What is Health Testing?

Health testing refers to recommended health screenings to check for breed-specific health concerns. Some health tests are based on phenotypic evaluations (e.g., Cardiac Disease, Eye Disease, Elbow Dysplasia, Hip Dysplasia, etc.), while others are based on genetic testing (e.g., Canine Multifocal Retinopathy, Degenerative Myelopathy, Progressive Retinal Atrophy, etc.).

Why Should I Health Test?

"Health testing can help everyone from breeders to buyers to researchers. Breeders can use the database to analyze pedigrees and create matches between dogs that show more health strengths than weaknesses. Puppy buyers can know they are looking at puppies that have a reduced chance of inheriting breed-specific health problems when the parents show favorable health screening results."

- American Kennel Club: Health Testing for a Stronger Breed

Suggested Health Tests

Please refer to the matrix on the inside of this brochure for recommended health tests for Mastiffs.

Updated: May 2025

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) Approved Testing Labs

Autoimmune Thyroiditis

Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC), Animal Health Laboratory, Antech Diagnostics (only the Lake Success, NY location of Antech has been certified to process OFA thyroid panels), Applied BioSciences, IDEXX, Michigan State University, Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, University of California Davis

Canine Multifocal Retinopathy Type 1 (CMR1)

Animal Genetics, Embark, Eurovetgene, GenSol, Helica, Labgenvet, Orivet, Paw Print Genetics, UC Davis – VGL, VetGen, Wisdom Health

Cystinuria Type 3

PennGen, VetGen

Degenerative Myelopathy

Animal Genetics, DDC Veterinary, Embark, GenSol, Helica, Labgenvet, Laboklin, OFA/University of Missouri, Orivet, Paw Print Genetics, UC Davis – VGL, VetGen, Vetnostic, Wisdom Health

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (Dominant)

Animal Genetics, Embark, Eurovetgene, Genetic Technologies (Australia), GenSol, Helica, Labgenvet, Laboklin, Orivet, Paw Print Genetics, Wisdom Health

MCOA Health Committee Recommended Testing Labs

Cystinuria Type 3

PennGen

Cystinuria (Nitroprusside Urine Testing)

PennGen

von Willebrand Disease

Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC)

The ABC's of Health Testing

Brought to you by the Mastiff Club of America (MCOA) Health Committee

For more information:

http://www.mastiffhealth.org

Suggested Health Tests

Note to Mastiff Club of America Members – Health Testing Award: Details of the Health Testing Award, Award requirements, and application can be found at http://www.mastiffhealth.org/MCOA_HealthTesting_Award_Final.pdf.

Screening	Age Info.	CHIC Requirement	Test Type	Who Can Administer	Frequency	OFA Application Fee**
Autoimmune Thyroiditis (Thyroid)	An OFA number will be issued to all dogs found to be normal at 12 months of age or older	Optional	Blood Panel	Veterinarian	Recommended retesting: 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 years	$15.00
Canine Multifocal Retinopathy Type 1 (CMR1)	No minimum	No	DNA Buccal Swab	Owner	One Time	$15.00
Cardiac Disease: Congenital	A registry number will be issued for any dog found to be normal at 12 months of age or older	Yes	Exam	Veterinarian or Cardiologist	One Time	$15.00
Cardiac Disease: Adult-onset	A registry number will be issued for any dog found to be normal at 12 months of age or older	No	Exam	Veterinary Cardiologist	Yearly	$15.00
Cystinuria-Associated (Type 3) DNA test	No minimum	Optional	DNA Buccal Swab	Owner	One Time	$15.00
Cystinuria: Nitroprusside Urine Testing (Intact males)	No minimum	Optional	Urine	Owner	Yearly	N/A
Degenerative Myelopathy	No minimum	No	DNA Buccal Swab	Owner	One Time	$15.00
Elbow Dysplasia	OFA will not certify a normal elbow until the dog is 24 months of age or older	Yes (24 months)	Radiograph	Veterinarian	One Time*	$45.00
Eye Disease	No minimum	Yes (24 months)	Exam	Veterinary Ophthalmologist	Yearly	$15.00
Hip Dysplasia: OFA Hips	An OFA number will be issued to all dogs found to be normal (Excellent, Good, Fair) at 24 months of age or older	Yes (24 months)	Radiograph	Veterinarian	One Time*	$45.00
Hip Dysplasia: PennHIP	16 weeks of age (recommended after maturity)	No	Radiograph	PennHIP Certified Veterinarian	One Time*	$35.00
Patellar Luxation	An OFA number will be issued to all dogs found to be normal at 12 months of age or older	No	Exam	Veterinarian	One Time*	$15.00
Progressive Retinal Atrophy (Dominant)	No minimum	No	DNA Buccal Swab	Owner	One Time	$15.00
Shoulder Osteochondrosis (OCD)	An OFA number will be issued to all dogs found to be normal at 12 months of age or older	No	Radiograph	Veterinarian	One Time*	$35.00
von Willebrand Disease (factor antigen assay)	No minimum	No	Blood	Veterinarian	One Time	N/A

* - Unless retesting is recommended

** - OFA Fee Schedule provides additional discount detail

Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) Requirements

- Hip Dysplasia (OFA Evaluation)
- Elbow Dysplasia (OFA Evaluation)
- Eye Examination by a boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist - Minimum age 24 months
- Cardiac Evaluation: One of the following - Congenital Cardiac Exam, Advanced Cardiac Exam, or Basic Cardiac Exam
- Autoimmune Thyroiditis (Optional): OFA evaluation from an approved laboratory
- Cystinuria (Optional): Urine test from PennGen (recommended minimum testing age of 18 months)

Additional Detail

- Permanent identification (microchip or tattoo) required for certification
- ACVIM (American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine): https://www.acvim.org/
- ACVO (American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists: http://www.acvo.org/
- AIS (ANTECH Imaging Services) PennHIP (University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program): https://antechimagingservices.com/antechweb/pennhip
- CHIC (Canine Health Information Center): http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/
- Mastiff Club of America: https://www.mastiff.org
- Mastiff Health: http://www.mastiffhealth.org
- OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals): https://www.ofa.org/
- OFA Fee Schedule: https://www.ofa.org/about/ofa-fees

More Suggestions

- AKC DNA Profile
- CHIC DNA Repository (Highly Recommended): DNA Buccal Swab or Blood (preferred)