



## American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc.

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### AMERICAN CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB - PARENT CLUB HEALTH STATEMENT -

The following are the Health Tests that the Board of Directors of the AMERICAN CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB consider both required and optional for all members and breeders of Cavaliers King Charles Spaniels. When all of the required tests are completed and submitted to OFFA, a CHIC number will be issued by OFFA to that Cavalier. For more information go to the Parent Club website: [www.ackcsc.org/health](http://www.ackcsc.org/health).

**REQUIRED TESTS** – Required by the Parent club and for CHIC certification.

**CARDIAC: SCREENING FOR MVD DISEASE** – Mitral Valve Murmur can be diagnosed by Auscultation (listening with a stethoscope) and should be performed by a Board Certified Cardiologist but in remote areas some breeders opt to have their General Veterinarian listen and certify. This is recommended to be done annually.

Registries and databases where results are stored are:

- OFA – Orthopedic Foundation for Animals
- ARCH-ACVIM Registry of Cardiac Health- Additional certification not required for CHIC but accepted

**EYE: SCREENING FOR Retinal Dysplasia and Additional Eye Diseases-**

Eye Examination performed by boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist;

Initial Exam at 8-12 weeks; follow up at 12 months, and annually until 5 years old, every two years until 9 years old. The Ophthalmologist will also screen for other issues that can develop in Cavaliers such as juvenile cataracts, corneal dystrophy etc. which will impact a pass/fail score.

- Results registered with OFA

**HIP DYSPLASIA: SCREENING for Hip Dysplasia**-degenerative joint disease, osteoarthritis, and arthrosis.

- OFA Evaluation-One radiograph by General Veterinarian or Orthopedic Specialist-to be evaluated by 3 Radiologists
- PennHIP Evaluation-**The PennHIP method is a way to assess, measure and interpret hip joint laxity.** It consists of three separate radiographs: the **distraction view**, the **compression view** and the **hip-extended view**.
- Results registered with OFA

**PATELLAR LUXATION:** The patella, or kneecap, is part of the stifle joint (knee). In patellar luxation, the kneecap luxates, or pops out of place, either in a medial or lateral position. Most common bilaterally (both knees) but can occur in one side or the other, unilaterally. This is done by a manual examination by a general veterinarian but can be viewed and diagnosed through a radiograph.

- OFA Evaluation – results registered with OFA

**OPTIONAL TESTING** - Not required by the Parent Club or CHIC for certification.

**BAER TESTING:** Congenital deafness in dogs (or other animals) can be acquired or inherited. Inherited deafness can be caused by a gene defect.

- OFA Evaluation by board certified veterinary neurologists, accepts test results from experienced veterinarians, neuroscience professionals, and audiologists.
- One test suffices for the lifetime of the animal

**EF, DE & CC:** (Episodic Falling, Curly Coat and Dry Eye)-inherited, mode of inheritance, simple recessive. Genetic tests are done by:

- AHT in England and VetGen in Michigan.
- OFA will record results in database if specified by owner-not required for CHIC

**SM/COM:** (Syringomyelia-Caudal Occipital Malformation)-Syringomyelia (SM) is a disorder in which a cyst or herniation called Syrinx forms within the spinal cord. SM causes a wide variety of neuropathic symptoms due to damage and degeneration of the spinal cord usually scratching and pain being the most pronounced. Chiari malformations (CMs) are structural defects that occur at the cranio-cervical junction. When part of the cerebellum is located below the foramen magnum, it is called Chiari malformation.

- Screening by MRI with anesthesia-Breeders discretion.
- Evaluation by Board Certified Radiologist-OFA is not at this time recording and documenting results in their database.

\*\*These tests have been reviewed and approved by the BOD of the ACKCSC.

\*\*NOTE: In addition to the breed specific requirements above, a CHIC requirement across all participating breeds is that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo in order to qualify for a CHIC number



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