



June 8, 2019

The American Kennel Club
Attention: Peter Piusz, Delegate Parent Clubs Committee

Dear Peter,

I am writing to submit a parent club health statement and recommended health screenings for dachshunds. The following was approved by the Dachshund Club of America Board of Directors at its May 23, 2019 Board meeting. Any questions regarding these recommendations may be directed to me at my contact information shown below.

The Dachshund Club of America supports and encourages health testing by Dachshund breeders in an attempt to reduce or eliminate diseases which may be inherited. The Dachshund Club of America encourages breeders to participate in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) program. CHIC is a database of consolidated health screening results from multiple sources and is sponsored by the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals).

The following health screening tests are recommended by the Dachshund Club of America.

1. Patella Luxation

Dogs should be evaluated at 12 months of age or older. It is recommended that dogs be periodically reevaluated as some luxations will not be evident until later in life. Patients that are evaluated and found to have patella luxation should be reevaluated by a Diplomate of the College of Veterinary Surgeons for confirmation.

2. Eye Examination by a Board Certified Ophthalmologist of the ACVO (American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists)

Results should be registered with the Companion Animal Eye Registry (CAER)

Dogs can be evaluated when their eyes are open. Males and females should be evaluated within 2 years prior to breeding.

3. Cardiac Examination by a Board Certified Cardiologist of the ACVIM (American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine) for Congenital cardiac disease at a minimum age of 12 months. Examination involves auscultation with a stethoscope and not echocardiography.

Other diseases such as LaFlora Disease, IVDD (Intervertebral Disk Disease), and PRA (Progressive Retinal Atrophy) should be considered by breeders and will be potentially addressed as reliable, meaningful tests become available.

Regards,

Cheryl Shultz
Corresponding Secretary