

United States Eurasier Club Health Statement

USEC Board of Directors
www.useurasierclub.org - board@useurasierclub.org
22 Fuller Farm Rd. Plymouth, MA

November 21, 2024

The Eurasier is a medium-sized spitz breed that is generally regarded as a healthy breed with an average lifespan of 12-14 years, though many Eurasiers live even longer, thanks in part to diligent health testing conducted by Eurasier breeders worldwide. The United States Eurasier Club (USEC) has established comprehensive health testing guidelines for breeders to perform on all breeding stock:

Recommended Screenings:

- **OFA Hips**: A radiograph screening to detect and assess hip joint irregularities and secondary arthritic changes in dogs two years of age or older.
- **OFA Patellas**: A screening performed by a veterinarian to detect and grade issues with the patellas in dogs one year or older.
- **OFA Eyes**: An eye screening by an ophthalmologist to identify conditions such as entropion, ectropion, distichiasis, and glaucoma. This screening can be done any time after the puppy's eyes open.
- **OFA Thyroid**: An annual screening conducted by blood draw to detect thyroid diseases. In particular, Eurasiers are susceptible to autoimmune thyroiditis. The disease appears most often in dogs from two to seven years of age. Therefore, we highly recommend thyroid testing breeding dogs, with a test required within 12 months before each breeding. The USEC also encourages breeders to retest a dog's thyroid annually.
- **Dandy-Walker-Like Malformation (DWLM)**: This screening is a genetic test done by a buccal swab that determines if a dog is clear, a carrier of, or affected by DWLM. This disease is caused by a deletion in the *VLDLR* gene, resulting in a non-progressive condition characterized by poor cerebellar development. Affected dogs exhibit poor motor control, lack of coordination, and other symptoms related to cerebellar ataxia.

Optional Screenings:

- **OFA Elbows**: A radiograph screening detects and assesses elbow joint irregularities and secondary arthritic changes in dogs two years or older.
- **OFA Dentition**: This screening does not assess the bite but rather is a count of the teeth, which ensures all permanent teeth have erupted. The Eurasier breed standard allows for full dentition or the absence of the 105, 205, 305, and/or 405 premolars.

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OFA recognizes dogs tested according to these protocols with a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number and certification.

The Eurasier has a heritable predisposition to develop autoimmune thyroiditis, which, though easily managed with daily medication, affects 15% to 20% of the breed. Symptoms typically appear between two and seven years of age, making it especially important for breeding dogs to be retested annually. Pet owners are also encouraged to test their dogs and, if affected, inform both the breeder and the USEC so that we can better track the disease.

Other health conditions that may affect the breed include exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, primary ciliary dyskinesia, diabetes, stomach cancer, and gastric dilatation-volvulus (bloat). Additionally, there are also a few rare diseases with known autosomal recessive genetic markers, currently isolated to specific pedigrees: polio encephalopathy (PE) and epidermolysis bullosa simplex (EB).

This Health Statement was updated and approved by the United States Eurasier Club Board of Directors on November 21, 2024.



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