

# BOSTON TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.



The Boston Terrier Club of America, Inc. does participate as a CHIC breed. The health testing that we recommend for all breeding stock includes the CHIC requirements with one additional test.

## CHIC Requirements:

1. **Annual Eye Examination** by a boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist, the results of which are registered with OFA. Results previously could be registered with CERF and many breeders still refer to this as a "CERF exam". The initial examination may occur at any time after 8 weeks of age.
2. **Patellar Luxation Examination** by any licensed veterinarian, the results of which are registered with OFA. The examination is required once every two years. The initial exam may occur earlier but registration with OFA is open only to dogs 12 months or older.
3. **BAER Examination for Congenital Deafness** performed by a veterinary neurologist, experienced veterinarian, neuroscience professional or audiologist and registered with OFA. The examination is required only once in the dog's lifetime and must be done after the age of 35 days although most breeders wait until Boston Terrier puppies are six to eight weeks old to perform the testing.

## Additional Test:

1. **DNA test for Early-onset Hereditary Juvenile Cataracts (HSF4 mutation) and results registered with OFA.** The test is required only once in the dog's lifetime and may be done at any age. This condition is an autosomal recessive trait. Dogs that are clear (do not have this gene mutation) cannot transmit the condition to their offspring. A dog that is a carrier may be used in a breeding program but must only be bred to clear dogs. Carriers should never be bred to each other and affected dogs (those that have two copies of the mutation and therefore have early-onset HJC) must never be bred, even to a clear dog. More detailed information about the various tests and their availability may be found on the BTCA website.

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