ASSA Health Committee

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In Search of CHICs

The fact that you are even reading this says that you are, on some level, concerned with the health of your breed. That concern, channeled toward taking just a a few simple steps, can make a huge difference for the future of the breed.

Will obtaining a CHIC number make your dog better, more valuable? No, not really. Will it make him or her win more awards? Nope, won't do that either. Will it make that fantastic grooming job last longer? Sorry, can't do that. Will it make him glow in the dark? Definitely not. But it will make him stand out in the crowd—as a dog who belongs to a human whose motivation is being a guardian of the breed; someone who wants to make sure everything possible is being done to ensure they breed away from genetic disorders in as much as humanly possible.

So how do you get a CHIC number? Easy! On the left, you will see a listing of tests that are, at this time, considered the minimal benchmarks for obtaining CHIC status in Shelties. The two required tests are HIPS and EYES.

Hip x-rays may be analyzed through either OFA or PennHip—it's your choice. X-rays must be completed after two years of age.

Eyes must be done by an ACVO ophthalmologist: annual testing is recommended for the first five years, then every two years until the age of nine, as some disorders do not manifest themselves until later on.

OFA or PennHip—the choice is yours!

Two additional tests are needed, but which two are up to you. Those are your electives. You may wish to base those on concerns of your specific breeding program, or issues that are unknown due to lack of published results.

What do I need?

- ***REQUIREDS:***

Hips: Either OFA or PennHip—after 2 yrs of age

Eyes: annually thru age 5, then every two years till age 9

- ***ELECTIVES: (2 needed)***

Elbows

vWD

MDR1

Thyroid

CEA(CH)

C.I.D

Good for your credit card, and your dog!

Before your dog can obtain a CHIC number, it must be permanently identified by use of a microchip or tattoo.

You can get the tests done without the ID confirmation, but a CHIC number will not be granted until ALL components have been met.

When Does My Dog Get His CHIC Number?

A CHIC number is issued automatically when test results are entered into the database satisfying the listed requirements, provided the owner has agreed to make such results public. The dog must also have been confirmed as having permanent identification. Without that, no CHIC number is issued.

A report is issued at the same time the number is generated. This report will give a synopsis of the tests completed, when they were performed, and the age of the dog at that time.

Once a CHIC number is generated, it stays with the dog. Should subsequent test results be registered, the report will be updated.

If the breed specific test requirements change, existing CHIC numbers are not revoked. The CHIC number

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Getting a CHIC Number, cont.

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reflects the completion of the tests required at a *given point in time.*

Likewise, if only the initial eye certification is obtained, and no follow-up eye exams are recorded, the CHIC number is not rescinded even though follow-up eye checks are recommended.

It is up to the individual using the registry to do their due diligence in analyzing the pedigree. Again, the registry is only as good, and as useful, as the breeders make it.

CANINE HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER

REGISTERED NAME
SHETLAND SHEEPDOG
PERMANENT ID #
CHIC #
AKC REG #
M
DOB
REPORT DATE

REQUIRED TESTS
HIPS — OFA SS
COLLIE EYE ANOMALY — OPTIGEN SS
VON WILLEBRANDS — OFA SS
MULTIPLE DRUG RESISTANCE (MDR1 — OFA SS
EYES — OFA SS

Coded numbers depicting registry number, age at time of test, and whether or not permanent ID was confirmed

OTHER TESTS
LEGG-CALVE-PERTHES — OFA SS Can be determined using same x-ray as hips

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER

www.caninehealthinfo.org

Can I submit only passing results?

"CHIC IS NOT ABOUT NORMALCY. CHIC IS . . . SO THAT MORE INFORMED BREEDING DECISIONS CAN BE MADE . . . "

CHIC is an "informed consent" registry and, as such, it is subject to the openness and honesty of those submitting the test results.

In order to obtain a CHIC number, you MUST submit the two required tests: (hips / eyes). Without those two, no matter what the results, the dog will not receive a CHIC number. However, you can pick and choose from the electives if you wish and submit only those that pass.

For example, if your dog is found to be Normal/Mutant for MDR1, and affected with CEA, but normal for thyroid and vWD—you can submit only those results that are normal and still obtain his/her CHIC number.

Just remember, if only passing / good test results are posted, it diminishes the value of the entire system.

When a breeder commits to listing ALL test results, good or bad, it greatly increases the depth and breadth of the resulting pedigree analysis, as well as the ability of researchers to determine which disorders warrant additional attention and research.

No dog is perfect; we all know that. Knowing where the weaknesses lie

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So, What Do I Do?

First things first! Once you decide to go for it, get the dog's permanent ID.

The eye exam can be done at any time and submitted to OFA. (CERF registry is no longer available— OFA is the only registry at this point in time.) Be sure to indicate that you agree to the results being made public. There are no fees associated with transferring the results to CHIC. You pay only for the OFA registration on eye exams.

Now, decide which of the electives tests are most appropriate and/or meaningful for the pedigree you're working with, or go all out and do them all. It's up to you.

As each test is completed, submit it to OFA for inclusion in their database. By the time your dog is two years of age, you can have everything else done and be ready for the hip evaluation.

If you use OFA, there is no fee for entering test results with CHIC. It's a shared program and done automatically. However, if you use PennHip, you will need to submit the appropriate paperwork to have the results transferred to CHIC.

As each test is performed and regis-

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Clear By Parentage

Let's talk a moment about what it means to be clear by parentage, as it relates to the CHIC program.

You check your breeding stock. You know they're clear for certain disorders based on DNA testing. You breed a dog that is clear, to a bitch that is clear, and declare the puppies "clear by parentage".

They may well be, but in order to be listed on the CHIC registry as such, there is still some work to be done.

First, both parents must be DNA tested clear. Then, those test results must be registered. Finally, all three (sire/dam/offspring) must have been DNA identity profiled and parentage verified.

A claim of "Clear By Parentage" without the subsequent steps, or in relying on information passed down from someone, should be considered with the same weight as one would give tests where results were not listed in the registry.

Your puppies may well be clear; but in researching subsequent generations, memories fade, facts get garbled in translation and two or three generations away, who will be able to positively state what was and what wasn't factual. It's like the "I have a secret" game at summer camp . . . It never gets told the same way twice.

So, What Do I Do, cont.

tered with the OFA database, it will simultaneously be transferred to the CHIC program.

Once all necessary elements have been met, the CHIC number will be generated and you will receive the report automatically.

NOTE: Although multiple eye checks are recommended for Shelties, CHIC does not require that the test be "up to date" in order to achieve a CHIC number. It's up to the individual owner to stay current. However, when you are doing your pedigree research, CHIC makes as much information available as possible by listing the date of the test and the age of the animal at the time of testing. You may also notice that the CHIC logo appearing behind the dog's name in the registry is RED when all tests are current—yet grey when a test is out of date. The eye check is the only "dated" test for Shelties at this time.

ASSA OFFERS A GRANT OF $125 TO EACH MEMBER CLUB HOLDING A HEALTH CLINIC PRIMARILY FOR SHETLAND SHEEPDOGS, AS WELL AS TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

It really is
THAT EASY!

Passing Results, cont.

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helps us avoid opening the closet that hides the proverbial skeleton!

Testing your breeding stock is the most important step you can take in having a healthy line. There are no guarantees, but the probability of a dog developing an inherited disease is reduced when its ancestors have been tested normal.

Let's face it. We all have financial constraints in some way, shape or form. If you only test those animals being used in your breeding program, you'll make a huge contribution to the health of the breed. Altered animals will not negatively impact the breed; your breeding stock may.

Only you can decide where your money is better spent: garnering the ribbons on your wall, advertising your latest win, protecting the health of your breed.

It's your breed—you decide.

ASSA Health Committee

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Healthy Dogs Are Happy Dogs
We Owe Them That

The ASSA Health Committee compiled an instructional guide to help member clubs put on Health Clinics.

These clinics aid your membership in obtaining valuable health clearances at discounted prices, while serving as valuable fund raisers for your club treasury and satisfying your club's educational requirements with AKC.

If your club is an ASSA member club, and has not received a copy of the Guide to Sponsoring Health Clinics CD, please contact the Health Committee.

You may also download the Guide from the ASSA web site.

Thank You For Participating!

A Note from the Chair

Dear Sheltie Club Members,

The ASSA considers the health and well being of our breed to be of utmost importance and has created the ASSA Health Committee to assist breeders in gathering genetic information vital to producing healthy Shelties. ASSA began holding Health Clinics at our National Specialty (wherever possible) beginning at the St. Louis National in 2014.

ASSA encourages all breeders and owners to send their results, both positive and negative, to the canine health database (CHIC), sponsored by the AKC/Canine Health Foundation and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). ASSA offers its members a rebate of $15 per test with a maximum up $30 per dog to help offset the cost of registering with OFA.

Your dog does NOT have to test clear (or normal) on any test for the results to be recorded under the CHIC program. The CHIC program, as discussed in this newsletter, is an informed consent database. All information is confidential unless you, the owner, specifically authorize its release. The purpose of the registry is to make information available not only for today's breeders, but for research and statistical reporting, for generations to come. By utilizing this information, we can continue to breed for the best!

Your club can assist by offering local Health Clinics for Sheltie, and other breed, fanciers. ASSA has produced a CD to help your club with planning and executing a successful Health Clinic. It is available, free of charge, to all ASSA member clubs. The members of the Health Committee are available to answer any questions to help ensure that your event will be a success.

In addition, ASSA offers a grant of $125 to each member club holding a Health Clinic primarily for Shetland Sheepdogs, as well as to individual members in certain circumstances. You may use this grant to advertise your event, offset costs or pay for mailing samples. Your club can offer a valuable service, have fun and raise funds for your treasury with a successful Health Clinic.

Each year, beginning in 2014, the National Catalog will list the dogs achieving CHIC status in the previous year. In addition, ASSA will be offering a unique, specially designed pin to the ASSA Member owner of a Sheltie awarded a CHIC number.

Hold a Health Clinic and help your members be among the first to reach this goal!

Glenda Henson,