



## **COLLIE CLUB OF AMERICA HEALTH STATEMENT**

The two tests that are highly recommended and generally accepted in a good breeding program are the MDR1 test and the PRA test.

First the MDR1 (Multidrug sensitivity) test - It is a genetic test with clear understandable results. We know that it is widespread and can identify normal, carriers and affected. Many collies have at least 1 of the genes (carrier), or both (affected). This genetic defect allows certain drugs to cross the blood/brain barrier and sometimes severe neurological symptoms can result, depending on the drug and the amount given. Each group varies on the response to certain medications. Many of these medications are used to treat a wide range of conditions and/or diseases in collies, so it is extremely important that the results are known prior to having to use any of these drugs.

Second is the PRA (progressive retinal atrophy) test - This is also a genetic test with clear understandable results. We know that it is not as common as some genetic diseases, but in the past the only way to find carriers was to do test breedings to PRA blind bitches and hope for enough puppies to make it significant. This is no longer necessary. The genetic test tells us normal, carrier and affected (the affected is known to cause blindness). This is a good test to include because of the severity of the disease.

Additionally, puppies should have an eye examination by a certified veterinarian ophthalmologist prior to going to a new home.

There are many other optional tests that may be done to ensure a healthy collie including, but not limited to CEA (collie eye anomaly), Hip radiographs (OFA or PennHip), Hypothyroidism, Dermatomyositis, and Degenerative myelopathy.

The Collie Health Foundation gives rebates for the PRA test, Cyclic Neutropenia, Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA), Dermatomyositis (DMS), and MDR1. <http://www.colliehealth.org/>

Also see below for the newest project:

Martha E Hoffman

CHIC DNA Banking Project

Sponsored by the Collie Health Foundation, Inc.

CHIC (Canine Health Information Center) is sponsored by AKC/Canine Health Foundation and Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. Contributing to this project will be one of the most important things you can do to preserve the future of the Collie breed. With the gene pool of all

purebred dogs shrinking, breeders need to make health testing the cornerstone of their breeding program. With your help, we will have a DNA bank that all approved researchers will have access to when they need samples for genetic research projects. As a donor, you will have access to your dog's DNA when new tests become available. By banking blood samples, DNA will be extracted from the blood and then held at the University of Missouri. OFA believes this process will preserve the DNA forever. Please be a part of helping CHF and AKC/CHF researchers find genetic markers for bloat, epilepsy, cancer, and so many other health issues. Having samples available when new research studies become available will cut down the time for samples to be made available to researchers and lead to positive conclusions much faster.

- CHF will pay the \$20 CHIC DNA Banking Fee for all Collies
- CHF will reimburse (with receipts) up to \$125 for collection and shipping costs. Please do **multiple dogs** at a time to keep these costs under control. You are welcome to send healthy dogs in at the same time to be part of the control group.
- CHF will sponsor a DNA collection clinic at the Collie Club of America National Specialty Show in Virginia Beach in 2018. This will be co-sponsored by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals and the American Kennel Club/Canine Health Foundation. Cindi Bossart, VMD will be managing the clinic.

#### **Collies to be Banked Immediately**

- Collies with genetic health issues and cancers.
- Veterans over 7 years old.
- Collies related to dogs with genetic health issues.
- If you must euthanize your Collie, please let him/her be an important part of the future of preserving the Collie Breed. We know this will be difficult but every Collie counts.

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Jane Clymer, Secretary, 3385 Upland Road, Lost Springs Kansas 66859