



**Best Practices for
Health and Potential Disease Testing in Standard Schnauzers
Revised: December 2023**

The health of Standard Schnauzers is the highest priority and a central mission of the Standard Schnauzer Club of America (SSCA). Breeders have the highest level of responsibility for maintaining the future health of the breed. Therefore, the SSCA requires owners planning breeding to conduct appropriate tests and to factor results into decisions regarding breeding.

The Board of Governors of the SSCA has determined the current best practices in testing for risk of disease and conditions negatively affecting Standard Schnauzer health. Beyond evaluation of the general health status of the sire and dam, the following tests for potential disease in future generations are required for all dogs used for breeding. Additionally, it is the Breeder's responsibility to make test results available in the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) database:

- 1) Hip x-ray/radiograph evaluated for hip dysplasia by the OFA. Dogs under two years of age will have a preliminary OFA evaluation with a grade of excellent, good, or fair and dogs over two years of age will have an OFA number.
- 2) For dogs under 7 years of age, Board-Certified Ophthalmologist evaluation for potential eye and vision defects no more than 12 months prior to being bred. For dogs greater than or equal to 7 years of age, a Board-Certified Ophthalmologist evaluation must have been performed at 7 years of age or older. Frozen semen breeding must meet the above criteria unless the sire is deceased prior to SSCA Board approval February 12, 2024.
- 3) DNA analysis for the genetic marker for Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) in Standard Schnauzers. If one parent is a Carrier, then the other parent's results must be Negative (Normal) to guarantee that none of the offspring will be DCM affected. In **NO** case should two Carriers be bred.