



# THE CAIRN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

## **Cairn Terrier Suggested Minimal Health Testing Guidelines Approved by the Board of Governors 4-27-16**

The Cairn Terrier is, by definition, an “active, game, and hardy” small terrier. They are long-lived dogs, with a life span averaging 13 - 14 years of age. The Cairn Terrier is basically a healthy breed; however, since purebred dogs on the average have 3 - 5 genetic faults, the Cairn is not without its health issues. The following lists minimal health testing guidelines approved by the Board of Governors of the Cairn Terrier Club of America.

Due to advances in canine medicine, health problems are being treated, prevented, and/or avoided by careful breeding. The following problems do occur occasionally in the Cairn Terrier. The CTCA and conscientious breeders, however, are working toward the elimination of these problems.

### **Globoid Cell Leukodystrophy (GCL)**

*Who to test:* Any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding who has not been previously cleared by test or parentage.

*Performed by:* Veterinarian

*Comments:* This is a DNA based test.

### **Liver Portosystemic Vascular Anomaly (PSVA) and Microvascular Dysplasia (MVD)**

*Who to test:* Puppies over 16 weeks and any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding who was not previously cleared.

*Performed by:* Veterinarian

*Comments:* It is recommended that all affected dogs as well as their parents, siblings and any other related dogs be tested to characterize kindred trait prevalence.

### **Kidney Ultrasound for Missing Kidney (aplasia) or Deformed Kidney (dysplasia)**

*Who to test:* Puppies at 12-15 weeks and any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding.

*Performed by:* Board Certified Veterinary Ultrasonographer

### **Ocular Melanosis (OM) Eye Exam**

*Who to test:* All Cairns 3 years and older. This test should be done yearly.

*Performed by:* Veterinary Ophthalmologist who has seen Cairns with OM in their practice. This examination can be part of a regular exam.

*Comments:* It is recommended that the eyes of parents and grandparents of breeding animals be examined when available.

### **Cardiac Exam**

*Who to test:* All adult Cairns.

*Performed by:* Veterinarian. If abnormalities are detected a Veterinary Cardiologist may need to be consulted.

*Comments:* Anemia and infection (including dental infection) can cause temporary heart murmurs which disappear when the anemia or infection is successfully treated.

### **Patella Exam**

*Who to test:* Any adult Cairn (dog or bitch) prior to breeding.

*Performed by:* Veterinarian. If abnormalities are detected a Veterinary Orthopaedist may need to be consulted.

Contact President Tom Quarles at [tquarles@ix.netcom.com](mailto:tquarles@ix.netcom.com) or visit the CTCA website at <http://cairnterrier.org/index.php/Static/health> for additional information.