



Recommendations Regarding Best Practices for Testing for Health and Potential Disease in Standard Schnauzers

The health of our dogs is a concern for all Owners of Standard Schnauzers, with the maintenance of the health of our breed going forward being the highest priority. It is highly recommended that Owners and Breeders always adopt best practices with regard to testing for risk of disease and/or conditions negatively impacting health, monitoring for the existence of disease and/or health issues and treating current health issues.

Breeders have the highest level of responsibility for maintaining the future health of our breed. Therefore, the Board of Governors of the Standard Schnauzer Club of America strongly urges Owners considering a breeding to insure that appropriate tests, and especially tests that will evaluate the risk of disease in future generations, be conducted and incorporated into decisions regarding the appropriateness of a mating.

In addition to tests to evaluate the general health status of the Dam and Sire, the following tests for potential disease in future generations are recommended:

- 1) All dogs used for breeding should first be x-rayed (radiographed) and found free of hip dysplasia by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). Dogs under two years of age should have a preliminary OFA evaluation and dogs over two years of age should have an OFA number.
- 2) Evaluation by a Board Certified Ophthalmologist for potential eye and vision defects. Eye and vision evaluation should be done no more than one year before being bred.
- 3) Molecular/genotype analysis for risk of genetic diseases, including the recently reported genotype analysis for risk of Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Standard Schnauzers. In **NO** case should two Carriers be bred. However, if one parent is a Carrier, then the other parent's results should be Negative (Normal) to ensure that none of the offspring will be DCM affected.

In addition, Owners and Breeders are urged to insure that the results from these tests are entered and available in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) database.

Adopted by the Board of Governors of the Standard Schnauzer Club of America

Date: October 15, 2014

Updated/Approved: May 21, 2015