



## American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc.

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### AMERICAN CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB - PARENT CLUB HEALTH STATEMENT -

The following are the Health Tests that the Parent Club considers both required and optional for all members and breeders of Cavaliers King Charles Spaniels. When all the required tests are completed and submitted to OFA, a CHIC number will be issued by OFA to that Cavalier. For more information go to the Parent Club website: [www.ackcsc.org/health](http://www.ackcsc.org/health).

**REQUIRED TESTS** – Required by the Parent club and for CHIC certification.

**CARDIAC: SCREENING FOR MVD DISEASE** – Mitral Valve Murmurs can be diagnosed by Auscultation (listening with a stethoscope) and should be performed by a Board-Certified Cardiologist. Auscultation is recommended to be done annually and owners will receive a Basic Cardiac Certification. The ACVIM is recommending Cavaliers be screened annually by an Echocardiogram and owners will receive an Advance Cardiac Certification.

Initial Exam by General Veterinarian 8-10 weeks

Follow-up at 12 months by Board Certified Cardiologist and annually for the life of the Cavalier

Registries and databases where results are stored are:

- OFA – Orthopedic Foundation for Animals
- ARCH-ACVIM Registry of Cardiac Health- Additional certification not required for CHIC.

**EYE: SCREENING FOR Retinal Dysplasia and Additional Eye Diseases-**

Eye Examination performed by boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist.

Initial Exam at 8-12 weeks; follow up at 12 months, and annually until 5 years old, every two years until 9 years old. The Ophthalmologist will also screen for other issues that can develop in Cavaliers such as juvenile cataracts, corneal dystrophy etc. which will impact a pass/fail score.

- Results registered with OFA.

**HIP DYSPLASIA: SCREENING for Hip Dysplasia**-degenerative joint disease, osteoarthritis, and arthrosis.

- OFA Evaluation-One radiograph by General Veterinarian or Orthopedic Specialist-to be evaluated by 3 Radiologists.
- PennHIP Evaluation-**The PennHIP method is a way to assess, measure and interpret hip joint laxity.** It consists of three separate radiographs: the **distraction view**, the **compression view** and the **hip-extended view**.
- Results registered with OFA

**PATELLAR LUXATION:** The patella, or kneecap, is part of the stifle joint (knee). In patellar luxation, the kneecap luxates, or pops out of place, either in a medial or lateral position. Most common bilaterally (both knees) but can occur on one side or the other, unilaterally. This is done by a manual examination by a general veterinarian but can be viewed and diagnosed through a radiograph.

- OFA Evaluation – results registered with OFA.

**OPTIONAL TESTING** - Not required by the Parent Club or CHIC for certification.

**BAER TESTING:** Congenital deafness in dogs (or other animals) can be acquired or inherited. Inherited deafness can be caused by a gene defect.

- OFA Evaluation by board certified veterinary neurologists, accepts test results from experienced veterinarians, neuroscience professionals, and audiologists.
- One test suffices for the lifetime of the animal.

**DM:** (Degenerative Myelopathy, Common Variant) - inherited, due to a genetic mutation in a gene coding for Superoxide Dismutase.

Genetic tests for the common variant in the *SOD1* gene are done by:

- AKC DNA Program, Univ. of Missouri, Embark, VetGen, UC Davis, Wisdom Panel, Orivet, Paw Print genetics.
- OFA will record results in their database, if specified by the owner. Not required for CHIC.

**EF:** (Episodic Falling Syndrome (EDFS)) - inherited, mode of inheritance, simple recessive. Genetic tests are done by:

- AKC DNA Program, Embark, VetGen, UC Davis, Wisdom Panel, Orivet, Paw Print genetics.
- OFA will record results in their database, if specified by the owner. Not required for CHIC.

**DE & CC** (Dry Eye Curly Coat Syndrome (CKSID))-inherited, mode of inheritance, simple recessive. Genetic tests are done by:

- AKC DNA Program, Embark, VetGen, UC Davis, Wisdom Panel, Orivet, Paw Print genetics.
- OFA will record results in their database, if specified by the owner. Not required for CHIC.

**MCADD:** Medium-Chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency, is a recently characterized genetic disorder that affects the body's ability to break down certain fatty acids for energy. Symptoms can include altered nervous system function, low blood sugar, complex seizures, lethargy, and ataxia. Genetic tests are done by:

- GenSol, Labolkin Labs-Uk.
- OFA will record results in their database, if specified by the owner. Not required for CHIC.

**MMVD:** Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease is the most common congenital heart disease in dogs, accounting for more than 70% of cardiovascular disease. Recent research has identified the NEBL gene as playing an important role in Cavalier heart health. Current genetic testing has been made available for the wild type allele at NEBL3, which may be an indication of decreased severity of MMVD in the dog. Genetic tests are done by:

- Ovivet, Labolkin Labs-UK
- OFA will record results in their database, if specified by the owner. Not required for CHIC.

**SM/COM:** (Syringomyelia-Caudal Occipital Malformation)-Syringomyelia (SM) is a disorder in which a cyst or herniation called Syrinx forms within the spinal cord. SM causes a wide variety of neuropathic symptoms due to damage and degeneration of the spinal cord usually scratching and pain being the most pronounced. Chiari malformations (COMs) are structural defects that occur at the cranio-cervical junction. When part of the cerebellum is located below the foramen magnum, it is called Chiari malformation or Caudal Occipital Malformation.

- Screening by MRI with anesthesia-Breeders discretion.
- Evaluation by Board Certified Radiologist-OFA is not currently recording and documenting results in their database.

**\*\*These tests have been reviewed and approved by the BOD of the ACKCSC.**

**\*\*NOTE:** In addition to the breed specific requirements above, a CHIC requirement across all participating breeds is that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo to qualify for a CHIC number.

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