



THE RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK CLUB  
OF THE UNITED STATES, INC  
AKC Licensed Club Since 1971

Office of the Corresponding Secretary  
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The RRCUS Code of Ethics sets forth the following expectations of club members who are breeding Rhodesian Ridgebacks:

A breeder's aim and foremost responsibility shall be to produce the healthiest and best representatives of the breed possible. Each litter shall be the result of conscientious planning, including consideration of physical and genetic health, soundness, temperament and conformity to the official standard of the breed as established by the RRCUS and approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC).

In order to protect the health and safety of the stud dog and brood bitch (as well as resulting puppies) it is recommended that both dog and bitch have pre-breeding veterinary screenings to certify that they are in good breeding condition. A test for Brucella is prudent to protect both stud dog and bitch.

Dogs and bitches bred under the age of 24 months must have preliminary screenings indicating they are clear of hip and elbow dysplasia by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or comparable foreign registry.

Dogs and bitches bred over the age of 24 months, must have final screenings certified clear of hip and elbow dysplasia by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), or comparable foreign registry.

A Penn Hip evaluation of 0.30 or below, is an indication that hip dysplasia is very unlikely to occur, is also acceptable as a final screening.

Foreign dogs must be screened as appropriate for their country of residence.

RRCUS has identified other strongly encourages screenings that are outlined in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) which include a complete thyroid panel from an OFA approved laboratory or ACVIM Board certified Internal Medicine specialist, cardiac certification (OFA or cardiologist evaluation), OFA Companion Animal Eye Registry certification (CAER)\*. Bear in mind that a CHIC number only indicates that testing has been done—it does not certify normal results (\*indicates annual re-test requirement). Additionally, DNA testing is encouraged for the autosomal recessive genetic diseases: Degenerative Myelopathy - Common Variant (DM), Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy (JME) and Early Onset Adult Deafness (EOAD). While it is perfectly acceptable to breed carriers to dogs that have tested clear, to avoid the production of affected offspring, carriers should never be bred to other carriers. Breeders shall endeavor to stay current in their knowledge of all known heritable diseases present in the breed and demonstrate reasonable care in eliminating those diseases. For up-to-date test availability and current RRCUS recommended tests please check the Health & Genetics section of RRCUS.org.

Only mature adult dogs shall be used in a breeding program. Additional precautions, including a veterinarian consultation should be taken when breeding a bitch over seven (7) years and under 18 months of age.

Dogs born prior to 2000 whose semen has been collected and frozen shall only be required to be certified free of hip dysplasia by OFA or a comparable foreign registry.

Susan Ohanesian RRCUS  
Corresponding Secretary

This Health Statement text was approved by the Board of Directors of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club on October 7, 2023