Rat Terrier Club of America Health Statement

July 12, 2021

Rat Terriers are generally hardy dogs that can enjoy a long, healthy life. There are a few issues, that breeders have been tracking for generations, to ensure that the breed remains healthy and diverse.

The Rat Terrier Club of America participates in the AKC Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) to promote responsible breeding practices. CHIC is a centralized canine health database jointly sponsored by the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the (OFA) Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.

Required Tests for the CHIC program:
Cardiac Evaluation
Hip Dysplasia
Patellar Luxation
Legg-Calve-Perthes
Primary Lens Luxation (DNA)

Note: A CHIC requirement across all participating breeds is that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo in order qualify for a CHIC number.

Optional tests:
Eye Examination by ACVO Ophthalmologist
Congenital Deafness BAER test
Elbow Dysplasia
Progressive Retinal Atrophy or PRA-PRCD (DNA)
Genetic Diversity Testing

Other issues that are uncommon but worth monitoring: Seizure disorders, Chondrodystrophy Intervertebral Disc Disease (CDDY and IVDD Risk - DNA), Cushing's Disease, Addison's Disease.

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