



## VIP RECOMMENDED GENETIC AND HEALTH TESTS FOR STANDARD POODLES

In order to obtain a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number, the Standard Poodle must have completed testing and be registered with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) in the following areas:

- Hip Dysplasia evaluation from an approved agency
- Eye clearance by the Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF)

One of the three following tests:

- Autoimmune Thyroiditis (primary hypothyroidism) evaluation from an approved agency
- Sebaceous Adenitis evaluation
- OFA cardiac evaluation

The above tests are considered the minimum testing required for Standard Poodles that will be used for breeding. Please note that designation with a CHIC number does not show that the dog actually passed the testing, only that the tests were administered.

To check the testing that has been done on a dog, you will need either the dog's OFA number, the CHIC number, the registration number, or the registered name of the dog. To check the dog's testing status, go to: <http://www.offa.org/search.html>.

Many breeders will perform additional testing on their breeding stock. All testing is valuable and gives information regarding the breeder's interest in the future of his/her breeding program. Using the tools that are currently available will allow the breeder to successfully use the entire gene pool in combinations that provide for a healthy future for the breed. Other testing currently available includes DNA tests for degenerative myelopathy, neonatal encephalopathy, and von Willebrand's disease.

Also, there is a true difference in types of testing. Very few of our available tests measure genotype (actual DNA sequence of a gene). Most of our tests measure phenotype (a physical evaluation measures the health of an individual in the hope of providing information about genotype). For a variety of reasons phenotypic testing provides less reliable information about the genes a given dog might pass on to offspring. For a full explanation of the interpretation and use of phenotype testing, see the article found on the OFA web pages: <http://www.offa.org/hovanart.pdf>.

## RECOMMENDED TESTS FOR STANDARDS

### Addison's Disease

**Disorder:** Failure of the adrenal glands to secrete the corticosteroid hormones. In primary Addison's, this is usually due to autoimmune damage to the adrenal cortex. Initial symptoms are vague and may include depression, lack of appetite, vomiting and/or diarrhea with abdominal pain and muscle weakness. In an acute crisis, symptoms include low blood pressure with weakness, shivering and impaired kidney function. For more information see: <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/cliented/addisons.aspx>.

Addison's e-mail list groups:

[www.k9addisons.com/subscribe.html](http://www.k9addisons.com/subscribe.html)

Or write: [AddisonDogs\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:AddisonDogs_subscribe@yahoo.com)

Also see: <http://www.addisondogs.com/support/>

**Test:** Blood tests will usually show the following: cortisol level determination (low); CBC (complete blood count) in which certain white blood cells occur in higher than normal numbers; and an abnormal (low) ratio of sodium to potassium. A definitive diagnosis of Addison's is by an ACTH stimulation test. At this writing there is no DNA test to search for carriers of this disease and no way to determine if a dog will get Addison's disease until the dog is actually ill with the disease.

**When:** Testing is done if a screening blood test and symptoms indicate the possibility of Addison's disease.

**Where:** Most veterinarians can do these tests and send them to a laboratory for analysis.

**NOTE:** A negative result on an ACTH stim test only means the dog does not have Addison's disease at that point in time. There is no guarantee that the dog will not be affected later in his/her life.

### Cardiac Evaluation

**Disorder:** In Standard Poodles, atrial septal defect (ASD) and patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) are inherited defects of the heart which can lead to a shortened life span and impaired quality of life. For more information see: <http://www.offa.org/cardiacecho.html>.

**Test:** Doppler echocardiograph.

**When:** For certification, this test should be performed on dogs who are at least twelve months of age, or older. However, younger dogs and puppies may have preliminary evaluations.

Where: It is recommended that a veterinarian board certified in clinical cardiology perform this test. Other veterinarians with the training and equipment may be able to perform the test.

### **Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)**

Disorder: DM is a progressive disease of the spinal cord and has a typical onset between the ages of eight and fourteen years. Clinical signs of the disease may include dragging the rear feet, wobbling when walking, or falling over. The dog may find it difficult to stand and may eventually have no use of the rear legs. Unfortunately, there is not a cure for the disease, nor are there treatments to slow the progression of DM. DM does not cause pain to the dog. Please note that there is a low incidence of DM in Standard Poodles at this writing. It is advisable, however, to have breeding animals tested to know their status and to make breeding decisions based upon DM test results as well as other testing. For more information see: <http://www.caninegeneticdiseases.net/DM/basicDM.htm>.

Test: DNA test using a cheek swab.

When: Anytime after a dog is three to four weeks old.

Where: The DNA test is available from OFA at <https://secure.offa.org/cart.html> and will identify clear dogs, carrier dogs, and dogs who are at a higher risk to develop the disease.

### **Elbow Dysplasia**

Disorder: Elbow dysplasia is a general term used to identify an inherited polygenic disease in the elbows of dogs. Young dogs, four to ten months of age, may begin to show lameness. The elbows may seem swollen and are held outward from the chest. For more information, see: <http://www.offa.org/elbowgeninfo.html>.

Test: X-ray.

When: At 24+ months for OFA certification.

Where: Many veterinarians are experienced in x-raying dogs' elbows. These films are sent to the OFA registry for a reading.

## Eyes

**Disorder:** An eye exam is performed to test for progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) and the other 21 presumed-to-be hereditary eye abnormalities that are found in Poodles, including juvenile cataracts, entropion and ectropion. Many of these abnormalities lead to blindness, although some can be corrected with surgery. For more information, see: <http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html>.

**Test:** CERF eye examination by a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist.

**When:** The CERF examination may be done as early as eight weeks. Annual CERF exams should be done, thereafter.

**Where:** The CERF exam is done by an ophthalmologist at his office, or at an eye clinic held in your area sponsored by a breed club.

## Hip Dysplasia (HD)

**Disorder:** Hip Dysplasia is an inherited polygenetic disease that manifests itself in a malformation of the hip joint in which the ball and socket do not properly fit together. Mildly dysplastic dogs may not exhibit any outward signs. Moderate to severe cases may exhibit rear end lameness and/or discomfort when getting up. Arthritis often occurs over time from wearing on the hip joint. Young dogs, five to ten months, may be affected and older dogs may develop chronic degenerative joint disease. For more information, see: <http://www.offa.org/hipinfo.html>.

**Test:** X-ray.

**When:** At 24+ months for OFA hip certification, at 16+ weeks for PennHIP scores (although a more accurate score may be obtained at six months or even twelve months).

**Where:** Many veterinarians are experienced in x-raying dogs' hips. These films are sent to the OFA registry for a reading. Only PennHIP certified orthopedic and radiological specialists can do the PennHIP films; however, all PennHIP results can be sent to, and certified by, OFA.

## Neonatal Encephalopathy (NE)

**Disorder:** “Neonatal” refers to the time immediately after birth. “Encephalopathy” refers to a disease affecting the brain. Thus, neonatal encephalopathy means a disease of the brain that becomes apparent soon after pups are born. Affected pups are weak, uncoordinated, and mentally dull from birth. If they survive the first few days, they nurse adequately. However, they may not be able to compete with stronger pups in the litter and their growth may be stunted. Some cannot stand at all. Others manage to struggle to their feet and walk with jerky movements, falling frequently. Seizures develop in most affected pups at four to five weeks of age. Attempts to control these seizures with medication have proven futile, and the pups die or are euthanized before they reach weaning age. For more information, see: <http://www.caninegeneticdiseases.net/ataxia/NE-StdP.htm>.

**Test:** DNA test using a cheek swab.

**When:** Anytime after birth.

**Where:** The DNA test is available from the University of Missouri. See the contact information for Liz Hansen in the address section.

## Sebaceous Adenitis (SA)

**Disorder:** Sebaceous adenitis (SA) is a hereditary skin disease in which the sebaceous glands become inflamed, often leading to progressive loss of hair. The disease is primarily seen in Standard Poodles, Akitas and Samoyeds, although there have been reported cases in a number of other breeds as well as mixed breeds. The disease can develop during a wide age range, with age of onset documented as early as one year and as late as twelve years. For more information, see: <http://www.offa.org/sainfo.html>.

**Test:** A minimum of two small skin biopsies are taken from the top of the head down the midline near the shoulders if there are no clinical signs of SA. If there is hair loss and scaling on the dog, the biopsies are taken from the affected areas.

**When:** After the second birthday and annually thereafter for dogs in a breeding program.

**Where:** Your veterinarian can take the biopsies. These are then sent to a certified veterinary dermatopathologist. For a list of the currently certified dermatopathologists, go to CHIC pages at: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org>.

## Thyroid Malfunction

**Disorder:** The most common cause of primary hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid) in dogs is autoimmune thyroiditis. Autoimmune thyroiditis is an inheritable disease that is seen in all three varieties of Poodles, but is more common in Standard Poodles. This disorder may affect a dog at any age, but clinical signs are often seen in dogs between two to five years of age. Hypothyroidism is not generally a life-threatening disease, but it is a permanent condition. When diagnosed, the traditional, effective treatment is a daily, or twice daily, dose of a thyroid hormone replacement (synthetic L-thyroxine). Dogs with this condition should not be bred. Breeding animals should be tested yearly for the first four years and, after that, every other year. For more information, see: <http://www.offa.org/thygeninfo.html>.

**Test:** Blood sample.

**When:** Subsequent to sexual maturity in males and between heat cycles (twelve to sixteen weeks following onset of heat) in females.

**Where:** Thyroid testing is difficult to do correctly so only a few laboratories are recognized by the OFA. For a list of those laboratories, go to the OFA website at: <http://www.offa.org/thyinfo.html>.

## Von Willebrand's Disease (vWD)

**Disorder:** Von Willebrand's disease is an inherited bleeding disorder. In vWD, bleeding is caused by the absence of the von Willebrand's factor, which is needed in the early stages of clotting. Bleeding is likely to be mild in Standard Poodles with vWD. For more information see: <http://www.vetgen.com/canine-vwd1.html>.

**Test:** DNA test using a cheek swab.

**When:** Anytime after birth. If both parents are certified clear and if the parents are certified by the lab as being the parents of the litter, then a "certificate by pedigree" may be issued to the offspring.

**Where:** Test kits are available from VetGen. See the contact information for VetGen in the address section.

## OTHER TESTS FOR STANDARDS

### Juvenile Renal Disease (JRD)

**Disorder:** The kidneys fail to develop properly in the fetus. JRD is usually a fatal disease in affected animals. Most affected dogs are diagnosed by age two and die before age three. At this writing, JRD can be definitively diagnosed only by a kidney biopsy or an autopsy. However, early signs of kidney disease can be detected with the HESKA ERD HealthScreen Canine Urine Test.

For more information about the HESKA test, see:

<http://www.drugs.com/vet/heska-e-r-d-healthscreen-canine-urine-test.html>.

**Test:** Checks for low levels of albumin, which may indicate early stage kidney damage, in a urine sample. More follow-up will be needed to determine the cause of albumin in the urine. If JRD is suspected, supportive therapy may extend survival time. As the disease progresses, kidney failure can be detected with blood tests measuring BUN (blood urea nitrogen) and creatinine levels.

**When:** Anytime.

**Where:** The test may be run inexpensively and quickly in the vet's office.

**Disclaimer:** The information below on the JRD DNA test is provided by Versatility in Poodles (VIP) for informational and educational purposes only. At this time, information on the efficacy of the JRD test marketed by DOGenes is not available. For this reason, VIP has chosen not to list the test under "Recommended Tests for Standards." As of this writing, the JRD DNA test has not been accepted by OFA or CHIC. *For more information about the DNA test, see: <https://www.dogenes.com/jrdarticle.html>.*

**Test:** DNA test using a cheek swab.

**When:** Anytime after birth and before sending puppies to their new homes if there is a family history of JRD.

**Where:** The DNA test is available from DOGenes. See the contact information for DOGenes in the address section.

## ADDRESSES

### Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF)

The Veterinary Medical DataBases-VMDB/CERF  
1717 Philo Rd.  
P O Box 3007  
Urbana, Illinois 61803-3007

Phone: 217-693-4800  
Fax: 217-693-4801  
E-mail: [CERF@vmdb.org](mailto:CERF@vmdb.org)  
Website: <http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html>

### Canine Health Information Center (CHIC)

Eddie Dziuk or Dr. Greg Keller  
Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc.  
2300 East Nifong Blvd.  
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Phone: 800-442-0418  
Email: [chic@offa.org](mailto:chic@offa.org)  
Website: <http://www.offa.org>

Erika Werne  
AKC Canine Health Foundation  
P.O. Box 37941  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627-7941

Phone: 888-682-9696  
E-mail: [caninehealth@akcchf.org](mailto:caninehealth@akcchf.org)

### Degenerative Myelopathy

Dr. Joan Coates or Dr. Dennis O'Brien  
University of Missouri  
900 East Campus Drive  
Columbia, Missouri 65211

Phone: 573-882-7821  
Fax: 573-884-5444  
Email: [coatesj@missouri.edu](mailto:coatesj@missouri.edu)  
Email: [OBrienD@missouri.edu](mailto:OBrienD@missouri.edu)

Or

Liz Hansen  
Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory  
University of Missouri  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
321 Connaway Hall  
Columbia, Missouri 65211

Phone: 573-884-3712  
E-mail: [HansenL@missouri.edu](mailto:HansenL@missouri.edu)

DOGenes

DOGenes Inc.,  
161 Sherin Ave.,  
Peterborough, ON, K9J 7V5, CANADA

Web site: <http://www.dogenes.com/>  
Phone: 705-748-0089  
E-mail: [info@dogenes.com](mailto:info@dogenes.com)

Neonatal Encephalopathy

Dr. Gary Johnson (Poodle) DNA Research  
University of Missouri  
209 A Connaway Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211

Or

Liz Hansen  
Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory  
University of Missouri  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
321 Connaway Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211

Phone: 573-884-3712  
E-mail: [HansenL@missouri.edu](mailto:HansenL@missouri.edu)

## Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA)

2300 East Nifong Boulevard  
Columbia, Missouri 65201-3806

Phone: 573-442-0418  
Fax: 573-875-5073  
E-mail: [ofa@offa.org](mailto:ofa@offa.org)  
Web site: <http://www.offa.org>

## PennHIP (University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program)

PennHIP Analysis Center  
20 Valley Stream Parkway Suite 267  
Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355

Web site: <http://www.pennhip.org>  
Phone: 610-640-1244  
Toll free 800-248-8099  
Fax: 610-640-5754

Send all CDs of digital images to the following address (they cannot accept digital submissions through the web-site):

PennHIP Administrative Center  
MJR-VHUP  
Attn: Tom Gregor  
3900 Delancey St.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6010

## Sebaceous Adenitis

For SA database info, sample submission form and veterinarian sampling information, go to the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) web site at <http://www.offa.org/sainfo.html>.

For further contact information, refer back to the CHIC address.

## Thyroid

Endocrine Diagnostic Section  
Diagnostic Center for Population & Animal Health  
4125 Beaumont Road, Room 122

Lansing, Michigan 48910-8104

Phone: 517-353-0621

Or any of the other labs listed at [www.caninehealthinfo.org/thylabs.html](http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/thylabs.html)

VetGen

3728 Plaza Drive, Suite 1  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

Phone: 734-669-8440

Toll Free: 800-483-8436 (US & Canada)

Fax: 734-669-8441

Web site: <http://www.vetgen.com/>

For e-mail, fill out a form directly on the website: [www.vetgen.com/](http://www.vetgen.com/).

The information contained in this document is current at the time of this writing and is accurate to the best of VIP's knowledge.

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Versatility in Poodles  
1929 Van Buren Ave., SE  
Bemidji MN 56601

Send PayPal donations to [vip\\_tsr@earthlink.net](mailto:vip_tsr@earthlink.net).

For more information about VIP, you may contact VIP officers at:

<http://www.vipoodle.org/docs/aboutvip.html>.

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