

## BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme – information for owners

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The BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme is primarily concerned with examination of the eyes of registered dogs for inherited eye disease and also includes a general examination of the eye and adnexa (adnexa = eyelids, 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. The results from Kennel Club (KC) and International Sheep Dog Society (ISDS) registered dogs are published. In addition to the inherited conditions that are currently certified under Schedule A of the Eye scheme, a number of other breed-related, possibly inherited conditions are listed under Schedule B. Although the majority of eye examinations are performed on KC and ISDS registered dogs, it is also possible for non-registered pedigree and non-pedigree dogs, including crossbreds, to be examined under the Eye scheme, but the results from such animals are not published.

As from 1 July 2017 all dogs being examined under the Eye scheme, including puppies being litter screened, need to be microchipped before they are examined. Note that from April 2016 it became a legal requirement for all dogs in the UK to be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks of age.

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 (neonatal) 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 (5-8 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 further information direct from the 'Hereditary eye disease in dogs' leaflet (<https://www.bva.co.uk/Canine-Health-Schemes/Eye-scheme/>) or the Eye Panellist.

### Litter Screening Eye Examination Certificate

This certificate is used when screening breeds in which congenital or early onset inherited eye disease is known to occur. The results (Clinically Unaffected or Clinically Affected) are recorded in the second section, whereas any comments relating to other findings of relevance are recorded in the third section. The results of litter screening of KC registered dogs will be available on the KC Database (Health Test Results Finder).

The Litter Screening Certificate is in four parts:

1. Basic details, including the parents, puppies and owner/agent are recorded in the first section, together with the number of puppies born and the date of any previous examination.
2. In the second section; the microchip of each puppy is scanned and the number recorded. The colour and sex of each puppy is also recorded. The results of eye examination are recorded as 'Clinically Unaffected' or 'Clinically Affected' for the inherited congenital/neonatal Schedule A disease(s) relevant to the breed being examined.
3. Comments on any abnormalities detected are noted in the third section under "Comments". The box next to 'NO OCULAR OR OCULAR ADNEXAL ABNORMALITIES DETECTED IN ANY OF THE PUPPIES' is ticked if the entire litter is normal. The Panellist also confirms that each puppy's microchip number matches the number on the certificate, whether the Information for Owners/Appeals leaflet has been issued and if a DNA sample has been taken.
4. The Panellist signs and dates the fourth section, which is then issued to the owner/agent.

### Eye Examination Certificate

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. For breeds examined under the Eye scheme, but not listed under Schedule A, where the dog is registered with the Kennel Club, a note will be added to the dog's record on the Kennel Club's database confirming that an examination has taken place and the date of the examination.

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 in a number of breeds. Importantly, 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, chiefly to ensure that there is no indication of late onset inherited disease, but also to provide evidence of clear breeding lines. Further information is available from the 'Hereditary eye disease in dogs' leaflet and 'What is the Eye Scheme' document and panellists can also advise owners as to the requirements for eye examinations.

The Eye Examination Certificate is in five sections:

1. The details of the dog and the owner are recorded in the first section, together with the date of the last examination. The microchip number is recorded on the certificate and the dog is scanned prior to examination for verification. Note that from April 2016 it became a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks of age. The owner or agent will be required to provide the relevant owner registration documents and sign and date this part of the certificate before the examination is performed.
2. The second section indicates the method(s) of eye examination used by the eye panellist and records any variations from normal (ie inherited and non-inherited abnormalities) which are detected during examination; so, for example, inherited eye disease, breed-related conformational defects such as entropion and ectropion, as well as acquired abnormalities

such as corneal scars, would be noted in this section. If the results of the examination reveal no abnormalities, the Panellist may tick the box next to 'NO OCULAR OR OCULAR ADNEXAL ABNORMALITIES DETECTED.'

3. The third 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. The results are recorded as 'Clinically Unaffected' or 'Clinically Affected' for the inherited disease(s) relevant to the breed being examined, with the exception of the results of gonioscopy. '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. As part of a pilot study the results of gonioscopy are graded from 0-3; the right and left eyes are graded individually and it is the higher value that is recorded as the result if there is any disparity between the right and left eyes. 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.
4. The fourth section of the certificate lists some of the conditions not currently known or proven to be inherited in the breed being examined.
5. The Panellist signs and dates the fifth and final section.

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. If the result cannot be determined at the time of examination, the owner/agent is given the choice of waiting for a period, usually 6 months, but no longer than 12 months, before the dog is re-examined. In such an event the panellist retains the incomplete certificate and no fee is charged. Once a decision has been reached the certificate is issued and the usual fee is charged. The owner/agent may decide to consult a second panellist at the outset, rather than wait for re-examination at a later date.

## Appeals Procedure

**Litter Screening Certificate:** 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.

**Eye Examination Certificate:** 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.

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 https://www.bva.co.uk/chs/](https://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 https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health/](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health/)

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](http://www.isds.org.uk)