



The Czechoslovakian Vlcik Club of America Health Statement

17400 Sunset Drive Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

The Czechoslovakian Vlcik is a generally healthy breed with a life expectancy of 12-15 years.

The Czechoslovakian Vlcik Club of America (CSVCA) recommends the following health screenings on all breeding stock:

- Hip Radiographs for Hip Dysplasia - A disease affected by diet, environment, exercise, growth rate, muscle mass, and hormones. This disease is most commonly seen in large breeds. While growing, the CSV should be kept at an average, lean weight and not overfed or encouraged to grow too rapidly.
- Elbow Radiographs for Elbow Dysplasia - A condition related to abnormal bone growth and/or development that alters the function of this joint, leading to abnormal pain and arthritis.
- Degenerative Myelopathy (Common Variant) (DM) DNA Test - DM a slow-onset, non-painful destruction of the nerve portion of the spinal cord. As the disease progresses, it causes paralysis of the hind limbs.
- Pituitary Dwarfism (Shepherd Type) (DW) DNA Test - An autosomal recessive inherited pituitary gland disorder causing subnormal amounts of growth hormone which can develop into a multitude of serious conditions.
- Cardiac Evaluation - This requirement aims to gather data regarding suspected genetic heart disease for further research. The CSV has had dogs with suspected heart disease that have yet to be identified.
- Dentition Evaluation – Extra teeth, rotated teeth, missing teeth, or impacted teeth can cause pain in dogs.
- CHIC DNA Repository - facilitates future research and testing aimed at reducing the incidence of inherited disease in dogs.

Dogs tested in accordance with the above protocols are issued a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number and certification through the Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA).

Additionally, the CSVCA encourages breeders to conduct the following optional tests at any age prior to breeding to screen for inherited diseases:

- ACVO Eye Exam - The CSVCA, in collaboration with Dr. Pavol Zubricky in the Slovak Republic, has determined the breed to be relatively healthy in terms of ocular diseases. The CSV breed has shown cataract subscapularis in elder individuals, retinal folds in puppies, retinal dysplasia, and PPM (iris-to-iris).

As with all active breeds, a nutritious diet and daily exercise is important.

This Health Statement was updated and approved by the Czechoslovakian Vlcik Club of America Board of Directors on December 26, 2024.

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