



## **Health Statement of the Havanese Club of America, Inc. March 2020**

The Havanese Club of America, Inc. (HCA) is dedicated to the breeding of healthy, long-lived Havanese with proper conformation.

Breeders appearing on the HCA Breeder List must perform annual health testing on the sire and dam of a litter to obtain current OFA CHIC certifications (the Canine Health Information Center of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals), for each. The tests have been selected for their health consequences and heritability. Additionally, as required by the HCA Board, each of these health examinations must be passed.

Havanese testing to obtain a current CHIC certification includes the following four examinations:

- 1) BAER (Congenital Deafness) – conducted once; examination by a Board Certified veterinary neurologist, trained veterinarian, neuroscience professional, or audiologist,
- 2) CAER (Eyes) – conducted annually; examination by a Board Certified (ACVO) Ophthalmologist,
- 3) Patella Luxation – conducted once, at 12 mo. or older; examination by a veterinarian,
- 4) Hip Dysplasia – conducted once, OFA or PennHIP test with the permanent evaluation recorded by the OFA; examination based on X-rays by a veterinarian, with certification required for PennHIP.

The results of all these tests are reported to the OFA to obtain the CHIC number for each parent and are then available to the public. In addition, many breeders will also perform the OFA Congenital Cardiac examination, as well as other OFA Orthopedic tests.

Conformation, which includes both the temperament, structure, movement, and appearance of the dog is enumerated in the *Havanese Breed Standard*. While these characteristics have some degree of heritability, they are not generally associated with health issues. A reputable breeder should be knowledgeable enough to select proper parentage (and ancestry) to produce offspring closely following the *Havanese Breed Standard*. A more formal and independent mechanism to identify good conformation for breeding is the parents having achieved an AKC Conformation Championship title.

*This Health Statement has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Havanese Club of America, Inc.*

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