearly. The significance and progression of some changes can be determined only by continuing exams as the dog ages.
- Patellas (OFA)
- Heart (OFA) by ACVIM – Board Certified Cardiologist
  - o Auscultation required,
  - o Echocardiogram recommended.
    - The BTCA sponsors echocardiogram clinics in conjunction with our national specialty.
    - ACA forms recommended
    - (Pediatric exam strongly suggested) The BTCA recommends that all puppies be examined by the breeder's veterinarian prior to sale. All puppies should have cardiac auscultation following the OFA protocol. If murmurs are detected, an echocardiogram should be performed on any puppy where the murmur is still present at 15 wks. Echocardiograms should be done prior to 5 months of age as Ventricular Septal Defects have been known to close by 6 to 7 months.
- The DNA test for Spongiform Leukoencephalomyelopathy (SLEM) (OFA or AHT)

A CHIC (Canine Health Information Center) number is highly desirable; as it indicates tests have been done, and entered in the open database. A CHIC number does not reflect that the results were satisfactory but does indicate an open and responsible approach to health clearances on the part of the breeder. Results should be reviewed and discussed with the breeder.

The CHIC requirements may be added to as DNA tests come on line so that current CHIC requirements should be followed prior to breeding: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=BRT>