

BRITISH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION /KENNEL CLUB/ INTERNATIONAL SHEEP DOG SOCIETY EYE SCHEME

INFORMATION FOR OWNERS

The BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme is primarily concerned with examination of the eyes of dogs for inherited eye disease in registered dogs and also includes a general examination of the eye and adnexa (adnexa = lids, lacrimal apparatus, orbit and para-orbital areas). At present certificates of Eye Examination are issued in respect of inherited conditions of the eye only and not for inherited conditions of the adnexa. Eleven different inherited conditions in pedigree breeds of dog are currently certified under the Scheme (Schedule A). In addition, a number of other conditions that may be inherited are listed as '*under investigation*' (Schedule B). It is possible for non-registered pedigree and non-pedigree dogs to be examined under the Eye Scheme, but the results from such animals are not published.

It is possible to arrange for examination of litters of puppies or individual dogs. Individual dogs can be examined at any age, whereas litter screening only applies to congenital (present from birth) and early onset conditions in puppies of up to 12 weeks of age. For conditions such as Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA), it is best to screen litters as early in life as possible (5-6 weeks of age) because minor lesions may not be detected ophthalmoscopically by the time the puppies have reached 12 weeks of age. The situation is more complex for various types of inherited retinal dysplasia and it is best to obtain information on specific breeds direct from the Panellist.

Litter Screening Form – This form is used when screening breeds in which congenital or early onset inherited eye disease is known to occur. The results of litter screening are not published.

Certificate of Eye Examination – This certificate is used for an individual animal where certification of eye examination is required and, if the dog is registered with the Kennel Club and/or International Sheep Dog Society, the results of this examination are sent for publication. Examination and certification under the Eye Scheme should take place before the animal is used for breeding and, because the age of onset of non-congenital inherited eye disease varies according to such factors as the type of disease and the breed of dog, annual re-examination may be necessary. Panellists will advise owners as to the requirements for any subsequent eye examinations.

The certificate is in three parts. The details of the dog and the owner are recorded in the first (upper) section, together with the date of the last examination. **From January 1st 2010 all dogs were required to be permanently identified (PI) before examination and certification** (see Frequently Asked Questions on PI for further details). Microchip or tattoo are both acceptable for PI and the identification will be verified prior to examination. The owner or agent will be required to sign and date this part of the certificate and provide the relevant owner registration documents **before** the examination is performed. The second (middle) section indicates the method(s) of eye examination used by the eye panellist and records any variations from normal (ie inherited and non-inherited anomalies and abnormalities) which are detected during examination; so, for example, conformational defects such as entropion and ectropion as well as acquired abnormalities such as corneal scars, would be recorded in this section. The third (lower) section lists the inherited eye diseases which can be certified under the Eye Scheme Procedure Notes current on the day of examination in the specific breeds listed in the Procedure Notes. In a breed where no inherited eye disease is detailed in the Procedure Notes, and in non-registered dogs, none of the boxes will be marked.

The completed certificate is issued to the owner or agent at the time of examination. However, if the necessary registration documents are not produced, the certificate cannot be completed and issued. Results in such circumstances may be withheld until the full and correct documentation is provided, '*clinically affected*' signifies that the dog shows evidence of the inherited eye disease(s) specified, whereas '*clinically unaffected*' signifies that, at the time of examination, the eye is not clinically affected by the eye disease(s) specified. It is worth re-emphasising that some dogs will develop non-congenital inherited eye diseases when older, so re-examination is essential for the establishment of clear breeding lines in most breeds.

Appeals Procedure

Certificate of Eye Examination: Any appeal against the results of an eye examination must be lodged in writing with the British Veterinary Association (BVA) **within 30 days** of the examination. BVA's address is shown at the bottom of this sheet.

The owner may then take the dog, together with the certificate issued by the first panellist, for examination by the Chief Panellist, a panellist from the Eye Panel Working Party, or another panellist. The second panellist will charge the normal fee. If the second panellist agrees with the first panellist the appeal will be deemed to have failed and the second panellist will inform the BVA accordingly. In such an event no further appeal is possible.

The decision of the Chief Panellist at second examination is final, as also is the decision of a panellist from the Eye Panel Working Party acting in consultation with the Chief Panellist and provided that the Chief Panellist agrees with the findings reported. In all other circumstances, if the second panellist disagrees with the first panellist the dog shall be referred to the Chief Panellist for further examination without additional fee to the owner. The decision of the Chief Panellist will be final and the Chief Panellist will advise BVA of the result accordingly. Owners may choose to see the Chief Panellist as the second panellist once an appeal has been lodged with BVA. If so, the normal fee will be charged.

The final result of any appeal must be received by BVA **within 90 days** of examination, otherwise the first result may be sent to the Kennel Club and/or the International Sheep Dog Society for publication.

Litter Screening Form: Any appeal against the results of litter screening must be notified to the BVA and/or Chief Panellist as soon as possible so that suitable arrangements may be made for the whole litter to be re-examined **before** the puppies reach 12 weeks of age. No appeal will be granted unless all the puppies are re-examined on the same occasion and the puppies are less than 12 weeks of age.

Further details, including the names of panellists and the breeds and conditions certified under the Eye Scheme may be obtained from the **British Veterinary Association, 7 Mansfield Street, London W1G 9NQ. Tel: 020 7908 6380 and www.bva.co.uk/chs**

Specific information relating to KC registered dogs can be obtained from **The Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges Street, London W1Y 8AB. Tel: 0844 4633 980 or visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth**

Specific information relating to ISDS registered dogs can be obtained from the **International Sheep Dog Society, Clifton House, 4a Goldington Road, Bedford, MK40 3NF. Tel: 01234 352672 or visit www.isds.org.uk**