

The Canine Health Information Center (CHIC)

Fact Sheet

The Canine Health Information Center, also known as CHIC, is a centralized canine health database jointly sponsored by the AKC/Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

Mission Statement & Goals

<http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/chicinfo.html#goals>

To provide a source of health information for owners, breeders, and scientists to assist in breeding healthy dogs by doing the following:

- *To work with parent clubs in the identification of health issues for which a central information system should be established.*
- *To establish and maintain a central health information system in a manner that will support research into canine disease and provide health information to owners and breeders.*
- *To establish scientifically valid diagnostic criteria for the acceptance of information into the database.*
- *And to base the availability of information on individually identified dogs at the consent of the owner.*
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CHIC Basics

<http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/chicinfo.html#numbers>

- CHIC combines the health screening results from multiple sources into one centralized database.
- CHIC is administered by the OFA, including responsibility for the infrastructure, parent club relations, and daily program communications.
- Parent Clubs establish the breed specific testing protocol.
- Dogs complying with the breed specific testing requirements are issued CHIC numbers.
- Once the recommended testing has been completed and the results are on record with CHIC, CHIC numbers are issued REGARDLESS of the result AS LONG AS the owner agrees to place the results in the public domain. In other words, a dog with abnormal results is still eligible to receive a CHIC number if the owner is willing to share the results.
- To be eligible, dogs must be permanently identified with a tattoo or microchip.
- **CHIC numbers should not be misinterpreted as a stamp of approval for breeding. A CHIC number indicates compliance with the parent club recommendation for health screening at a given point in time.**
- CHIC numbers do not expire, however CHIC clearly indicates test dates so that compliance with recommendations for re-testing can be determined (ex CERF recommendation for annual re-examinations).

Vizsla CHIC Requirements

<http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=VZ>

- To qualify for CHIC, Vizslas must be screened for **three** tests: Hip Dysplasia (OFA), Thyroid (OFA), and have an eye examination by CERF or the OFA & AVCO Eye Certificate Registry and Clinical Database for Ophthalmic Diagnosis.

Vizsla Optional Tests

- **Penn Hip certification** is not required but submitting this data is encouraged and accepted only after OFA Hip certification is completed. **Please see the new information, updated on 2/2013, regarding submitting Penn Hip certification information at a reduced rate to CHIC. Owners may now submit their Penn Hip certification information to the Breed Improvement Chair, Pam Hidaka. Pam will then verify the results with Penn Hip. Once they are verified, they will be submitted to CHIC on a regular basis for inclusion. For more information: http://www.vcaweb.org/download/Recording_PennHip_Scores.pdf**
- Other optional tests include: Elbow Dysplasia (OFA, OVC, GVC), Cardiac (OFA), Sebaceous Adenitis (OFA, GDC) and von Willebrand's testing.
- Blood test results for von Willebrand's testing accepted from this laboratory only: Comparative Coagulation Section, Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, P.O. Box 5786, Ithaca, NY 14853-5786, phone: (607) 253-3900, www.diaglab.vet.cornell.edu. The Vizsla breed does not have a DNA-based test for von Willebrand's disease. Using one laboratory should help make test results comparable and less questionable among Vizslas.
- **CHIC determination is automatic with all OFA/normal CERF results.** Test results from OFA & CERF databases are shared automatically with the CHIC program. **There is no fee to enter test results from either OFA or CERF** and there is no requirement to fill out any additional forms. If your vizsla already complies with the Vizsla Requirements stated above (Hips (OFA), Thyroid (OFA) and normal CERF evaluation), you will automatically receive a CHIC number for that vizsla.
- For Vizslas, only von Willebrand's, OVC, GVC, GDC or abnormal CERF results need to be manually sent in. To submit, the owner should **send a written request that includes the owners' signature**, along with the test results to CHIC stating that the results are being submitted for inclusion in the CHIC database.
- **There is a one-time fee of \$25.00 for each of these tests: OVC, GVC, GDC and von Willebrand's. Any additional results after the one time fee is paid are at no charge. Additionally, there is no charge when entering results on an affected animal from a non-CERF/OFA source.**
- If you wish to release an abnormal OFA result for hips, thyroid, cardiac, elbows or eyes for inclusion in the CHIC database and you did not sign the OFA form to release this information into the public domain when you submitted your test results to OFA, you may send a FAX or a written request **that includes your signature** to CHIC. There is no fee to enter abnormal OFA results on an affected animal.
- The address to submit requests, test results and fees is as follows:

Canine Health Information Center
2300 East Nifong Blvd
Columbia, MO 65201-3856
Phone: (800) 442-0418
FAX: (573) 875-5073
Email: chic@offa.org

- The CHIC website is located at www.caninehealthinfo.org. The CHIC website contains basic information on CHIC and maintains a listing of participating breeds and approved breed specific protocols. The CHIC website also provides a search engine to locate dogs that have been issued CHIC numbers, their test dates and the results of their tests.