



Health Statement

American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.

While the Shih Tzu is considered a healthy, long-lived breed and health issues are not common, the American Shih Tzu Club strives to maintain a healthy future for our beloved breed.

The American Shih Tzu Club encourages breeders to identify any medical issues that may exist in past pedigrees of their lines, including renal dysplasia, portal systemic shunt, patellar luxation, hip dysplasia, genetic eye problems, and cardiac issues. The breeder should make efforts to reduce, and eventually eliminate, any of these medical conditions through strategic breeding plans.

The breeder should maintain the best possible standard of health and care in both their breeding dogs and puppies. Puppies must be properly immunized and checked for parasites. The breeder should furnish a complete health record on each puppy sold and provide the buyer with health clearances on the parents if they are available.

The American Shih Tzu Club does not require any specific health testing. A breeder may choose, but is not required, to obtain a CHIC* number for their breeding dogs. For a dog to get a CHIC number, the following two tests are required: an ACVO** eye exam and a veterinary evaluation of patellar luxation, both of which must be registered with OFA***. Other optional testing includes OFA hip evaluation and a cardiac evaluation.

* Canine Health Information Center

**American College of Veterinarian Ophthalmologists

*** Orthopedic Foundation for Animals

Approved by the Board of the American Shih Tzu Club

_____04/19/2024_____(Date)

_____Michelle Jones_____(Signed)

ASTC President

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