

BVA/RKC/ISDS Eye Scheme

Information for Owners

The Eye Scheme

The Canine Health Schemes, run in partnership by the British Veterinary Association (BVA), the Royal Kennel Club (RKC) and the International Sheep Dog Society (ISDS) is based on a clinical eye examination and is a means of identifying inherited and non-inherited eye conditions in dogs. The Scheme is open to all dogs including pedigree and crossbreed dogs, and they do not need to be Royal Kennel Club registered.

Eye examinations are carried out by expert veterinary ophthalmologists appointed by BVA. The results of the examination should be used to inform breeding programmes. Any adverse reaction should be reported to the Panellist within 3 hours of the examination being completed.

The eye examination should take place before a dog is used for breeding. Regular eye examinations are also recommended due to the age of onset varying according to the disease and breed of dog. All dogs that have been used for breeding should have a final check, when they are over eight years of age, to ensure that there is no indication of late onset inherited disease, but also to provide evidence of clear breeding lines.

The Eye Certificate

The Eye Examination Certificate is in four parts:

1. In the first section the details of the dog and the owner are recorded including the microchip number and registration details, together with the date of the last examination. The owner will be required to sign and date this section before the examination is performed.
2. The second section indicates the method(s) of eye examination used and records any variations from normal which are detected during examination, for example inherited eye disease and conformational defects.
3. The third section lists the inherited eye diseases which can be certified under the Eye Scheme. The results are recorded as 'Clinically Unaffected' or 'Clinically Affected' for the inherited disease(s) relevant to the breed being examined.
4. The CHS Panellist signs and dates the fourth and final section. The completed certificate is issued to the owner at the time of examination, provided the correct documentation is presented to the Panellist. Further information on the certificate can be found at www.bva.co.uk/chs

The results

'Clinically Unaffected' signifies that, at the time of examination, the eye is not clinically affected by the eye disease(s) specified, whereas 'Clinically Affected' signifies that the dog shows evidence of the inherited eye disease(s) specified.

The results of Royal Kennel Club registered dogs are published on the Royal Kennel Club's website [Health Test Results finder](#) if a specific condition is known to be inherited

Litter Screening

A separate Litter Screening eye examination certificate is used when screening for congenital hereditary conditions, such as collie eye anomaly and multifocal retinal dysplasia, when the puppies are 5 to 12 weeks old. All puppies must be microchipped before the examination. The certificate is in three parts:

1. Details of the parents, puppies and owners.
2. Further details on each puppy including microchip number, colour and sex, as well as the results of the eye examination. Comments on any anomalies or abnormalities and confirmation that each puppy's microchip matches the number on the certificate.
3. The CHS Panellist signs and dates the final section



Appeals

Litter screening appeals: Any appeal must be notified to CHS as soon as possible so that the whole litter can be re-examined before the puppies reach 12 weeks of age.

Eye examination appeals:

Following an examination under the BVA/RKC/ISDS eye scheme, a dog may be given a result that the owner/breeder may want to question. In these cases, the result can be appealed.

By initiating an appeal, the original result in question will not be published pending completion of the appeal. The result will be published only on completion of the appeal process. Further, using the appeal process will reduce the incidence of publication of multiple conflicting results which can cause confusion.

To appeal the result of an eye examination, please follow the process below:

1. The owner of the dog should lodge an appeal with Canine Health Schemes (CHS) at BVA within 30 days of the date of the first examination. This should be by email to CHS - chs@bva.co.uk
2. CHS will provide a letter outlining the appeal process that should be followed.
3. The owner should then take their dog, together with the original examination certificate to another panellist. The second panellist will charge the normal fee appropriate to the examination.
4. a) If the second panellist agrees with the first panellist, the appeal will be deemed to have failed and the original result stands. CHS will be advised by the second panellist. In this case **no further appeal** of this examination is possible.

b) If the second panellist disagrees with the first panellist, a referral for a third and final examination to the Chief Panellist or a member of the Eye Panel Working Party (EPWP) nominated by the Chief Panellist is required. This must be by arrangement with CHS. The fee for this examination is not charged to the owner.

c) The decision of the Chief Panellist or nominated EPWP panellist will be final. **No further appeal of this examination is possible.**
5. The result of the appeal must be received by CHS within 90 days of the original examination. Otherwise, the first result will be that recorded with the Royal Kennel Club and/or International Sheep Dog Society for publication.