



Recommended Health Tests – Scottish Deerhound

The Scottish Deerhound Club of America's Health and Genetics Committee recommends the following health testing for Deerhounds:

Breeding Stock:

- Echocardiogram: Inherited heart defects are rare in Deerhounds, but they do occur. It is recommended that every Deerhound used for breeding should have a cardiac ultrasound (echocardiogram) to make sure the dog is free from subaortic stenosis, septal defects, and other heart defects. A cardiac ultrasound will also determine whether dilated cardiomyopathy or other heart disease is present at the time of the test.
- Factor VII: The Factor VII status of all breeding stock should be known. Clear Deerhounds can be bred to any Deerhound. Carrier or affected dogs should only be bred to clear dogs.
- Portosystemic (liver) shunt: All Deerhounds should be checked for a shunt with a bile acid test.

Puppies:

- Factor VII: Breeders should be able to give puppy buyers information on whether or not their puppy has the potential to be affected with this condition.
- Portosystemic shunt: Breeders should screen all of their puppies for portosystemic shunts with a bile acid test before they go to their new homes.
- Cardiac auscultation: All puppies' hearts should be listened to by a veterinarian, using a stethoscope, to check for heart defects before they go to their new homes.
- More information on these health problems, as well as information on other health problems found in the breed for which tests are not yet available, may be found at deerhound.org/health.shtml.

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