



The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.

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December 14, 2015

The following health testing requirements have been approved by a unanimous vote of the Board of PWDCA on December 14, 2015 and are submitted as a reply to your request for “a health statement” from the Parent Club. The PWDCA has a long history of focusing on health testing in the Portuguese Water Dog. The physical health of a PWD puppy is a high priority for our breeders. The PWDCA supports utilizing health-screening tests to minimize and/or eliminate the occurrence of genetic disease affected dogs to the best of a breeder’s ability. We have a detailed section of the PWDCA.org website devoted to health conditions and health testing that was developed to educate the public: <http://www.pwdca.org/health>.

The minimum health testing criteria recommended by the PWDCA for breeders of Portuguese Water Dogs consist of:

1. Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) hip certification (obtained at 2 years of age or older) on both the stud dog and brood bitch prior to mating, utilizing dogs who have received a passing hip score (fair, good, or excellent rating)
2. A current (yearly) Eye Certification Registry (ECR) certification (passing rating) on both the stud dog and brood bitch at the time of breeding - up to the age of 120 months
3. Progressive Retinal Atrophy (prcd-PRA) – Genetic test at OptiGen LLC or certification of DNA parentage analysis via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program on both the stud dog and the brood bitch prior to mating, with one parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test at OptiGen LLC or certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program. Note: the recommendation to continue testing both parents for PRA is based on the advice to more closely monitor the carrier percentage in the breed in order to prevent a significant growth in that percentage which could limit mating choices (as of 2014, the PRA carrier rate that is

- reported from tests submitted is 25%, a decrease from 38% in 1998).
4. GM-1, Storage Disease (Gangliosidosis) - One parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test at NYU or OptiGen LLC or certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program prior to mating.
  5. JDCM (Juvenile Dilated Cardiomyopathy) - One parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test done by PennGen at the University of Pennsylvania or certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program prior to mating.

The PWDCA encourages breeders to perform DNA profiles on their breeding stock and follows the current American Kennel Club DNA requirements. Other health testing that may be done are OFA Elbows for evaluation of elbow dysplasia and Improper Coat genetic test IC13 at OptiGen LLC.

The PWDCA recognizes the importance of multiple factors involved in breeding Portuguese Water Dogs. The required health testing listed above is an essential part of assessment of a sire and dam prior to breeding but evaluation of the temperament, soundness, and breed type of both parents are also important.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David E. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David E. Smith, MD  
President  
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