



*Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.*

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**Matina E. Johnson, Secretary**

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The Yorkshire Terrier is a generally healthy breed with a life expectancy of 12-15 years.

The YTCA recommends that Yorkshire Terrier breeders perform the following physical health screenings on all breeding stock:

- OFA Patellas - a knee *screening* to rule out conditions which can occur in any toy breed at 1 year of age or older
- OFA Eyes - an eye *screening* to rule out juvenile cataracts, persistent pupillary membranes and over 50 other eye diseases at 1, 3, and 6 years of age

Dogs tested in accordance with these two protocols are recognized with a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number and certification.

Additionally, the YTCA encourages breeders to conduct the following optional genetic tests at any age prior to breeding to ensure that offspring are unaffected by these eye diseases:

- Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Progressive Rod-Cone Degeneration (prcd) (PRA-prcd) - Progressive Retinal Atrophy can cause early onset blindness.
- Primary Lens Luxation (PLL) - happens when the lens of the eye becomes dislocated from its normal position, which can lead to inflammation, cataracts, glaucoma, cancer and trauma.

There are other conditions which may affect the breed such as Liver Shunt, Microvascular Dysplasia (MVD), Protein-Losing Enteropathy (PLE), Encephalitis, Degenerative Myelopathy (DM), Hyperuricosuria and Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease (LCP) which can be discussed with your breeder. The bile acid test may suggest the possibility of liver shunt or may suggest microvascular dysplasia. The definitive test for liver shunt is diagnostic imaging. Research is ongoing for encephalitis, DM and kidney disease.

The YTCA is also currently funding a research grant through the Canine Health Foundation to identify a genetic marker for PLE so that this may be added to our list of definitive genetic testing in the future.

As in all toy breeds, dental maintenance is important. Daily/weekly brushings will help your dog maintain healthy teeth and gums throughout their lifetime.

This Health Statement was updated and approved by the Yorkshire Terrier Club of America Board of Directors on July 16, 2024.

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