



## The American Brussels Griffon Association Parent Club Health Statement

Presented by the ABGA Board of Directors

The American Brussels Griffon Association (ABGA) is an American Kennel Club (AKC) parent club. ABGA provides guidelines as per its Code of Ethics to its members including breeders, owners, and enthusiasts concerning the Brussels Griffon breed. AKC and ABGA offer online links to knowledgeable and conscientious breeders nationwide.

The addition of a Brussels Griffon puppy to your household is an exciting and important event, a decision not to be taken lightly! A key consideration is the long-term health of the animal.

With the support of AKC, the ABGA Board of Directors encourages potential puppy buyers to buy from breeders that conduct recommended health screenings of both sire (father) and dam (mother) prior to breeding a litter. Affiliated with AKC, the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) promotes the health and welfare of companion animals through a reduction in the incidence of genetic disease. Breeders that conduct health tests will post results on the OFA website which are available for your viewing.

ABGA has identified a minimum of three **OFA** health tests that a breeder should perform on sires and dams before breeding. These tests are as follows:

**Eye examination by a board certified American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologist (AVCO)** to certify and screen for ocular disorders

**Patellar luxation examination** to grade and certify kneecap dislocation contributing to pain, lameness, and abnormal gait

**Hip dysplasia examination** to grade and certify degenerative joint disease that can lead to pain and debilitation.

Please bear in mind that the above tests are not health guarantees for offspring of tested dogs but indicators of ethical breeding practices that aim to produce healthy, pain free, long lived dogs. Breeders who follow the above protocol recommended by ABGA are eligible to become AKC *Breeders of Merit* or *Bred with H.E.A.R.T.* breeders. Also, note that breeders may run optional tests for other disorders.

In sum, be sure to inquire whether a breeder of Brussels Griffon puppies has conducted health tests recommended by the ABGA. Ask the breeder for the names of the puppy's parents. Follow the links on the AKC and/or OFA websites to check the test results of the sire and dam of the puppy, which you are interested in purchasing. Good luck in your quest for a healthy companion that will share your life for many years to come!