



VCA Official Health Statement

The [Vizsla Club of America](#) (VCA) seeks to preserve the health and welfare of the Vizsla through responsible breeding practices that improve the breed as outlined by the [AKC Vizsla Standard](#). Accepted health screening and certification for known genetic diseases are essential to selecting healthy breeding stock.

Prior to a mating, the VCA *strongly* recommends that all breeding stock receive a permanent CHIC number that is issued *after* the following health screens are completed:

- + Hip Dysplasia (OFA evaluation) – *at 24 months or older*
- + Autoimmune Thyroiditis (OFA evaluation)
- + Eyes (to be examined by a board-certified ACVO Ophthalmologist and registered with the OFA)

In addition, these optional health screens are recommended for breeding stock:

- + Elbow Dysplasia (OFA evaluation) – *at 24 months or older*
- + Hip Dysplasia (PennHip evaluation) – *at 24 months or older*
- + Cardiac (evaluation by a board-certified/ACVIM Cardiologist and registered with the OFA) – *at 12 months or older*

Preliminary OFA hip and elbow evaluations *performed before the age of 2* are not considered accurate assessments of soundness.

In order to receive a CHIC number, a dog must have permanent identification (microchip or tattoo).

A dog need not receive a passing score in order to receive a CHIC number. CHIC certification only indicates the tests have been done, *so it is the responsibility of each puppy buyer to verify that the results for both sire and dam are normal*. Test results can be found here:

<http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/search.html>.

All breeding stock must be identified by DNA. DNA numbers are not required for dogs deceased prior to 2007.

For more information about the CHIC requirements for the Vizsla:

<https://www.ofa.org/recommended-tests?breed=VZ&var=>

Some CHIC health screens can often be performed at a local dog show for a lower cost. To find a Health Clinic in your area, check the OFA Health Clinic calendar:

<https://www.ofa.org/health-clinics>

The Vizsla Club of America (VCA) is the AKC parent club for the Vizsla breed. For more information on how to find a responsible breeder, please visit our website:

http://www.vcaweb.org/breed/find_a_breeder.shtml.

Approved by the VCA Board of Directors on August 18, 2018.