

GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

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8 April 2022

On behalf of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, I am advising that this is our current official health statement which is what we are responsible for updating if needed. This health statement has been approved by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America's Board of Directors.

The GSPCA supports and encourages health testing to maintain the health and stamina of our breed to compete in both conformation and field events in addition to the many other AKC activities requiring a GSP with a sound body and intelligent mind. Physical and mental health is critical to a GSP being successful as a companion and competitive in any event his owner participates in. The testing recommended by the GSPCA focuses on the heart, orthopedic soundness and vision. The GSPCA encourages our members to participate in the CHIC program. The Canine Health Information Center, also known as CHIC, is a centralized canine health database jointly sponsored by the AKC/Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

Effective May 1, 2014 the required tests are:

Cardiac: Exam (auscultation or echo) by a Board Certified Cardiologist at the Minimum age of 24 months, with results posted to the OFA site. The age of 24 months is a change to this requirement. In addition, the exam must now be performed only by a board certified cardiologist.

Hip Dysplasia: OFA Evaluation at Minimum age of 24 months or PennHIP.

Elbow Dysplasia: OFA Evaluation at Minimum age of 24 months. This is a new requirement based on the rising incidence of elbow dysplasia in all sporting breeds including GSPs. Previously elbow dysplasia had been an optional test. Elbow Dysplasia is a crippling hereditary disease.

Eye Exam: Eye examination by a Board Certified ACVO Ophthalmologist annually until Age 6. Results registered with OFA. There is no recommended age to start as long as the eyes are open.

Cone Degeneration: Optigen test results registered with the OFA. Only one subsequent generation of two CD tested dogs may be cleared by parentage. The following generation will have to be tested.

Optional Tests:

Autoimmune thyroiditis: Evaluation by an OFA approved laboratory with results posted to the OFA site. It is recommended that the test be repeated every two years. MORE

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Von Willebrands Disease: Clearance using the vWD Type 2 genetic test from VetGen. (Genetic Test) Results to be posted to the OFA site.

A special note about Lupoid Dermatitis (LD). In June 2013 the GSPCA Board of Directors reviewed information from a retest of dogs previously tested for LD by cheek swab. Because some of the different results obtained from the blood sample retest have not been explained and because the results of the LD research have not been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, the Board has taken a neutral position on this test at this time. Breeders need to consult with PennGen at the University of Pennsylvania to determine the usefulness of this test for their breeding programs. (Please see the Members Section of the GSPCA web site for more information.)

*Note – In addition to the breed specific requirements above, a CHIC requirement across all participating breeds is that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo in order to qualify for a CHIC number.

Sincerely,

Lynn Pettinato
GSPCA Corresponding Secretary
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