

PUPPY BUYERS: Arm yourself with knowledge!

By: Michele Harvey

As prospective puppy buyers, it's common to lack awareness of certain aspects of breeding for preservation, health, and longevity. To avoid misinformation, many of us proactively seek relevant information from **reliable** sources to educate ourselves once we're aware of what to investigate.

The [Orthopedic Foundation for Animals \(OFA\)](#) is the custodian of the database containing canine health testing results in the U.S. They adhere to the guidelines set by the parent breed clubs to establish the minimum criteria to earn a [Canine Health Information Center \(CHIC\)](#) certification. It's essential to emphasize the term "minimum requirements." There are numerous additional valuable tests that can be conducted to ensure that breeding dogs are less likely to pass on known genetic health issues.

These are the published OFA requirements for Standard Poodles and Miniature/Toy Poodles and should be completed before breeding (at minimum):

Standard Poodles

1. **Hip X-Rays** - OFA or PennHip evaluation (OFA must be done after dog reaches 24 months, Pennhip after 4 months, for certification that is valid for the life of the dog)
2. **Eye Examination** - ACVO Ophthalmologist exam (eye exam certification is good for 12 months from the date of the exam)
3. **Health Elective (one of the following):**
 - a. **OFA Thyroid evaluation** - blood test to detect hypothyroidism which typically manifests between 2-5 years of age across breeds 3-4 years in standard poodles
 - b. **OFA Sebaceous Adenitis evaluation** - a skin biopsy to detect this hereditary disease (no DNA test for it yet) but has high rate of false negatives
 - c. **Congenital Cardiac Exam** - ACVIM examination to detect congenital heart disease
 - d. **Advanced Cardiac Exam** - OFA evaluation which can be done after 12 months of age, the certification screens for congenital defects
 - e. **Basic Cardiac Exam** - OFA evaluation which can be done after 12 months of age, the certification is valid for 12 months from the date of the exam

Miniature & Toy Poodles

1. **Hip X-Rays** - OFA or PennHip evaluation for miniatures only (OFA must be done after dog reaches 24 months, Pennhip after 4 months, for certification that is valid for the life of the dog)
2. **Eye Examination** - ACVO Ophthalmologist exam (eye exam certification is good for 12 months from the date of the exam)
3. **Patellar Luxation** – Veterinary Evaluation of Patellar Luxation (minimum 12 months)
4. **Progressive Retinal Atrophy** – DNA-based prcd-PRA test from an approved laboratory



The United Poodle Association also strongly recommends the following DNA tests:

Standard Poodles

1. Von Willebrand Disease 1 (vWD1)
2. Neonatal Encephalopathy with Seizures (NEwS)
3. Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)
4. Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Progressive Rod-Cone Degeneration (PRA-prcd)
5. Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Rod-Cone Dysplasia 4 (PRA-rcd4)
6. Day Blindness (DB/RD)
7. Chondrodystrophy (CDDY/IVDD) (optional if any intervariety in pedigree)

Miniature/Toy Poodles

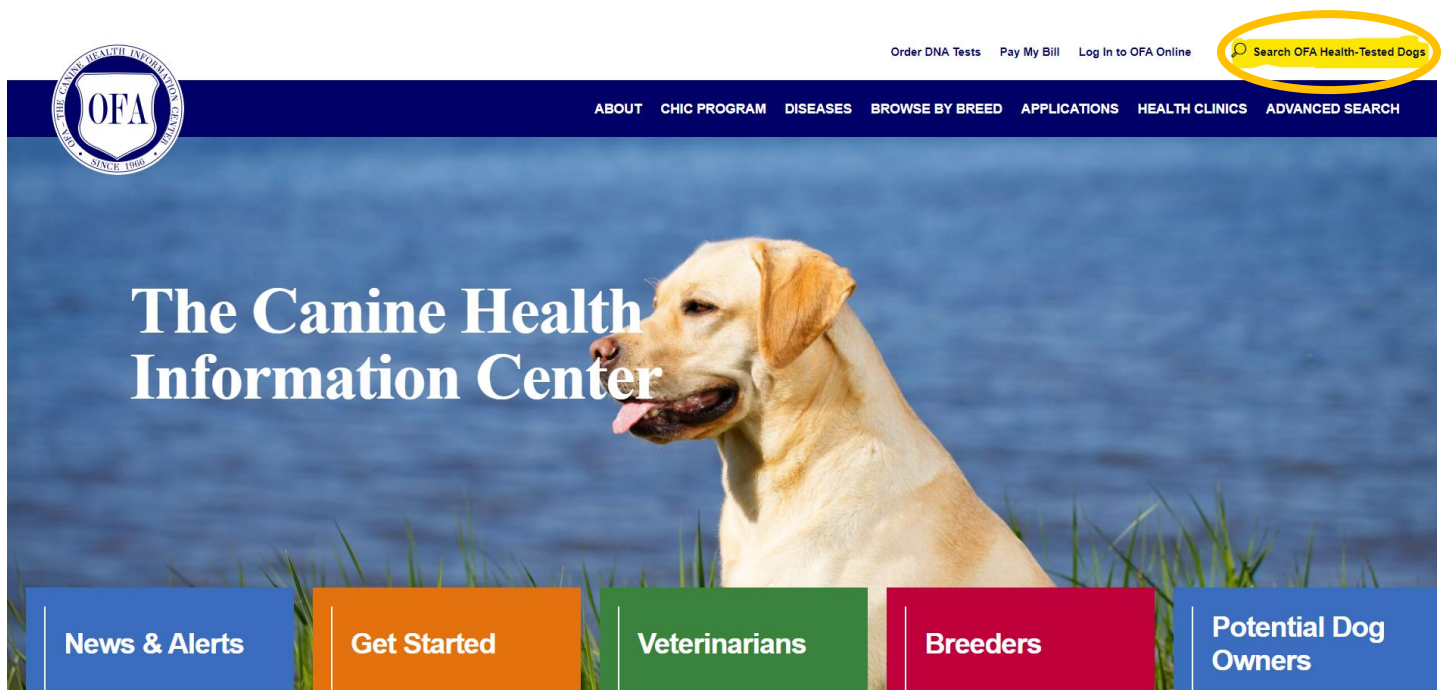
1. Von Willebrand Disease 1 (vWD1)
Miniatures only
2. Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) *Miniatures only, optional for Toys*
3. Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Progressive Rod-Cone Degeneration (PRA-prcd)
4. Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Rod-Cone Dysplasia 4 (PRA-rcd4)
5. Osteochondrodysplasia *Miniatures only*
6. Chondrodystrophy (CDDY/IVDD) (optional if any intervariety in pedigree)

For more detailed information please visit the [United Poodle Association Health page](#), or the [Versatility in Poodles Health page](#).

How a puppy buyer can research health testing for the parents of a puppy:

Examining the information provided by a breeder will empower you, as a prospective puppy buyer, to make informed decisions. But you can also conduct your own public research.

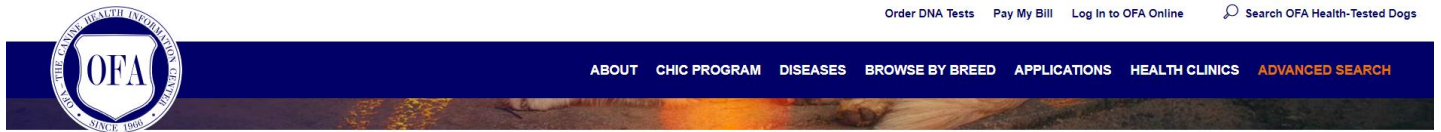
Let's delve into an example from the [OFA database](#), focusing on a young male poodle named Blaze. By clicking on "Search OFA Health-Tested Dogs" at the top right, you can search by a dog's AKC registration number or its name.



Enter the AKC Registration number or part or all of the dog's name. Click Search.

Type Reg# or Name SEARCH

Click on the desired dog in the list (there may only be one).



Home > Advanced Search

1 matches. Page 1 of 1

Show as a list
Show as tiles
Multi-line csv file
Single-line csv file

Name ↓	Registration ↓	Breed ↓	Sex ↓	Color ↓	Birthdate ↓
A STANDARD POODLE	PR12345678	POODLE	F	BROWN	JUL 9 2019

The site will then display the tests that have been submitted to OFA for that particular dog.



CH A STANDARD POODLE, CGC RN TKI
 PR123456789, K123456
 F BROWN POODLE
 Born Jul 9 2019
 Sire: PR00000000
 Dam: PR11111111

Testing Vertical pedigree
Combined Health pedigree
Add photo of your dog
Replace Certificates
Printer Friendly
Download
Copy to clipboard
Make this favorite on device
Breed Health Screenings
Exit Page

Registry	Test Date	Report Date	Age(m)	Conclusion	OFA Number
CHONDRODYSSTROPHY (CDDY)	Nov 18 2020	Jul 6 2021	3	N/N	PO-CDY153/3M-PI
DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY	Nov 18 2020	Jul 6 2021	3	CLEAR/NORMAL	PO-DM2728/3M-PI
GM2-GANGLIOSIDOSIS	Nov 18 2020	Jul 6 2021	3	CLEAR/NORMAL	PO-GM2-380/3M-PI
NEONATAL ENCEPHALOPATHY W/SEIZURES	Nov 18 2020	Jul 6 2021	3	CLEAR/NORMAL	PO-NES1847/3M-PI
OSTEOCHONDRODYSPLASIA	Nov 18 2020	Jul 6 2021	3	CLEAR/NORMAL	PO-OC858/3M-PI
PROGRESSIVE RETINAL ATROPHY	Nov 18 2020	Jul 6 2021	3	CLEAR/NORMAL	PO-PRA2842/3M-PI
VON WILLEBRANDS	Nov 18 2020	Jul 6 2021	3	CLEAR/NORMAL	PO-VW3101/3M-PI
PENNHIP HIPS	Jun 22 2021	Jul 2 2021	10	LDI= 30; RDI= 38	LDI= 30; RDI= 38
DAY BLINDNESS/RETINAL DEGENERATION	Jul 13 2021	Nov 24 2021	11	CLEAR/NORMAL	PO-DBR85/11M-PI
BASIC CARDIAC	Nov 14 2021	Nov 22 2021	15	NORMAL-CARDIOLOGIST	PO-BCA1671/15M/C-VPI
EYES *	Nov 15 2021	Nov 17 2021	15	NORMAL	PO-EYE8387/15M-VPI
CANINE HEALTH	Nov 23 2021	Feb 8 2023		CHIC	164691
RCD4 PROGRESSIVE RETINAL ATROPHY	Feb 2 2022	Apr 1 2022	17	CLEAR/NORMAL	PO-P4-643/17M-PI
BASIC CARDIAC	Dec 11 2022	Dec 21 2022	28	NORMAL-CARDIOLOGIST	PO-BCA1671/28M/C-VPI
EYES	Dec 11 2022	Dec 21 2022	28	NORMAL	PO-EYE8387/28M-VPI
DENTITION	Jan 9 2023	Jan 12 2023	29	FULL	PO-DE1165/29M-VPI
THYROID	Jan 9 2023	Feb 7 2023	29	NORMAL	PO-TH6000/29M-VPI

* Eye Certification is valid for one year from the date of the exam.

Look under the **Conclusion** column for results. Also check the date of the exam to confirm the cardiac and eye exams have not expired (eyes and basic cardiac are good for 12 months from the date of the exam).

Exercising thoroughness as a buyer:

For a dog to qualify for a CHIC number, the OFA requirements outlined on page 1 must be sent to OFA. Although DNA testing can be submitted to OFA, it is not mandatory. The United Poodle Association strongly recommends breeders to submit all applicable health test results for public record on OFA. What if the breeder asserts they have conducted the tests but didn't submit them to OFA? Inquire about the reasons behind this decision. Can the breeder furnish you with

copies of the OFA exam document(s) or lab results? Is it possible to cross-verify the information with the veterinarian or laboratory who conducted the test? Ultimately, it boils down to your priorities.

We are here for you:

The process of finding and interpreting this information is similar for all breeds, even though the specific tests required and submitted may vary. At the [United Poodle Association](#), we welcome inquiries about health testing for poodles. We aim for every puppy to have the best possible advantages for a long and healthy life, and this begins with education and setting expectations for puppy buyers, as well as fostering better quality breeding programs!