



AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG HEALTH TESTING

“BREEDER OF HEART” REQUIREMENTS

All purebred or mixed breed dogs can have genetic and other health issues. Testing the sire and dam before breeding is a way to decrease the frequency of or prevent disorders. Your breeder should be willing and able to discuss health and genetic issues found in your chosen breed.

Your breeder should also be willing to show you the proof of testing. They should be able to verify which dogs the tests relate to through means such as microchips or tattoos that correspond to the test results. They should be willing to give you copies of tests related to your new dog. Look at what the actual test results say and do your research at sites like <http://www.offa.org> (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) and <http://www.acdhew.org> (Australian Cattle Dog Health, Education and Welfare) to understand what they mean. Even if your breeder does all suggested testing, health challenges may still arise as these are living creatures, not machines. However, as a result of testing the parents and careful breeding based on testing, the likelihood of getting a healthy puppy is higher.

Testing should be done on the sire and dam before breeding as described below. Some tests can also be performed on puppies, as noted. On DNA tests, the point is to avoid producing “affected” dogs. “Carriers” of disorders can make perfectly fine pets but should only be bred to “clear” dogs to avoid producing more “affected” dogs. Sometimes the breeder has done generations of tests to produce “obligate” clear dogs so the puppies themselves are no longer tested for certain disorders. The breeder should be willing to prove this to you by showing you the testing on past generations in your new dog’s pedigree. For a list of DNA testing labs see http://www.offa.org/dna_labs.html. Not all labs are “created equally”.

If you have questions about health testing and the Australian Cattle Dog, please feel free to email healthquestions@acdca.org.

Hip Dysplasia

Evaluation of sire and dam by x-raying to check for hip joint disease.

A veterinarian takes the x-ray and submits it for evaluation to OFA (min age 2 years) – OR OVC (min age 2 years) – OR PennHIP Evaluation (min age 1 year).

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.

Elbow Dysplasia (evaluation at two years or older)

Evaluation of sire and dam by x-raying to check for elbow joint disease.

A veterinarian takes the x-ray and submits it for evaluation to OFA – OR OVC (Canada).

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam or puppy. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.

Eye Examination by a board certified ACVO Ophthalmologist - Min Age 24 months

Evaluation of sire and dam for visible signs of various eye diseases by a veterinary ophthalmologist.

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam or puppy. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) DNA Test - from an approved laboratory

Genetic (DNA) test for eye disease causing blindness usually in middle aged or older dogs. Sire and dam should be evaluated. Puppies can be evaluated because it is a DNA test.

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam or puppy. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.

Congenital Deafness

A qualified tester (usually a veterinarian) performs a BAER (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) test for hearing in each ear. Sire and dam should be evaluated. Puppies can be evaluated at 6-8 weeks of age.

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam or puppy. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.

Primary Lens Luxation

Genetic (DNA) test for a painful eye disease where the lens is displaced or dislocated. Sire and dam can be evaluated before breeding. Puppies can be evaluated because it is a DNA test.

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam or puppy. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.

OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED (less common disorders)

Patellar Luxation (Optional)

A veterinarian palpates to check for congenital kneecap dislocation. X-rays can also be done.

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam or puppy. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.

Congenital Cardiac Database (Optional)

A veterinarian (preferably a cardiac specialist) does an exam to check for congenital heart disease. May be auscultation only or with an echocardiogram.

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam or puppy. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.

Progressive Retinal Atrophy RCD4 (Optional)

Genetic (DNA) test for disease that causes blindness. Sire and dam can be evaluated before breeding. Puppies can be evaluated because it is a DNA test.

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam or puppy. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.

Radiographic consultation for OCD of the Hocks. (Optional)

Check for osteochondritis dissecans (a degenerative inflammatory disease) in this case, of the hock.

Proof: Ask for paperwork corresponding to sire, dam or puppy. Results can be registered with OFA and viewed on-line.