

BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme

Information for owners

The Eye Scheme

The British Veterinary Association/Kennel Club/International Sheep Dog Society Eye Scheme 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 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.


The eye examination should take place before a dog is used for breeding. Annual 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, at a reduced fee, 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 (or tattoo) 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. Further information on the certificate can be found at www.bva.co.uk/chs



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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 Kennel Club registered dogs are published on the Kennel Club Mate Select website if a specific condition is known to be inherited.

Litter screening

A separate Litter Screening Eye Examination Form is used when screening for congenital hereditary conditions, such as collie eye anomaly and multifocal retinal dysplasia, when the puppies are 6 to 12 weeks old. All puppies must be microchipped (or tattoo) before the examination. This certificate is in four parts:

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

Appeals

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

Eye examination appeals: Any appeal against the results must be lodged with the CHS team within 30 days of the examination. Further information on the appeals process can be found at www.bva.co.uk/chs

The Canine Health Schemes also offer three other health screening schemes; the Hip Dysplasia Scheme, the Elbow Dysplasia Scheme and Chiari Malformation/ Syringomyelia Scheme.