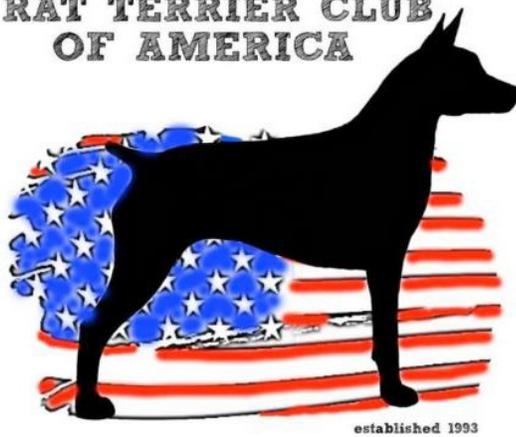


RAT TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA



Rat Terrier Club of America Health Statement

June 2025

Rat Terriers are generally hardy dogs that can enjoy a long, healthy life. There are a few issues that breeders have been tracking for generations to ensure that the breed remains healthy and diverse.

The Rat Terrier Club of America (RTCA) participates in the AKC Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) to promote responsible breeding practices. CHIC is a centralized canine health database jointly sponsored by the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the (OFA) Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. A CHIC requirement across all participating breeds is that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo in order to qualify for a CHIC number.

RTCA's REQUIRED health tests are the same as the required health tests for CHIC program.

Cardiac Evaluation
Hip Dysplasia
Patellar Luxation
Primary Lens Luxation (DNA)

Optional tests:

Leggs-Calve-Perthes
Eye Examination by ACVO Ophthalmologist
Congenital Deafness BAER test
Elbow Dysplasia
Progressive Retinal Atrophy or PRA-PRCD (DNA)

Other issues that are uncommon but worth monitoring (and not currently listed on the OFA site): Seizure disorders, Chondrodystrophy Intervertebral Disc Disease (CDDY and IVDD Risk - DNA), Cushing's Disease, Addison's Disease.

The RTCA has also arranged for the Rat Terrier to participate in the Genetic Diversity Project, which many Breeders find to be a valuable tool.

Rat Terrier Club of America
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