The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.

The PWDCA recommends that all health clearances be completed, current and entered into the Health & Litter Log (http://hll.pwdca.org) for both Sire and Dam PRIOR to breeding. For breeders and puppy buyers, it’s recommended that you verify health information is current for the sire and dam at: www.OFA.org. Searches for parents may be done by searching the registered name of each parent. Failure to do the complete set of recommended health screenings can result in offspring that are affected by GM-1, JDCM, prcd-PRA, EOPRA and/or Microphthalmia Syndrome, all of which may lead to a premature death, increased veterinary costs and/or decreased quality of life. **Not previously producing an affected offspring and the parent not being affected in no way guarantees subsequent offspring produced won’t be affected. Only the recommended health screenings can ensure it is not produced and passed to offspring.

The minimum health testing criteria recommended by the PWDCA for breeders of Portuguese Water Dogs consist of:

1. Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) hip certification (obtained at 2 years of age or older) on both the stud dog and brood bitch prior to mating, utilizing dogs who have received a passing hip score (fair, good, or excellent rating)

2. A current (yearly) Eye Certification Registry (ECR) certification (passing rating) on both the stud dog and brood bitch at the time of breeding - up to the age of 120 months

3. Progressive Retinal Atrophy (prcd-PRA) – Genetic test at Optimal Selection or certification of DNA parentage analysis via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program on the stud dog or the brood bitch prior to mating, with one parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test at Optimal Selection or certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program.

4. Early Onset Progressive Retinal Atrophy (EOPRA) – Genetic test at Optimal Selection or certification of DNA parentage analysis via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program on the stud dog or the brood bitch prior to mating, with one parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test at Optimal Selection or certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program.

5. Microphthalmia Syndrome (MO) – One parent, either sire or dam, testing Normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test at PennGen Labs or certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program prior to mating.

6. GM-1, Storage Disease (Gangliosidosis) - One parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test at NYU or Optimal Selection or certified clear (non-carrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program prior to mating.
7. JDCM (Juvenile Dilated Cardiomyopathy) - One parent, either sire or dam, testing normal (non-carrier) via the genetic test done by PennGen at the University of Pennsylvania or certified clear (noncarrier) via the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) DNA parentage clear program prior to mating.

The PWDCA encourages breeders to perform DNA profiles on their breeding stock and follows the current American Kennel Club DNA requirements. Other health testing that may be done are OFA Elbows for evaluation of elbow dysplasia and Improper Coat genetic test IC13 at Optimal Selection. The PWDCA recognizes the importance of multiple factors involved in breeding Portuguese Water Dogs. The required health testing listed above is an essential part of assessment of a sire and dam prior to breeding but evaluation of the temperament, soundness, and breed type of both parents are also important.

The above information approved by the PWDCA Board of Directors.
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