

# The Bracco Italiano Club of America

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The Bracco Italiano has health concerns of which all breeders and owners should be aware. The median lifespan of this breed is 11 years. The most common causes of death in the Bracco Italiano are cancer (26.6% of dogs), old age (25.3%), kidney disease (14.6%), and gastric-dilatation volvulus (9.3%).

The BICA recommends that Bracco Italiano breeders perform the following physical health screenings on all breeding stock:

- \***OFA Eyes** – an eye screening to rule out entropion, ectropion, cataracts, and other hereditary eye diseases
- \***OFA Hips or PennHIP** – a hip screening to evaluate for the presence of hip dysplasia
- \***OFA Elbows** – an elbow screening to evaluate for the presence of elbow dysplasia at two years of age or older
- Kidney Health Testing** – performed with the breeder’s veterinarian, a serum creatinine and urine protein/creatinine ratio should be performed within six months of breeding to screen for kidney disease (renal amyloidosis)

Dogs that are tested in accordance with the first three protocols (\*) and participate in the OFA/CHIC DNA Repository are recognized with a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number and certification.

There are other conditions which may affect the breed such as cancer, gastric dilatation-volvulus, ear infections, and allergies. These may have a breed predisposition and/or genetic component; therefore, it is recommended that breeders consider family history and risk for each of these conditions when planning a breeding.

Annual kidney testing is optional but strongly encouraged starting at one year of age for all Bracchi Italiani, regardless of plans for breeding. Prophylactic gastropexy should be considered for all Bracchi.

This Health Statement was approved by the Bracco Italiano Club of America Board of Directors on November 16, 2025.